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Childcare  
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Success!

The NYCHA

# JOURNAL



Sherwin Darden, a Penn-Wortman Houses resident and community coach at the new Jobs Plus center in Brooklyn, speaks to the audience at the grand opening.

## NEW JOBS PLUS CENTER BUILDS FUTURES FOR PENN-WORTMAN RESIDENTS

**WHEN SHERWIN DARDEN**, a Penn-Wortman Houses resident, walked into the new Jobs Plus Center in his neighborhood, he didn't have a Social Security card, government identification, or health care, let alone a job. Now he's got all of those, and he's helping his neighbors too. He's been hired by the center to be a community coach there, and has helped nine other residents land jobs so far. He has also been a mentor to his son, who is headed to Princeton in the fall.

The new center is the first Jobs Plus site funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## NYCHA and KaBOOM! Begin New Partnership



Young volunteers help add color to the playground.

### Playground Project at Pomonok Houses Is First of Many

**O**N NOVEMBER 4, volunteers transformed an unused recreational area at Pomonok Houses in Queens into a safe, fun, beautiful playground.

It took just six hours for residents, neighbors, and volunteers from NYCHA, KaBOOM!, Playworld, and JetBlue to pour and lay concrete,

paint a basketball court and playground floors, and assemble playground equipment to build a new playground based on drawings made by children at Pomonok Houses during a KaBOOM! workshop.

This the first playground built through NextGen NYCHA Plays,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

AS WE LOOK forward to 2018, this is the time of year many of us deepen our connections with the people most important to us: our family, friends, neighbors, our communities. We take stock of what is most important to us.

At NYCHA, the people most important to us are you, our residents, the more than 400,000 New Yorkers who call NYCHA home. Our NextGen NYCHA promise is to create safe, clean and connected communities for you. In this issue of *The NYCHA Journal*, we highlight a few of the programs that provide Office of residents with some of the best services New York City has to offer.

In October, we held a ribbon-cutting for a new Jobs Plus Center that will serve residents of Penn-Wortman Houses. This is the first federally funded Jobs Plus Center; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing \$2 million over four years for the center, which will offer job training, career opportunities, and financial counseling. Jobs Plus has been proven to increase residents' earnings by an average of 16 percent. Since 2009, with support from our agency partners, Jobs Plus has helped almost 7,000 residents get jobs.

In the Bronx, we're piloting a program to improve customer service by having live-in caretakers at three of our senior developments,



Boston Road Plaza, Middletown Plaza, and Twin Parks East. Live-in caretakers are responsible for their normal janitorial and maintenance work during the day, but are also available after hours in case of emergencies, which gives our senior residents a greater sense of security.

And you'll read three success stories from *NYCHAprens*—resident business owners who have opened home daycares thanks to their participation in the Childcare Business Pathways (CBP) program, managed by NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability and our partners. Through CBP, these residents developed the skills and obtained the tools they needed to open successful businesses. Their daycares are now helping the parents of our youngest residents.

NYCHA is always striving to be the best landlord we can be. If there are ways we can do better, let us know – contact [journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:journal@nycha.nyc.gov).

Wishing you a warm and healthy holiday season,

**Shola Olatoye**  
Chair and CEO

## NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

**NYCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS**, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor, after 3 p.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 p.m. on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212-306-6088** no later than five business days prior to the

meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates, and times, please call **212-306-6088**.

For those unable to attend the board meetings, please visit <http://on.nyc.gov/boardmeetings> at the time of the meeting to watch live. You may also watch past board meetings by visiting NYCHannel, NYCHA's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/nycha>.

### Upcoming Meetings:

**November 29, 2017**

**December 20, 2017**

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## NEW JOBS PLUS CENTER BUILDS FUTURES FOR PENN-WORTMAN RESIDENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Development (HUD) in New York City. A nationally recognized program that helps increase employment and earnings among public housing residents, Jobs Plus boosts residents' earnings by an average of 16 percent.

"One of our NextGeneration NYCHA goals is to engage with residents in new ways by connecting them to best-in-class services, like Jobs Plus. By combining stable, long-term affordable housing with thoughtful services, we are strengthening public housing and empowering residents," said NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye.

In New York City, Jobs Plus is an interagency partnership between NYCHA, the NYC Human Resources Administration, the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, and the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment. The Penn-Wortman center is the tenth site in the city. Jobs Plus serves 27 developments and has helped almost 7,000 NYCHA residents find jobs.

"The Jobs Plus model proves that with the right combination of support and opportunity, public housing residents can move toward economic self-sufficiency," said Lynne Patton, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey, at the ribbon cutting. "I



From left to right: Diana Reyna, Deputy Borough President for Brooklyn; Lynne Patton, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey; Tracey Capers, Executive Vice President of Programs/Organizational Development at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation; and NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye at the opening of the Penn-Wortman Jobs Plus Center.

commend NYCHA for their national leadership in piloting and expanding a program that has placed nearly 7,000 residents in jobs that will increase their financial independence."

At the Penn-Wortman Jobs Plus Center, Brooklyn-based nonprofit Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is providing customized educational curricula across the Jobs Plus model's three core components: employment-related services, financial incentives, and community support for work. Additional services at the center include financial counseling, education assistance, and help opening a safe and affordable bank account, decreasing debt, and increasing and establishing credit.

Visit or call the center at 425 New Lots Avenue (between New Jersey and Vermont) in Brooklyn, **347-537-2925**.

## Making NYCHA Developments Cleaner

**J**ANITORIAL STAFF AT Ingersoll Houses spent a day learning how to use new floor-cleaning machines that will save them hours of labor, make developments cleaner, and improve quality of life for residents. NYCHA plans to buy over 1,000 machines so that all NYCHA developments have access to this time-saving equipment. All janitorial staff will be trained on how to use the machines by the end of the year.



**Benjamin Magwood**, Supervisor of Housing Caretakers at O'Dwyer Gardens Consolidation, gets a hands-on lesson on how to use one of the new floor-cleaning machines.



**Anthony Jones**, Supervisor of Housing Caretakers at Mariner's Harbor, takes the Kaivac OmniFlex for a spin.



# City Hall in Your Borough: Manhattan

NYCHA JOINED MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO for “City Hall in Your Borough: Manhattan,” from September 25 to 29, spending the week focused on the needs and concerns of Manhattan residents. This was the fourth borough in the Mayor’s City Hall in Your Borough initiative.



## September 25

NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye and Council Member Helen Rosenthal toured De Hostos Apartments and discussed solutions to replace the development’s roof.



## September 27

NYCHA participated in City Hall’s Resource Fair held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Washington Heights.



## September 28: New Farms at NYCHA

NYCHA’s getting greener! Two new urban farms are being built at NYCHA developments. One is currently under construction at Forest Hills in the Bronx, and another will be built at a development on Staten Island.

NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye joined First Lady Chirlane McCray, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, restaurant owner Carla Hall, co-host of ABC’s “The Chew,” Wagner Houses Resident Association President Katie Harris, and others at Wagner Houses Farm in East Harlem for the announcement.

“We are thrilled to expand NYCHA’s farm program to two more developments,” said Chair Olatoye. “Farms at NYCHA are innovative and create an important cornerstone for our communities.”

The two new farms are funded by \$500,000 from the Mayor’s Building Healthy Communities (BHC) initiative—a \$12 million program started in 2016 that brings together numerous City agencies and private funders to work on improving health outcomes in 12 neighborhoods. In these targeted areas, BHC is increasing access to healthy and affordable food, providing more opportunities for physical activity, and fostering public safety.

The first NYCHA farm was built at Red Hook Houses in 2013, followed by three farms built through BHC in Brownsville, Canarsie, and East Harlem; all the farms are supported through BHC. Green City Force, an AmeriCorps program that trains 18-to-24-year-old NYCHA residents in green jobs, builds and maintains the farms. NYCHA’s farms are responsible for more than 25,000 pounds of fresh produce that has been distributed to residents.



Council Member Levine, the construction site will soon have all the necessary plumbing and ventilation needed to be transformed into a laundromat.

## September 26

At Grant Houses, NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly, City Council Member Mark Levine, Resident Association President Carlton Davis, and residents toured the construction site of their future laundromat. Grant is home to more than 4,400 residents, but the closest place to do laundry is a 10-15 minute walk away. Thanks to \$1.1 million from

# City Hall in Your Borough: Manhattan



## September 29: Harlem River Houses Turns 80

NYCHA celebrated the 80th anniversary of New York City landmark Harlem River Houses with a celebration that brought together residents, community members, and elected officials.

Harlem River Houses is rich with history: It opened its doors in 1937; was named a National Historic Landmark in 1975; and is home to the Macomb Bridge Library, the smallest branch of the New York Public Library—it has just 12 chairs!

Soon, the library will move into a renovated 3,375-square-foot space across the street from Harlem River Houses. The new space, owned by NYCHA, will increase annual visits while connecting residents to

resources they need.

“Harlem River Houses is not only a national landmark but a New York City asset,” Chair Olatoye said. “New York City set the standard for affordable housing with developments like Harlem River, which was the first federally funded public housing

development in the country built for African Americans. It is important we acknowledge this anniversary and remember our history as we strive to preserve the Authority for future generations of working New Yorkers.”

The anniversary party included a proclamation

from the Mayor’s Office, a performance of “We Are Family” by seniors from the Lincoln Senior Center, and a song and poem recital of Langston Hughes’ “My People” by children from the Mary Watson Day Care Center. A NextGen NYCHA Resource Fair at the development featured a visit from the NYCHA Mobile Command bus to address residents’ maintenance issues, as well as food, games, face painting, music, and an opportunity to hop onto one of NYCHA’s Digital Vans.

The celebration was organized in partnership with the Harlem River Resident Association, Congress Member Adriano Espaillat, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, New York State Senator Brian Benjamin, and New York City Council Member Bill Perkins.





# NYCHA Cares About Seniors

## Safe, Clean, and Connected: NYCHA Makes Seniors Comfortable

by Victor González, NYCHA Resident Board Member



the Authority's NextGeneration NYCHA strategic plan is reshaping public housing for the 21st-century century needs of seniors.

Safe, secure and comfortable buildings are the first priority, and NYCHA has updated its architectural guidelines to provide a blueprint for health, accessibility, and beauty. The Authority is investing millions to provide age-friendly improvements at 89 developments, including more comfortable outdoor seating areas, handrails throughout corridors, and accessibility renovations in apartments. We all know there is not enough affordable housing for seniors in our city, so NYCHA is also using its land to build 650 new units of 100 percent affordable senior housing.

Better buildings are just the beginning. At NYCHA's 78 seniors-only buildings and 13 NORCs (naturally occurring retirement communities), seniors and their caregivers receive assistance from on-site and nearby healthcare professionals who deliver individual counseling, recreational activities and cultural opportunities. Take the HUD-funded Senior Resident Advisor & Service Coordinator Program, for example: at eight developments, the Senior Resident Advisor tailors support



Victor González at a NextGen NYCHA Resource Fair held at Wise Towers over the summer.

to the needs of every individual, helping to prevent social isolation and enhance safety and independence.

Partnering with experts helps NYCHA connect seniors to best-in-class services. For instance, socially isolated or homebound seniors in Queens receive regular home visits through Henry Street Settlement's Senior Companion Program. DFTA's Grandparent Resource Center assists seniors who are raising young relatives. Older Adults Technology Services (known as OATS) helps seniors make the most of new technologies through classes on computer literacy, digital photography, financial management, social media, and health and fitness. Seniors who need assistance with transportation, buying and preparing food, paying bills, getting vital benefits and

entitlements, doing household chores, or other daily needs are supported by trained staff from Presbyterian Senior Services' Circle of Care program.

Many seniors need live-in help from medical professionals and caregivers, and NYCHA permits caregivers to join a household when possible. Recognizing that many caregivers are family members, the Authority will also accommodate caregivers' requests for lease succession rights if the caregiver qualifies for tenancy. Seniors with disabilities can request accommodations that will make it easier for them to age in place in their apartment. Seniors with questions about any of these programs should talk to their Property Managers.

**MOVED INTO WISE TOWERS** when my wife and I got married in 1972, and 45 years later I still call it home. I raised three daughters in this wonderful community. From the day we opened the door to our new apartment, Wise Towers offered the best of New York City. Neighbors from all walks of life shared cultures and helped one another out. Kids never missed a Family Day and everyone decorated the hallways together at the holidays. Wise Towers is as vital a place today as it was 45 years ago, and I can't imagine a more nurturing and engaged community to live in. I am honored to represent my NYCHA neighbors across the five boroughs as a Resident Member on the NYCHA Board. I see first-hand how

# NYCHA Cares About Seniors

## Round the Clock Caretakers Improve Service and Customer Satisfaction

### AS PART OF NYCHA'S EFFORTS

to improve customer service, the Authority is piloting a live-in caretaker program at three senior developments in the Bronx: Boston Road Plaza, Middletown Plaza, and Twin Parks East.

The program is based on a recommendation from Council Member James Vacca: "We have seniors who are vulnerable, seniors who often need assistance, seniors who have medical issues, so having someone on the premises means that their needs can be addressed. This is going to be an invaluable resource for these tenants."

The live-in caretaker performs janitorial and maintenance work in the developments during regular business hours. As a resident of the development, he or she is also available to respond to emergency situations around the clock.

Antonio Cordero, a NYCHA employee since 2010 and formerly a caretaker at Carver Houses, is proud to be the new live-in caretaker at Boston Road Plaza. "The feedback that I'm hearing [from residents] is that I'm doing a good job, and that's what I like to hear. I was born and raised at Van Dyke Houses,



Antonio Cordero, the new live-in caretaker at Boston Road Plaza.

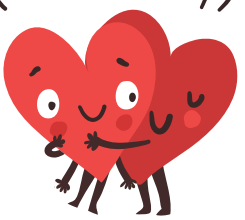
so I know what tenants want and need," he explained. "As a live-in caretaker, I would like to keep the residents happy. By keeping the building clean, it makes them happy. And any problems that they have, if I can help, I'm more than willing to help."

Laurenne Talbert, Vice President of the Boston Road Plaza

Resident Association, has resided in the development for 25 years. "I noticed a difference within two days of Antonio being here. The floors, elevators, and lobbies are cleaner, and I'm hearing good things from neighbors as well. Our building has been kept immaculate. He does an awesome job, an excellent job."

## A NYCHA Love Story

### Longtime Edenwald Residents Celebrate Their 74th Wedding Anniversary



By Shameeka Feliciano

**ON NOVEMBER 15,** 2017, Edenwald residents Charles and Arlanda Solomon will celebrate 74 years of marriage.

The couple says the secret to maintaining a loving and lasting marriage is "to be patient, to truly listen to one another, and to always respect each other!"

Charles and Arlanda met in 1941 in Washington County, Georgia. Mr. Solomon described Mrs. Solomon as outspoken and sassy when they first met, while Mrs. Solomon described her husband as charming and

self-motivated. In 1943, with only one witness, they solidified their union in a courthouse in Sander-ville, Georgia.

The Solomons later moved to Lakeland, Florida, where Mr. Solomon found work as an orange picker. In 1944, they welcomed their first child and decided to move to Harlem to look for better opportunities.

In 1954, the Solomons became residents of Edenwald Houses in the Bronx, where their family grew to include a total of 10 beautiful children. While Mr. Solomon



worked, Mrs. Solomon devoted herself to being a housewife and nurturing mother.

Mr. Solomon worked as a shipping clerk for Kiffee Sales until business fell short. He then worked as a juvenile counselor at the Children's Village until he retired. After their last child was born, Mrs. Solomon started work as a sales clerk for E.J. Korvette, and then moved on to Bloomingdale's, where she worked until retirement.

The Solomon family has grown



to include 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and one three times great-grandchild. Their family says their love story is one that shows true commitment and dedication, birthing generations deeply rooted in love, faith, and strength of family.

Shameeka Feliciano is the granddaughter of Charles and Arlanda Solomon. She is a Supervisor of Caretakers for Betances and Mitchel Houses and a former Edenwald Houses resident.



# NYCHA Cares About Seniors

## Better Than Ever

**NEARLY 80,000 PEOPLE** age 62 or older live in NYCHA developments. As the anchors of their communities, seniors contribute to the strength and vitality of their neighborhoods. The healthier and more engaged they are, the more they will have to offer.

The writer Betty Friedan said that “aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength.” Here are some recommended strategies to help you be the best you can be, whether you are 25 or 85.

- **Maintain your brain.** Find a new hobby or skill to master, like playing an instrument or learning a new sport. Learning something new keeps your brain flexible.
- **Stay socially active.** Involvement with other people of all ages keeps depression at bay and elevates happiness. Take classes or participate in discussion groups at a senior center (see below) or library. Or consider volunteering in your community. How about joining your development’s **resident association or Resident Watch team**?
- **Be physically active.** An activity you enjoy doing every day for 20-30 minutes will keep your body strong.
- **Eat well** (plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains).
- **If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.**
- **Don’t smoke.**
- **Keep up with health**

**screenings, like blood pressure checks, and vaccines, like the flu shot.** If you live with a chronic illness, talk to your doctor about how to manage it.

- **Manage your medications.** Keep a list of your medications, and review it with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist at every visit. Always take your medications as prescribed. Ask if any medications (or medication combinations) increase your risk of falling.
- **Reduce your risk of falls** by keeping your bones and muscles strong with physical activity, having your vision checked, and clearing your floors of safety hazards. Make sure floors are well lit so you can see where you are going.

### Resources for a Good Life

NYCHA partners with a variety of providers throughout the city to connect seniors to life-changing programs.

- **Visit one of the 111 senior centers at NYCHA developments** to get involved with a range of recreational, health, and cultural activities, services, and resources. The majority of these centers are sponsored by the City’s Department for the Aging (DFTA). They offer free meals, counseling on social services, and assistance with public benefits.
- At five senior centers—Queensbridge, Jefferson,



Melrose Mott Haven, Red Hook, and Stapleton—an organization known as **OATS (Older Adults Technology Services)** teaches seniors classes in computer technology (including Microsoft Office), digital photography, financial management, social media, and health and fitness.

- **DFTA’s Grandparent Resource Center** helps seniors who are raising young relatives at the 15 NYCHA developments that are the focus of the Mayor’s Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Safety. Through the program, seniors and their caregivers can participate in workshops on community safety, mental health awareness, senior scams, nutrition, falls prevention, and child and elder abuse.

- **Henry Street Settlement’s Senior Companion Program** matches healthy, older adult volunteers with seniors who need assistance to live independently. Companions help them go shopping or to doctors’ appointments and obtain services such as Access-

A-Ride and Meals on Wheels.

- **Presbyterian Senior Services’ Circle of Care** program gives seniors a helping hand with transportation, buying and preparing food, paying bills, getting vital benefits and entitlements, doing household chores, or other daily needs. The program, currently available to residents of Saint Nicholas Houses, Sondra Thomas Apartments, UPACA, and Cassidy-Lafayette Houses, also provides caregivers with guidance, training, and interpretation services.

- The **Harlem Health Advocacy Partners** program helps residents of King Towers, Lehman Village, and Clinton, Johnson, and Taft Houses improve their health through coaching and referrals. The initiative is a collaboration of the City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYCHA, the Community Service Society, and the NYU-CUNY Prevention Research Center. For more information and resources, visit the Department for the Aging’s website, [www.nyc.gov/aging](http://www.nyc.gov/aging).

# NYCHA Cares About Seniors

## Improving Lives For Seniors

**ON NOVEMBER 2**, NYCHA, the Hudson Guild, and the Department for the Aging (DFTA) held a special sneak peek of construction progress underway at the Fulton Houses Community Center.

Fulton Houses Community Center is home to a longstanding neighborhood resource, a senior center that provides programs for residents of Fulton Houses and the greater Chelsea community. Operated by Hudson Guild in partnership with DFTA, the center had not been renovated since it opened in 1965.

When the center is finished it will feature a wider, easier to navigate entrance, an updated auditorium with improved sound and lighting, upgraded and ADA-compliant bathrooms throughout, a new, modernized kitchen, plus a separate teaching kitchen for activities, and much more.

Scheduled to reopen in 2019, the center will serve 200 seniors daily, offer 65 weekly activities, and provide 42,000 meals a year. It will also offer the community a modern, inviting space for meetings and celebrations, youth activities, and the potential for new programs of all kinds.

At the event, Fulton Houses Resident Association President Miguel Acevedo spoke about how important the center is to the community, “especially for my vulnerable seniors who come to this place daily, not only to get fed, but to have conversation. Our seniors are some of the loneliest people in New York, but they

feel comfortable coming here. They have conversations, they play dominoes, they play pool, everything they need is done here and it’s been done for 50-plus years. We at the tenant association appreciate the Hudson Guild and are looking forward to the future... NextGeneration is truly next generation—without NYCHA and our partners it doesn’t happen.”

Funding for the center’s renovation was provided by NYCHA, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Member Corey Johnson, and several individual donors.



From left to right: Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, Fulton Houses RA President Miguel Acevedo, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Hudson Guild Executive Director Ken Jockers, NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye, City Council Member Corey Johnson, and State Senator Brad Hoylman.

## Educating Seniors About Domestic Violence

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS** victims of all ages. On October 27, 2017, about 150 seniors attended the Brooklyn Senior Domestic Violence Program, organized by NYCHA’s Community Engagement and Partnerships department. Representatives from the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, and the Urban Justice Center gave presentations or were in attendance. Seniors performed skits and read poetry about domestic violence situations, the Senior Choir sang, and NYCHA social workers provided referrals to social services.

Held in Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, the breakfasts reached 600 seniors with information on available City resources.



NYCHA’s Senior Choir perform a few songs while wearing purple, the color to raise awareness about domestic violence.



# When Your Business Is Child’s Play

## NYCHA Supports Childcare Center Entrepreneurs


**SOME NYCHA RESIDENTS** dream of owning their own businesses but don’t have the financial support or training to get their ideas off the ground. NYCHA’s Food Business Pathways program has helped more than 130 residents launch the food-based businesses of their dreams. Launched at the end of 2016, Childcare Business Pathways (CBP) helps residents start their own childcare businesses. CBP is a partnership between NYCHA’s Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES), the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), Business Outreach Network (BOCNet), Childcare Development Support Corporation (CDSC), and Citi Community Development. It provides NYCHA residents with almost everything they need to start up: free training, licensing, and technical assistance as well as grants to pay for certifications and start-up supplies.

**Meet three CBP graduates who are proud owners of new daycares.**

**Shanique Blake**  
Daisy “B”abies Group  
Family Day Care

Ms. Blake has been a NYCHA resident for 18 years and a care-giver for many years. She spent 10 years as a resident manager of a group home and works part-time as a caseworker for an agency that provides care for people with developmental disabilities. She is also a foster parent. Her business is licensed to care for 10 children.


“I was in the process of trying to obtain my license myself but it was taking a while. Going through the CBP program helped me learn how to market my business, how to research competitors in the area and make my daycare unique, and how to handle finances. I’d like parents of children with special needs to know that my daycare is open to them. I used to work in group homes; before adults with special needs come into our group homes, they’re children at home with their parents, and they need support. I have volunteers willing to provide speech therapy and physical therapy for children who need it. Eventually, I want to have a center-based setting. And I’d love to be able to expand and have more than one location.”



**Fatou Lowe**  
Fatou Lowe Group  
Family Daycare  
646-280-0449 or 917-443-1843  
Adams Houses, Bronx

Ms. Lowe has lived at Adams for seven years. She worked at an outside daycare facility for two years and had plenty of experience caring for children with her six sisters and one brother. She is also a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College studying liberal arts. Her business is licensed to care for up to 10 children.


“I enrolled in CBP to help parents, and my mother and I share this passion and we can work together. I liked being in the program because they helped me understand the business side, how to handle the finances, advertise, and how to handle our clients. Since I’m a private owner, I want to add things for the kids, like gymnastics in the summertime. I also want to add lifestyle skills to my program, like cooking and hair braiding. I hope to become a pediatrician in the future, so right now I’m getting as much experience as I can interacting with children.”



**Latoya Culp**  
Miss Latoya’s Daycare  
Sheepshead Bay  
Houses, Brooklyn  
917-673-4341

Ms. Culp has lived at Sheepshead for 17 years. As the oldest of six, she has been caring for children since she was a little girl. She is a mother of four children and a grandmother to one. Her business is licensed to care for eight children.

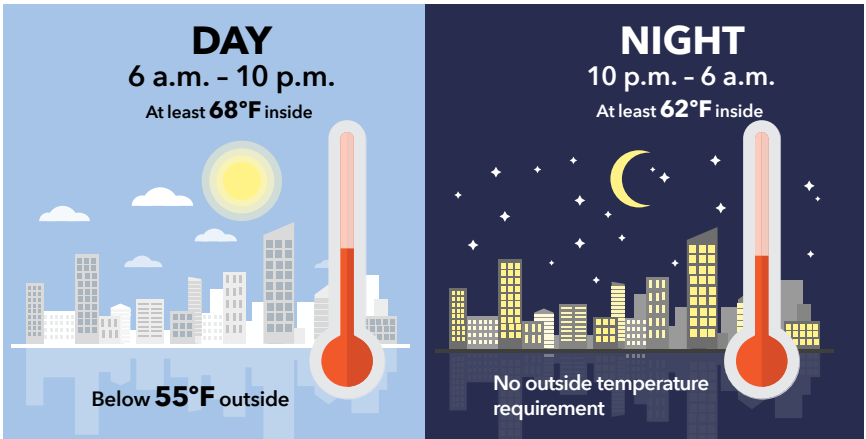
“Taking care of kids is something that just comes to me. Even when I was a teenager, people called me ‘Grandma’ because I was always taking care of someone. I know it’s going to take time to get it off the ground, but my plan is to expand my business. There’s a commercial space here in my neighborhood I would love to have. I have already recommended CBP because it gave me more knowledge and insight on what it takes to be a business owner. CBP offered a lot more than I would’ve received if I tried to do things on my own—I wouldn’t have been able to afford starting my own daycare on my own.”



To learn more about the Childcare Business Pathways program, visit:  
[opportunitynycha.org/business-development/childcare-business-pathways](http://opportunitynycha.org/business-development/childcare-business-pathways).

# Updated Heating Season Temperature Requirements

**FROM OCTOBER 1** through May 31, New York City building owners must maintain an indoor temperature of at least 68 degrees between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. when it’s below 55 degrees outside. From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., indoor temperature must be at least 62 degrees regardless of the temperature outside. Hot water must be kept at a minimum temperature of 120 degrees year-round. Residents experiencing issues with heat or hot water should call the Customer Contact Center at **718-707-7771** or report the issue on the MyNYCHA mobile app or web version.



**NYPD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AGENTS**

Keeping the streets of New York City safe and moving

**Benefits:**

- Potentially earn over \$38,000 after 1 year of service
- Enjoy a competitive benefit package
- Pension and Deferred Compensation available

**Employment Requirements:**

- Be at least 18 years of age at time of appointment
- Have a High School Diploma or equivalent
- Pass a background investigation and drug screening
- Must be a NYC resident (5 boroughs) within 90 days of appointment
- Candidates must be legally authorized to work in the United States and will be required to submit proof of such eligibility
- A valid NYS Driver’s License is required for this position



[NYC.GOV/NYPD](http://NYC.GOV/NYPD) | 212-RECRUIT

**CEASE THE GREASE**

**PROPER DISPOSAL OF COOKING OIL AND GREASE**

- ◆ Cooking oil poured into a drain clogs pipes in your home and city sewers.
- ◆ Clogged sewers cause sewage backups into your home and neighborhood.
- ◆ Clogged sewer pipes can release sewage into local waterways, harming the environment.

**DON'T** pour cooking oil or grease down the kitchen sink, toilet, or any other drain in your home.

**DO** pour **cooled** cooking oil and grease into a container, then seal and discard with your regular garbage.

**Before washing pots, pans, and dishes:**

- DO** wipe off oil and grease with a dry paper towel.
- DO** scrape leftover food into the trash.

**NYC Environmental Protection**  
Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

For more information, please visit:  
[nyc.gov/dep](http://nyc.gov/dep)



# NYCHA's Going Solar

*Low-Cost, Clean Energy and Jobs for Residents in the Booming Solar Industry*

**NYCHA HAS LAUNCHED** its first large-scale solar program, which will use light and heat from the sun to provide clean, low-cost energy to low- to moderate-income New Yorkers, including public housing residents. The program will also create jobs for NYCHA residents in the growing solar industry.

NYCHA is looking for developers to install solar power on rooftops and parking lots at 14 developments, which will provide energy for 500 to 1,600 households. The developments are located throughout the five boroughs: Queensbridge North, Queensbridge South, Taylor Street-Wythe Avenue, Pomonok, Beach 41st Street-Beach Channel Drive, Carleton Manor, Coney Island Site 1B, Throggs Neck Addition, New Lane Area, South Beach, Taft, Polo Grounds Towers, Wyckoff Gardens, and Gowanus.

Developers will be chosen in 2018, and the first solar installations will be made by 2019. NYCHA will lease the sites for up to 25 years; developer(s) will install, operate, and maintain the solar systems and sell the power to low- to moderate-income residents citywide. By 2025, NYCHA plans to install solar at 190 developments, which will provide power to up to 6,600 households.

Since the release of its Sustainability Agenda last year,

NYCHA has been working with partners to provide better service for residents, reduce energy and costs, and curb the effects of climate change. NYCHA's solar program will play a major role in helping meet the City's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

"I'm glad this solar program is finally happening at NYCHA buildings and that the City is progressing and moving towards renewable energy," said Miguel Rodriguez, a Lillian Wald Houses resident who has worked in the solar industry through NYCHA's Green City Force partnership.

After graduating high school, Mr. Rodriguez enrolled in a computer science program but found he couldn't successfully manage working 30 hours a week to help support his family while also attending college full time. He spent several months unemployed then enrolled in Henry Street Settlement's Employment Coordination Program, where he learned about Green City Force (GCF), which provides young people ages 18–24 with training, education, and leadership opportunities in preparation for careers in the energy economy. After graduating from GCF's Clean Energy Corps program, he landed an internship with GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit solar electric installer, and then took a job as a solar installer.

"This is going to make a huge difference within our communities," Mr. Rodriguez said.



**Miguel Rodriguez, a Lillian Wald Houses resident and solar installer, stands in front of solar panels on the roof of the NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies.**

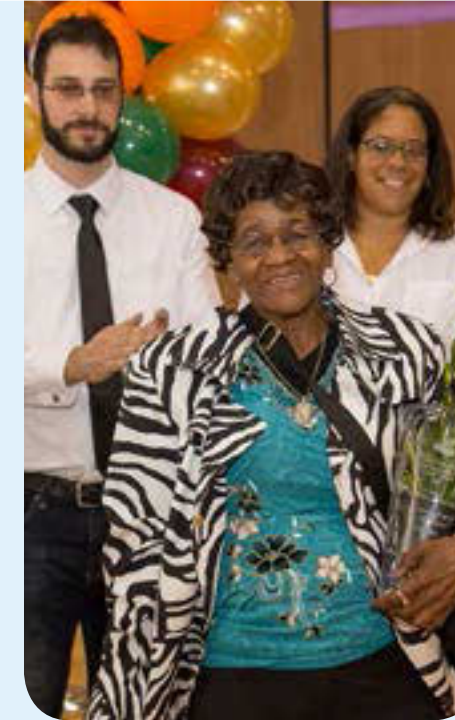


# Celebrating NYCHA's Resident Gardeners & Gardens

**HUNDREDS OF NYCHA'S** resident gardeners, NYCHA staff, and partners gathered at Johnson Community Center in Manhattan on November 3, 2017, for the 54th Annual NYCHA Garden & Greening Award Ceremony.

More than 600 NYCHA gardens, tended by over 1,000 gardeners, were judged by a panel of respected horticultural

professionals. The ceremony was sponsored by Unilever and highlighted the hard work and dedication of NYCHA's resident gardeners and NYCHA's Garden & Greening Program, a year-round beautification, environmental preservation and education initiative that benefits residents as well as seniors, the greater community, and community centers citywide.



**2017 Master Gardener Marian Dolphus of South Jamaica Houses.**

**Congratulations to:**  
**CITYWIDE WINNERS**

**Flower Garden:** Oasis Garden, Washington Houses

**Vegetable Garden:** Hawaiian Paradise, South Jamaica Houses

**Theme Garden:** Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses

**2017 Master Gardener Award**  
Marian Dolphus, South Jamaica Houses

To view the full list of winners, visit [www.nychajournal.nyc](http://www.nychajournal.nyc).

# Download New App to Get Important NYC Updates



**THE NYC NOTIFY** app is a new service from the City that sends important information and updates to subscribers' phones. The app is available for free on Apple or Android devices and provides news on events such as hurricanes and blizzards, major traffic and mass transit disruptions, public health hazards, school closings, and unscheduled parking rule suspensions.

**Features include:**

- Receiving messages based on current location. Users can also add up to five addresses to receive alerts specific to home, work, or school.
- A "receive all" mode that provides all emergency notifications, regardless of location or topic.
- A map feature that provides detailed information about the locations of emergencies in relation to a user's current location.

# NYC Hurricane Service Center

## NYC Center Open to Help Families Displaced by Hurricanes

**MANY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES** displaced by the recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other Caribbean islands have relocated to New York City to stay with family and friends. To connect these individuals and families to resources, the City has opened a service center to provide information and assistance to those in need.

City government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations will offer a number of resources and services, including enrollment in public benefits and health insurance, food assistance, cash assistance, mental health counseling, emergency pharmacy assistance, meals for seniors, legal consultation, and information and assistance for displaced students.

The service center opened on Thursday, October 19 at the Julia De Burgos Latino Cultural Center at 1680 Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, and is open from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1 p.m.–5 p.m. on Sundays. Visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) or call **311** to make an appointment.



★ **YOUR NAME HERE** ★



Last year's winners of the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute Scholarship for NYCHA residents take the stage; the Institute has offered scholarships to NYCHA residents since 1983.

## Scholarship Competition for NYCHA Resident Actors and Actresses

**T**HE LEE STRASBERG Theatre & Film Institute is offering two 12-week acting scholarships to qualified residents of the New York City Housing Authority. To participate, you must be at least 6 years of age and must audition and be interviewed.

From October 31, 2017, to January 12, 2018, auditions will be held every Tuesday and Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the

Straus Performing Arts Center, located at 225 East 27th Street, New York, NY 10016.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, contact **718-707-5479** or email [citywideprograms@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:citywideprograms@nycha.nyc.gov).

Read about last year's scholarship winners here: <https://www.nychajournal.nyc/ready-limelight>.

### POMONOK HOUSES BUILDS A PLAYGROUND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

a partnership between NYCHA, the Fund for Public Housing, and KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to play. The partnership plans to build many more playgrounds at NYCHA developments through the initiative. What makes the KaBOOM! experience so special is community involvement in the design and build process from the beginning.

At the end of the playground build, NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye thanked the volunteers and partners for making the playground a reality. She said to residents: "Go back and



After six hours of work, volunteers celebrate the new playground they built.

talk to your friends, your community, your cousins who live in the Bronx and Queens, and tell them about something good that

happened here today. Ask them to work to bring it to their communities, because we need them to ask for it, we need them to talk

to their local elected officials, we need them to talk to their fellow residents to say 'we want this in our community as well.'"