BROOKLYN COMMUNITY HOUSING AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY NOTES
Winter 2012

Happy Holidays at BCHS

Many dedicated Board Members, donors, volunteers and employees shared their time, hearts and gifts in 2011 to bring holiday joy to the women, children and men of BCHS. Special thanks to:

Jean Alexander and the American Caribbean Center
La Andrews and Elsie Merrill
David Banks (aka D.J. Divetile) and Eric Blackwell
Ben and Susan Bass
Donna Carey
Tom and Carolyn Castelluccio
Golden Gents Family Health and Support Center
Tim Hauking and Audrey Sokolow
The New Fountain Church (Brooklyn) Chair
Arieka Werbrooks and Jive Turkey, Inc.

Below (left to right): BCHS Employees Andrea Evans, June Adams and Danielle Carter
Bottom right: Residents and staff of the Scattered-Site Apartment Program celebrate the New Year
Bottom left: Police Officer Jerry Zender (Santa) and BCHS employee Tiana Ditson with a young resident from Arbor Inn

Each December, EMT Barbara Lopez coordinates a very special holiday celebration for the children and moms at Arbor Inn. She and her colleagues collect and purchase gifts, wrap presents and even bring Santa Claus along to distribute them to all of the girls and boys. Ms. Lopez explains:

“I used to be a resident at Arbor Inn. The staff and services there helped me get through a tough time in my life. They provided me with childcare which allowed me to continue my education and become a NYS certified Emergency Medical Technician with the FDNY. Today, I am a Paramedic Instructor at the Bureau of Training; I have never forgotten where I come from and will do what I can to put a smile on the children’s faces at BCHS.”

Ms. Lopez acknowledges that several “Santa’s helpers” assisted her with this year’s holiday donation and celebration. “Without my boss, Chief Ann Fitton, it couldn’t have happened. Also, my daughter, EMT Sharon Aziz, EMTS- Onofrio Troisi, Steve Negron, Kelly Santos and Janice Garcia; Police Officer Jerry Zender (Santa); Paramedic Andrea Zender; and the staff at the FDNY EMS Bureau of Training all pitched in.”

To the women at Arbor Inn, she offers, “Hold your head up high and know that better times will come. You control your destiny. Live by a saying from Robert Frost: ‘The single best way out is always through.’”
Final Preparations Are Underway for the Opening of the Navy Green SRO

Construction and resident intake are on schedule in advance of the March 2012 opening of the new Navy Green SRO. The highly anticipated single room occupancy (SRO) facility will offer safe and affordable housing for 97 formerly homeless and low-income single adults.

Thanks to an innovative partnership with Pratt Area Community Council (PACC), Dunn Development Corp., and L&M Development Partners, BCHS will serve as the social service provider at the facility, bringing the agency’s unique and award-winning approach to the residents of the SRO.

The facility is part of a larger redevelopment in Brooklyn’s Wallabout neighborhood, converting the former site of the Navy Base into a vibrant community of residential, commercial, and green space. When completed, the full Navy Green development will offer more than 450 residential units, including supportive housing, affordable rental and co-op apartments, and market-rate condos and townhouses.

Below, the Navy Green SRO planning team (clockwise from front): Wendy Junius (BCHS), Jeff Nemetsky (BCHS), Tammy Dubler (PACC), Stephanie Blue (PACC), Cindy Edwards (BCHS), Gretelins Balser (BCHS), LeToya Campbell (PACC) and Darrel Cummings (PACC).

We’re committed to ending homelessness in Brooklyn.
Each year, BCHS provides safe and clean supportive housing for 800 formerly homeless women, children and men. We help them learn how to live productively and independently, with dignity and with hope.

To contribute, or to learn how you can help, please visit www.BCHAndS.org or contact the BCHS Development Department at (718) 852-9522 ext. 2140.
Contributions (June 2011 - January 2012)

$100,000 and more
The Oak Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
The Guardian Life Insurance Company of New York

$25,000 - $49,999
Brooklyn Community Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
The Mary J. Hutchins Foundation, Inc.
Vincent Mulford Foundation

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Anonymous
Clifford and Leslie Cohen
Tim Hosking and Audrey Sokoloff

$2,500 - $4,999
Anonymous
Ben and Susan Bass
Ron and Sue Ellen Carr
Mr. Huer K. Goves
Margie Hansens and Kevin McGeath

$1,000 - $2,499
Anonymous
Alexandra Bowie and Dan Richman
Robert Buckhalt and Lorraine Fontaine
June Castellanos
Thomas and Carolyn Castellinos
Carolyne Ellis and H. Luke Wise
Patrick and Andrea Fry
Mary Cox Golden
Peter Hanson and Elena Feliciano
Meg McConnell
Stephen McGeath, Jn and Jane Shiffley
Stephen McGeath, Sr.
Sheryl Parker and James Gray
Robinson Foundation/ Sarah and Spencer Robertson
Clare and Chris Tayback
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Irène and Richard Van Vyk

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Susan Sommer and Stephen A. Wargocki
Laura and Eric Stettman
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TPG, Inc./Thomas Gallagher
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Sandy Wertheimer and Jeremy Palmer
Laurel and Joseph Whittaker
Bob and Donna Whiteford
Teddy Whitman and Alan Nusselson
Frank and Lisa Wohl
Ben Yarmolinsky

Thanksgiving 2011 at BCHS

Special thanks to Aricka Werbrooks and Jive Turkey, Inc. for providing delicious food for the Brooklyn Gardens Thanksgiving Dinner; the staff of the Scattered-Site Apartment Program for preparing and serving a home-cooked meal for the program’s residents; and to the volunteers who helped serve up a warm and wonderful holiday for the women, children, and men living at BCHS.

Top right: Volunteers serve Thanksgiving Dinner at Brooklyn Gardens

For right: Volunteers from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Right: BCHS employee Juan Lamas serves dinner to residents of the Scattered-Site Apartment Program

Below (right and left): Scattered-Site Apartment Program residents celebrate Thanksgiving

Local Puppet Troupe Brings Show to Kids at Arbor Inn

In mid-November, Brooklyn’s Rabbit Hole Ensemble returned to Arbor Inn to entertain the boys and girls with a unique and fun puppet show. The special performance was part of the troupe’s Theatre for Children outreach program, whose tours work with social service organizations and other historically underserved Brooklyn communities free of charge.

BCHS Program Director Marie Degraf-Mylly extended her thanks to the troupe, saying “Thank you for giving us such a wonderful treat. We truly appreciate your hard work bringing laughter to our community. We definitely cannot wait to see more.”

For more information, visit www.rabbitholensemble.com
Halloween at BCHS

A full schedule of Halloween activities appealed to the child in everyone, young and not-so-young, at BCHS. Residents, Board Members and employees all joined in the fun this past October and showed their Halloween spirit.

Children from Arbor Inn picked pumpkins at Brooklyn Gardens and decorated their jack-o-lanterns for display in the courtyard. Board Vice-Chairman Tim Hoisington also pitched in by serving on the judges’ panel for the Arbor Inn Kids’ Costume Contest.

Residents and staff at Arbor Inn, Ivy House and Oak Hall dressed up, held a friendly competition to see which program could come up with the “spookiest” decorations, and celebrated at the annual Brooklyn Gardens Haunted Walk.

Clients and employees from the Scattered-Site Apartment Program also donned costumes for an afternoon of Halloween games, activities and treats.

Board Member Alexandra Bowie visited the program’s offices in Downtown Brooklyn to celebrate with residents at the Annual Scattered-Site Program’s Halloween Fest.

“It was a treat to spend time with residents as they relaxed, made costumes, ate pizza, and played games,” recalls Ms. Bowie. “I was impressed with the care the staff took in organizing the party, decorating the room, and responding to the clients.”

Thanks to everyone who helped make Halloween 2011 at BCHS a “real treat” for all involved.

Board Members and Friends Toast BCHS’ Accomplishments in 2011

On November 10, Board Member Christine Spadaro and her husband, Rick Lodewick, graciously hosted the 2011 BCHS Board Wine Tasting Reception. More than 35 guests gathered in the couple’s beautiful Brooklyn Heights brownstone to celebrate BCHS’ successes during the past year, and to give new friends a glimpse of the agency’s work to end homelessness in Brooklyn. Special thanks to Christine and Rick for sharing their lovely home, and to all of the BCHS Board Members for their advocacy and leadership.
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Dear friends,

Christine is an army veteran with a sharp sense of humor and a quick, hearty laugh. She also has a mental illness... and had been struggling to be a homeless shelter when she was referred to our Brooklyn Gardens housing program.

Once she was here Christine loved to sit in our courtyard with her roommates, playing chess and cards. She would meet with her BCBS counselor regularly and, proud of her military service, became active in a support group with other veterans. After a few years Christine did go well that she found a full-time job and began saving as much as she could.

One day on the way home from work, a beautiful new building in Downtown Brooklyn caught Christine’s eye. Confident in the progress she had made while at BCBS and feeling ready to live on her own, Christine took a studio apartment in the new building, and moved out of Brooklyn Gardens.

I bumped into Christine this Fall at our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. “I love my new place, but it is okay that I come back to visit?” she asked me. “This is where I can see people. Have a little conversation. It’s still my community, know what I mean?”

Brooklyn Gardens has been a warm, nurturing community for thousands of formerly homeless individuals just like Christine since it opened in 1991. In fact, this May 17th we will be celebrating the award-winning housing program’s 20th anniversary at our “Talented Brooklyn” gala, to be held at Galapagos Art Space in DUMBO.

We are thrilled to be honoring the visionary architects of Brooklyn Gardens, Cindy Harden and Harden Van Arnam Architects, along with the groundbreaking fashion icon, Lu Canela Sierra. I hope you will be able to join us at this terrific and fun event!

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, Board Members, and volunteers, whose compassion and efforts made the recent holiday season a special time for our residents. And a very special thank you to everyone who so generously supported our annual appeal – your wonderful and thoughtful support will allow us to maintain and enhance essential services, just when these services are needed the most.

Thank you all again, and thank you for being part of the effort to end homelessness in Brooklyn.

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Contributions (June 2011 - January 2012)

Up to $99
Anonymous
Carole and Steve Coleman
Mark Easter and Lin Hays
Peter and Camilla Flemming
Elizabeth Gardner
Marlyn and Joe Green
Florence Kessler
Susan Kessler
Rabbi William and Dr. Elizabeth T. Kleiner
Kim Katz Chinese Kitchen, Inc.
Dorothy Leibner
Ed Lovett
Robert and Bonnie Nelson
Arzata O’Neal
Joan Peggelli
Ellen Reed-Fox and Tim Fox
Eric Sachsenmayer
Connie and Arthur Tempel
Tobias Yarmolinsky and Phyllis Fine Menken
Carol Ziegler

Gifts In-Kind
Jean Alexander and the American Caribbean Center
Anonymous (2)
David Banker (aka D. J. Disciple)
Ben and Susan Baxt
Eric Blackwell
Dwina Carey
Thomas and Carolyn Castelmurso
The Golden Gates Family Health and Support Center
Margie Haussens and Kevin McGrath
Darrell Hollon
Tim Hocking and Audrey Sokoloff
Joe Turkey, Inc./Attila Workbooks
Barbara Lopez and the Staff of the FDNY EMS Bureau of Training

Tributes

IN HONOR OF

BEN BARTY/Mike INGELS & ASSOC.
Joan Peggelli
TIM HOSKING
Clare and Chris Tayback
GINGER KESSLER
Anonymous
MATTHEW WRIGHT
Linda Feldman
IN MEMORY OF

DONALD CLARK
Marilyn Gelber
MAXWELL E. COX
Mary Cox Golden
KATHLEEN DAVENPORT
Robert Stephens
Marilyn W. Groves
Mr. Harri K. Groves
MATTHEW ELLI PECCIO
Carol Ziegler
SALLY YARMOLINSKY
Ann Schaefer and Richard Barber
Ben Yarmolinsky
Tobias Yarmolinsky and Phyllis Fine Menken

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AND MORE!

For the latest information, or to purchase sponsorships, journal ads and reservations, please visit www.BCHANDS.org
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Ariicka Wimbush and Jive Turkey, Inc.

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