



BROOKLYN
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

EMPOWERING NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS BROOKLYN

NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE 2023

Highlights

BNS moves to a permanent home

BNS spreads Holiday Cheer to a local school

BNS joins New York City Council Member for Resource Fair

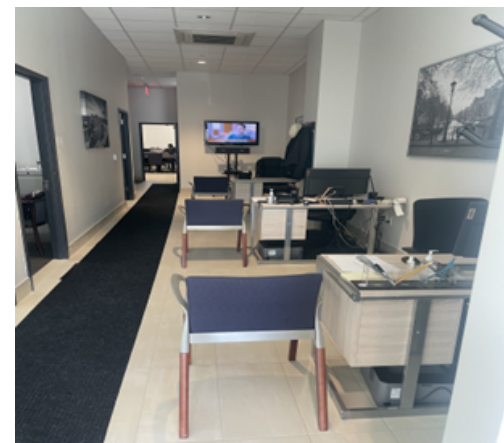
BNS NORC partners with Bridge Street AWME Church Senior Housing for Older Adults

BNS stabilizes the local community by preserving affordable housing and providing opportunities for education, empowerment, and community leadership.



BNS Settles into A Permanent New Home

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services (BNS) embarks on an exciting new chapter as it moves to a new office location, marking a significant milestone in its mission to serve the community. The organization has settled into 20 Bancroft Place Brooklyn, NY 11233, a mixed-use development that is a part of HPD's Affordable Home Project. The new location will better facilitate BNS' commitment to community empowerment and engagement, enhancing access and expanding outreach efforts along with offering a local platform for hosting community gatherings, workshops, and collaborative initiatives.



Photos of exterior view (L) and Main Office Area (R)

article continued



Photos of interior waiting area (L) and Conference Room (R)

This development is one of hundreds of units across six city-owned sites in NYC including Melrose and Crotona Park East in the Bronx, Bedford Stuyvesant and East New York in Brooklyn, and Central Harlem. Collectively, the developments include 440 homes for Older Adults and other New Yorkers at a variety of income levels, including extremely low income and formerly homeless households.

This series of HPD initiatives specifically increase the role of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) in city housing and economic development projects. The Bancroft Place development is a 25,762 square foot site and includes 183 affordable residential units. It was developed by two M/WBE firms, Dunbar Development Partners, LLC and Thorobird Companies. Brooklyn Neighborhood Services (BNS) is the Community Development Corporation (CDC) on the site.

BNS expresses gratitude to its board members, staff, and the community for their unwavering support throughout this transformative process. The move signifies a reinvigorated commitment to serving the community's needs more effectively and efficiently.

Spreading Holiday Cheer: BNS Adopts A Classroom for Christmas

BNS continues its tradition of spreading holiday joy and generosity by partnering with United Community Schools to adopt a classroom of 20 children at P.S. 335 Granville T. Woods. The 2023 Holiday Toy Drive will ensure that boys and girls from age 3 to 10 years old will receive a memorable gift, and experience the magic of the holidays.



BNS understands the challenges that the holiday season can place on some families and is dedicated to nurturing a compassionate and supportive community by participating in this heartwarming Christmas initiative. They aim to create a sense of joy and belonging for the young learners while bringing cheer to their classroom. This program serves as a reminder of the power of collective efforts in brightening the lives of those in need during the festive season.



(L to R) Jimmy Vicars - BNS Program Administrator, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers, Twila Evanson - United Community Schools (UCS), Richard M. Trouth - BNS Executive Director



Courtney Corbin - BNS Director of Operations, Twila Evanson - UCS, Richard M. Trouth - BNS Executive Director, and Jimmy Vicars - BNS Program Administrator

More About: United Community Schools



United Community Schools (UCS) UFT is a non-profit organization founded by educators and is part of the United Federation of Teachers, one of the nation's largest and most longstanding teacher unions. UCS originated from the insight of teachers, who recognized the barriers hindering students from reaching their full academic potential and understood the vital need to address those challenges. Such issues include hunger, visual or auditory impairments, and external distractions from issues beyond the classroom.

The UCS community school model intricately links the entire school community - students, educators, principals, and counselors - with broader society, including parents, caregivers, non-profits, local enterprises, and governmental bodies. This collaboration aims to tackle educational, emotional, social, and health-related hurdles that obstruct effective learning. Ms. Twila Evanson, the on-site community school director for PS 335, adeptly mobilizes the expertise, vigor, and resources of carefully chosen community entities, such as food banks, healthcare providers, and after-school programs, customized to the school's specific requirements.

United Community Schools (UCS) UFT, collaborates with PS 335 Granville T. Woods to implement this service model. Through consulting, professional development, training sessions, workshops, and support materials, UCS assists in embedding this model into the school's framework.

PS 335 Granville T Woods is a public school located in School District 16 Brooklyn, NY. The student population of PS 335 Granville T Woods is 189 and the school serves 3K-5th grade. The school's minority student enrollment is 99%. 89% of these enrolled students and families are economically disadvantaged. There are 16 equivalent full-time teachers.

Together, UCS and PS 335 ensures that all students are equipped to realize their utmost potential not only in the classroom but also in life. This collaborative unity, empowers the school community to elevate and nurture children to their fullest capabilities.

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**Hector Ramos-Homeownership Services
Manager/HUD Certified Counselor**

Jimmy Vicars-Program Administrator

Hector Rosario- NORC Program Coordinator

**Natasha Hinckson- Community Outreach
Coordinator**

Community Connections: BNS joins NYC Council Member Crystal Hudson D35, Brooklyn, at Resource Event to Empower Residents

In a demonstration of commitment to community well-being, Council Member Crystal Hudson orchestrated a vibrant and informative community resource event bringing together a diverse array of local organizations. The event was held on November 5 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, with the purpose of empowering residents by providing valuable information and resources from various community vendors.

Attendees were welcomed by smiling faces and a sense of camaraderie. They were offered information that addressed their concerns about housing, finances, Older Adult issues, and NYC legal proceedings. Participating organizations included Brooklyn Neighborhood Services, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the office of Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, Urban Justice Center, and Immigration Services. The NYC ID truck was also on hand to provide help with Identification.

The event was open to the public; participants included community members as well as new arrivals to the country. There was a popular clothing giveaway which offered coats, shoes, sweaters, and children's items. Other vendors also gave away hats, umbrellas, cups, and other useful products.

Council Member Crystal Hudson expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort of community organizations and residents. The success of the resource event underscored the importance of such initiatives in building a strong, connected, and informed community. As a result, participants left with not only valuable information but also a renewed sense of pride and belonging in their vibrant and supportive city.



L to R, Natasha Hinckson-BNS Community Outreach Coordinator, NYC Council Member Crystal Hudson, Hector Rosario-BNS NORC Program Coordinator and Jimmy Vicars-BNS Program Administrator; Hector Rosario and Crystal Hudson; Crystal Hudson meets with Constituents

BNS NORC Partners with Bridge Street AWME Church Senior Housing to Serve Older Adults

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services has partnered with Bridge Street AWME Church Senior Housing on Gates Avenue to introduce innovative Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) services. This collaboration is aimed at enhancing the lives of Older Adult residents by catering to their evolving needs with a range of specialized services and programs. Residents will benefit from enhanced access to healthcare resources, wellness programs, social activities, and essential support services, all designed to promote independence and improve overall well-being.

By offering NORC services within the familiar setting of the senior home, this partnership strives to empower Older Adults to live fulfilling, active, and independent lives while remaining in their beloved homes. This venture represents a significant step in redefining Older Adult care, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and support in enabling Older Adults to age comfortably and gracefully within their preferred surroundings.



Gates Ave Senior Houses

Did You Know ?



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A Closer Look At NORCs...

NORC stands for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, a term used to describe a residential area or community where a significant number of residents are older adults, typically aged 60 and above. These communities aren't specifically designated for seniors but have naturally evolved to accommodate the needs of an aging population.

These communities aim to provide older adults with the necessary resources to maintain independent living while addressing their evolving health, social, and wellness needs. Services within NORCs may include health and wellness programs, transportation assistance, home care, social activities, and access to community resources. Additionally, they might foster connections between neighbors, offering a support network that enhances overall well-being and reduces social isolation among older residents.

NORCs have gained attention for their innovative approach to supporting aging populations, promoting independence, and creating environments where older adults can thrive and remain engaged within their communities.

Celebrating Together: BNS Hosts a Heartwarming Holiday Tribute at The Bishop Art Gallery



Brooklyn Neighborhood Services held a festive holiday gathering on Thursday, Dec 14, fostering a strong sense of community among our nonprofit family. The event, hosted at The Bishop Art Gallery at 630 Flushing Ave, was a heartwarming affair filled with cheer, live music by the Reggie Woods Band, and delectable treats catered by Chef Lex and Durrah Hurrah Events Specialists.



James C. Durrah, Board Chair



Richard M. Trouth, Executive Director



Stevenson Dunn, Co-Owner, The Bishop Gallery



Kirnon Joaquim, Board Vice-Chair



(L to R) Reverend Tyrone Pittman, Ms. Tremaine Wright and Mr. Angel Melendez are sworn in by Reverend Doctor Valerie Oliver-Durrah



(L to R) Kirnon Joaquim, Rev. Tyrone Pittman, Ms. Tremaine Wright, Judge Betty Staton, Angel Melendez, Brena Bracey-Seales, James C. Durrah, Jayesh Gajjar, Richard M. Trouth, Bessie Edwards



(L to R) Richard M. Trouth, Lalena Butler, Honoree Henry Butler, James C. Durrah

The evening was a tapestry of diverse individuals uniting for a common cause, sharing stories, and embracing the holiday spirit. Notably, the event marked the swearing-in of three new Board of Directors members—Mr. Angel Melendez, Reverend Tyrone Pittman, and Ms. Tremaine Wright.

Former NYC Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. commended the **Naturally Occurring Retirement Community(NORC)** program and its growth, emphasizing its positive impact in District 36. Executive Director Richard M. Trouth acknowledged the remarkable efforts of the staff and recognized Ms. Deborah Johnson from JP Morgan Chase for her 30-year dedication to Brooklyn Neighborhood Services.

This celebration echoed our values of giving, unity, and compassion, driving us in our mission to empower Brooklyn neighborhoods. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the event's success, inspiring us in our endeavors.

Let's carry this spirit of unity into the New Year, continuing our journey of making a meaningful impact and spreading joy in our community. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year filled with hope and kindness.



(L to R) Natasha Hinckson -Community Outreach Coordinator, Hector Rosario - NORC Program Coordinator, Jimmy Vicars - Program Administrator, Courtney Corbin - Director of Operations, Hector Ramos - Homeownership Program Manager, Richard M. Trouth - Executive Director



Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

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Programs and Services

**First-time Homebuyer Education & Counseling | Foreclosure
Intervention Counseling | Financial Literacy Education &
Counseling (Youth and Adult) | Tenant Education and Counseling |
NORC Older Adult Services Program | Emergency Home Repair
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