



## Winter Holidays Deliver Joy and Celebration to BCHS Residents

Many compassionate friends offered their hearts, time and gifts to ensure that the women, children and men living at BCHS had a fun and festive holiday season. With help from these dedicated volunteers, donors and community partners, Activities Coordinator Tamara Ramsey offered residents a full schedule of gatherings and events such as tree-trimming and decorating, holiday caroling, a dazzling "Winter Wonderland," Christmas dinner, a multicultural celebration, and even a visit from Santa Claus.

On a cold December night, carolers from New Fountain Church in Brooklyn warmed *Brooklyn Gardens* with a performance and sing-a-long of holiday favorites. Afterwards, the group visited with residents and staff over cookies and hot drinks in the Community Room.

Several generous individuals and groups (listed below) coordinated toy drives and donated gifts for the boys and girls at *Arbor Inn*. Volunteers from Living God Ministries delivered their donations to *Brooklyn Gardens* and stayed to help wrap the gifts. Board Member Patrick Fry and his wife, Andrea, donated gifts as well. Teachers and students from the Community Service Seminar at St. Ann's School, coordinated by Diane Gnagnarelli, also pitched in to decorate the "Winter Wonderland" and prepare "Santa's Workshop."

Thanks to all of these wonderful friends, Santa was able to make sure that every child received gifts and had an opportunity to get his or her picture taken with "Ol' St. Nick."



Above Left: Volunteers from the Living God Ministries

Above Right: Holiday carolers from New Fountain Church in Brooklyn

Above Center: Santa and helper (BCHS employees Tianna Dixon and Thomas Bellinger)

Special thanks to the many friends who volunteered their time, collected toys and donated gifts for the women, children and men at BCHS.

- Patrick and Andrea Fry
- The Golden Gents Family Health and Support Center
- Lisa Smith and the SUNY Downstate Child Life Program
- David Paniagua, Jerysbel Smith and the Living God Ministries

- Pastor Carlos Ruiz and Aida Ramos-Ruiz, Monica Deliz, and the Good Seed Church
- Employees of:
- Pratt Area Community Council (PACC)
- Curtis + Ginsberg Architects
- Mega Contracting
- Architecture in Formation



## Message from Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky



Dear friends,

One day a few years back I saw a BCHS resident, Barry, sitting in our courtyard, looking intently at something in his hands. What was he looking at? As I stepped a little closer it seemed he was moving his hands around awkwardly but with care. What could Barry – a soft-spoken, formerly homeless man in his late 40s who came to us through our ex-offender initiative – possibly be doing?

When I approached he showed me: out of a tiny piece of white blackboard chalk Barry was carving an amazingly lifelike sculpture of a mother, father and child all holding hands. He used nothing but the tip of a push pin from an office bulletin board, yet his miniature sculpture was breathtaking. And beautiful.

On May 18th you can see Barry's work on display at our annual gala, titled "Talented Brooklyn." This exciting evening will feature a gallery of art created by talented BCHS residents like Barry, as well as live performances by local Brooklyn entertainers. In addition, we are thrilled to be honoring three talented individuals who have done so much to help improve the lives of Brooklynites: Martin Dunn, whose stunning and beautifully designed buildings for formerly homeless individuals have made him the industry leader in supportive housing development; Ron Moelis, who has been one of the nation's most esteemed and innovative developers of affordable and mixed-use housing for well over two decades; and Elizabeth DiMichele, who has selflessly provided wise and expert legal counsel on a pro bono basis to BCHS for many years. I hope you will join us to celebrate "Talented Brooklyn" on the 18th!

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, Board Members, and volunteers, whose compassion and efforts made the holidays a warm and special time for our residents. And a very special thank you to everyone who so generously supported our annual appeal. At a time when government resources are being reduced and the level of need is growing, your wonderfully generous support will allow us to maintain and enhance essential services just when these services are needed the most.

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

## Oak Hall Residents' Council Honors Ruth Mitchell For Assistance to Veterans

The *Oak Hall* Residents' Council/Tenants' Association presented its 2010 "Outstanding Community Service Award" to BCHS' Resource Room Coordinator, Ruth Mitchell. The group honored Ruth for her commitment to helping military veterans in Brooklyn, including several who live at *Oak Hall*, the agency's single-room-occupancy (SRO) facility.

In 2008, Ruth coordinated a partnership between BCHS and The Outreach and Rehabilitation Center for Homeless Veterans (TORCH), granting their clients access to BCHS' vocational advancement services. It was the first program of its kind for formerly homeless veterans.

Thanks to this innovative collaboration, several hundred veterans - more than 200 in 2010 - have benefitted from the services available from BCHS' Resource Room. With personal assistance from Ruth, they utilize the program's library of books and training tools. In addition, they have free access to

computers that they can use to prepare resume's, search for jobs, participate in online courses, and develop important job-related technical skills.

Ruth's dedication and compassion also extends beyond the Resource Room. Through her service on the Board of Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID), she helps provide vital support and assistance to many residents throughout the borough.

"I always tell people that I am here to help," says Ruth. "It's nice to get this award and know that the clients appreciate that."

The Residents' Council/Tenants' Association is an independent tenant-run group representing the residents of *Oak Hall*.



## Construction Begins on the Navy Green SRO



Above (left to right): Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, PACC Executive Director Deb Howard, BCHS Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky, PACC Board Chair Mariadele Priest, Enterprise Community Partners' NY Vice President and Director Abby Jo Sigal, and Council Member Letitia James

On September 22, 2010, representatives from BCHS participated in the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for *Navy Green*, a new multi-faceted project that will include the *Navy Green SRO*, a 98-unit supportive housing facility for chronically homeless and low-income single adults. BCHS, through an innovative partnership with Pratt Area Community Council (PACC), Dunn Development Corp. and L+M Development Partners, will serve as the social service provider for the *Navy Green SRO*.

The September groundbreaking marked the start of the first two phases of construction - the 98-unit SRO and an 8-story, 101-unit affordable rental building. When the entire *Navy Green* development is completed, it will offer approximately 458 residential units, more than 8,000 square feet of commercial and/or community space, and 32,000 square feet of common green space. The project will comprise an unprecedented mix of supportive housing, affordable rental and home-ownership units, and market rate condos and townhouses.

"We are honored and excited to be part of such a vital and ambitious project," says BCHS Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky. "*Navy Green* will bring new life to the neighborhood surrounding the Navy Yards, and the *Navy Green SRO* will enable BCHS to end homelessness for many more men and women in Brooklyn."

The *Navy Green SRO* is scheduled to be completed and ready for occupancy in Spring 2012.



Left (left to right): BCHS' Board Chair Ben Baxt, Executive Assistant Marilyn Williams, Director of Property Management Dorian Muller, and Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky

### Board Member Profile: Benjamin Baxt

In July 2010, BCHS' Board of Directors elected Ben Baxt as Chairman. While this is a new role for Ben, it is actually just another chapter in his long and dedicated history with the agency. In fact, you could say that Ben Baxt literally helped build BCHS.

"I began volunteering in 1989 to provide some professional oversight of the construction of *Brooklyn Gardens*," recalls Ben. An accomplished architect, (and managing partner of Baxt Ingui Architects PC), Ben volunteered his expertise to help BCHS re-develop an abandoned three-building property into an award-winning apartment complex for formerly homeless men, women and children.

During his time consulting with BCHS, Ben met and was inspired by many of the agency's clients. "Hearing the individual residents' success stories brings the greatest sense of fulfillment," he confides. Soon, what started as a consultation project blossomed into an ongoing commitment, and in 1990 Ben joined BCHS' Board of Directors.

In the twenty-plus years Ben has served on the Board, he has helped the agency navigate many significant challenges and accomplishments. Throughout it all, he has remained a stalwart advocate for BCHS and a compassionate friend to our clients.

When asked if there is a specific accomplishment at BCHS for which he feels the greatest sense of personal pride, Ben responds "Each individual success is a key accomplishment."

That same perspective guides him in his new role chairing the Board of Directors. "We must continue to enhance the Board with the next generation of leaders so that we can maintain BCHS on a steady course, not only during the present, but for as many more years as necessary, until we are able to end homelessness in Brooklyn."



## It's No Trick - Halloween at BCHS Was a Treat!



BCHS' 2010 year-end activities schedule kicked into high gear at the end of October, offering residents a Halloween filled with parties, treats and fun surprises. With costume contests, games and a haunted house, this Halloween presented something for everyone.

The festivities started on October 27, when the *Scattered-Site Apartment Program* hosted its Annual "Halloween Fest." Residents and staff donned costumes, munched on delicious snacks, and competed in fun activities like a scarecrow-making contest and a mummy race.

"For our residents, who live independently throughout Brooklyn, parties like this are important opportunities for them to socialize and visit with friends," says *Scattered-Site*

Program Manager Marie Degraff-Myal.

At *Oak Hall*, Activities Coordinator Tamara Ramsey, with help from several creative residents and employees, converted the building's basement into a "Haunted Walk," complete with fog, eerie lights, spooky decorations, and creepy characters.

Children and parents at *Arbor Inn* celebrated Halloween with cupcakes, snacks, games and a movie. Board Vice-Chairman Tim Hosking took part in the festivities and served on the judges panel for the children's costume contest.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in, the children and adults at BCHS enjoyed an unforgettable Halloween!



Above: Kids, costumes and cupcakes at the *Arbor Inn* Halloween party

Left column (top to bottom):

Board Vice-Chairman Tim Hosking demonstrates his paddle-ball technique

Residents Abreana, Ron, Wanda and Diane show off the contest-winning scarecrow they built at the *Scattered-Site Apartment Program's* "Halloween Fest"

Lindora, a resident at *Oak Hall*, gets a fright in the fog at the *Brooklyn Gardens* "Haunted Walk"

## Thanksgiving 2010

Special thanks to Aricka Westbrooks and Jive Turkey, Inc. for providing food for the *Brooklyn Gardens* Thanksgiving Dinner, and to the many volunteers servers who helped make it a very wonderful day!

Right (left to right):  
Thanksgiving Dinner at *Arbor Inn*

The *Scattered-Site Apartment Program* treats residents and staff to home-cooked Thanksgiving favorites.



## Board Toasts BCHS and Friends at its Annual Wine Tasting Event

On November 9, Board Vice-Chairman Tim Hosking and his wife, Audrey Sokoloff, welcomed more than 30 friends into their home for the Board of Directors' 2010 Wine Tasting Event. The Board hosts this annual year-end reception to celebrate BCHS' accomplishments during the preceding year. The evening also offers new friends an introduction to the agency's life-saving work, and an opportunity to learn how they can help BCHS end homelessness in Brooklyn.

Many thanks to Tim and Audrey for sharing their beautiful home for the occasion. Thanks also to David Wolin from Old York Cellars for generously donating wine for the event.

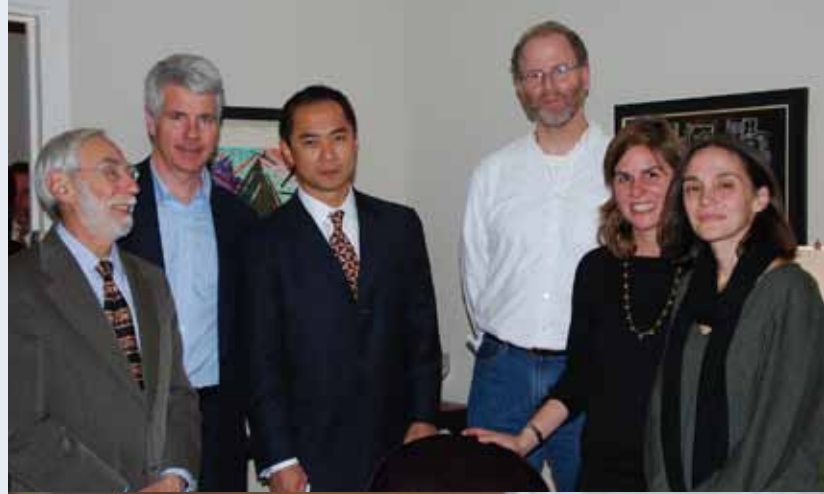
Right column, from top (left to right):

Board Members Ben Baxt, Tim Hosking, Kim Bingham, Clifford Cohen, Ia Andrews and Christine Spadaro

Meg McConnell, Audrey Sokoloff and Jeff Nemetsky

Ia Andrews, Christine Spadaro, and Dr. Bill Nye

Below (left to right): Audrey Sokoloff and Tim Hosking, with Jeff Nemetsky and Jessica Ziegler



Below Left (left to right): *Oak Hall* resident, Anthony, with BCHS employees Tamara Ramsey, Ofnie McDonald, and Tamika Jackson

Below Right (left to right): volunteers Yosra El-Essawy, Laura Sainz, Jen Difiore and Peter Zerneck help serve Thanksgiving dinner





## **\$100,000 and more**

The Oak Foundation

## **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

The Guardian Life Insurance Company

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Brooklyn Community Foundation

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
The Mary J. Hutchins Foundation, Inc.  
The Honorable Letitia James - New York  
City Council Discretionary Fund

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Ia Andrews and Eliot Merrill  
Clifford and Leslie Cohen  
The Dammann Fund, Inc.  
Margie Hanssens and Kevin McGrath

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
Ben and Susan Baxt  
Edith C. Blum Foundation, Inc.  
Deborah Buell and Charles Henry  
Hurst Groves  
Tim Hosking and Audrey Sokoloff  
Levin Capital Strategies

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Anonymous  
Robert Buckholz and Lizanne Fontaine  
Ron and Sue Ellen Carr  
June Castelnuovo  
Thomas and Carolyn Castelnuovo  
Carolyn Ellis and H. Lake Wise  
First Unitarian Congregational Society  
Patrick and Andrea Fry  
Peter Hansen and Elena Feliciano  
J.E.S. Plumbing & Heating Corp.  
Massey Knakal Charitable Foundation  
Meg McConnell  
Don and Madonna Reed  
Clare and Chris Tayback  
Triple S Air Systems, Inc.

## **\$500 - \$999**

Anonymous (2)  
B.W.B. Crown Partition  
Kim Bingham  
Ellen and Casey Cogut  
D. Latayette Compton  
Jane DeBevoise  
Dovin Construction Co, Inc.  
Mary Cox Golden  
The Hartford Foundation  
Thomas and Lea Haber Kuck  
Ann and Mitch Lowenthal  
Lexy Mayers and David Lesser  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Margaret Moss  
Bill Nye, Ph.D.  
Sheryl Parker and James Grayer  
P.K. Ramani and Alexandra Chavchavadze  
Stanton Public Relations and Marketing  
Stark and Michael Ward  
Mark and Lois Wingerson

## **\$250 - \$499**

Anonymous (2)  
Bill and Mary Baker  
Peter and Kristin Becker  
Brownstone Real Estate LLC  
Certified Asbestos Removal Corp.  
Andrew Collins  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
John DeFalco  
Manny and Pat Fuchs  
Joan Glatman  
Joan Goldberg  
Interior Alterations, Inc.  
Maria Jones and David Cooper  
Paul Kennedy  
Sandy Krieger and Andrew Dash  
Richard and Kathleen Levin  
Joseph and Pamela McCarthy  
Richard and Barbara Moore  
Krista Olson and Tom Middleton  
Susan and Kanti Rai  
Stanley Rothenberg Memorial Fund/  
Michael Rothenberg and  
Zerline Goodman

## **\$250 - \$499 (continued)**

Robert and Martha Rubin  
Laura Schnell and Mitch Pacelle  
Vivien and Michael Shelanski  
Barbara Sokoloff and  
Herb Rakatansky, M.D.  
Susan Sommer and Stephen A. Warnke  
Robert Stephens  
Super-Charged Electric, Inc.  
TPG, Inc/Thomas Gallagher  
Liza Velazquez and Tim Milford  
Woodworks Construction Co, Inc.

## **\$100 - \$249**

Mark and June Alpert  
Anonymous (2)  
Peter Blatchford and Elizabeth Elfenbein  
Marty Cohen and Randy Ellen Sheinberg  
Carole and Steve Coleman  
Philip Cramer  
Kathryn Croft  
James Daley and Katherine Neill  
Joe Detama  
Arlene and Dan Drucker  
William Duke  
Robert Edmonds  
Edsquare Consulting Services, LLC  
Steve and Martha Ellman  
Gail Flanery and Tom Potter  
Fritzmartin Electric, Inc.  
Elizabeth Gardiner  
Marilyn Gelber  
Liz Giamatti  
Amy Goldman  
John and Marianne Golieb  
David and Lorna Goodrich  
John Gray  
Robin Griffiths  
John Hauenstein  
Molly K. Heines and Thomas J. Moloney  
Laurel Henschel  
Jon Hochman and  
Elizabeth Dabney Hochman  
Phillip Hogue and Jeannette E. King

## **We're committed to ending homelessness in Brooklyn.**

Each year, BCHS provides safe and clean supportive housing for 700 formerly homeless women, children and men.

We help them learn how to live productively and independently, with dignity and with hope.

**\$100 - \$249 (continued)**

Darryl Hollon  
Richard and Anita Inz  
J & L Landscaping Inc.  
George and Doris Kan  
Geoff Kessell and John Rutledge  
Humayun Khalid  
Kum Kau Chinese Kitchen, Inc.  
John Maciuika  
Sally and Richard Mann  
Tod and Gwen Mann  
Newt and Polly Merrill  
Chris Morrison and Ron Marino  
Deborah Morse  
Barry Oreck and Jessica Nicoll  
Palone Bros. Air Conditioning  
Ann and Ray Peterson  
Barbara Quint  
Dr. Francesco Resta-Flarer and  
Bonnie Resta-Flarer  
Susan Restler  
James and Patricia Rohan  
Ann Schaetzel and Richard Barber  
Phyllis and Paul Schlesinger  
Ted and Mary Jo Shen  
Jane Smith and Jeffrey Ginsberg  
Joe and Karen Sparacio  
Stanley Lewis Plumbing and Heating  
Wendy and Alexander Stanton  
Starr Security Services  
Bettie Steisel  
Emily Sweet and David Drits  
Christopher Tahbaz  
Irene Tichenor and Randal R. Craft  
Karen Trella  
Fred Turbee, Sr.  
John and Martha Watts  
Laurel and Joseph Whitaker  
Bob and Donna Whiteford  
Trudy L. Whitman  
Ben Yarmolinsky  
Matthew Yarmolinsky and  
Margaret Leipsitz

**Up to \$99**

Ted and Gloria Bajo  
Ann Ellis  
Joan Erskine  
Camilla Flemming  
Daniel Green  
Marilyn and Joe Green  
Robert and Kathleen Helenius  
Reina Horowitz  
Florann Kessell  
Christine Kiefer  
Rabbi William Kloner and  
Dr. Elizabeth T. Kloner  
Dorothy Leibner  
Kit Wah Mui  
Robert and Bonnie Nelson  
Arzora O'Neal  
Ellen Reed-Fox and Tim Fox  
Eric Sachsenmaier  
Margo Steinfeld  
Gary and Trudy Sudin  
Connie and Arthur Tempel  
Suzanne and David Ward  
Wendy Weller-Jones

**Gifts In-Kind**

Architecture in Formation  
David Banks (aka D.J. Disciple)  
Eric Blackwell  
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects  
Monica Deliz  
Edsquare Consulting Services, LLC  
Patrick and Andrea Fry  
The Golden Gents Family Health and  
Support Center  
The Good Seed Church  
Jive Turkey Inc./Aricka Westbrook  
Living God Ministries  
Mega Contracting  
David Paniagua  
Pratt Area Community Council (PACC)  
Pastor Carlos Ruiz and Aida Ramos-Ruiz  
Jerysbel Smith  
Lisa Smith and the Child Life Program at  
SUNY Downstate

*Tributes*

**IN HONOR OF**

**ELIZABETH BAILEY**  
Kenneth Mann

**BEN BAXT**

Robert Edmonds, Esq.

**LINDA FELDMAN**

Deborah Morse

**ALAN P. GRIMES**

Daniel Green

**TIM HOSKING**

Laurel Henschel

Richard Levin

Barbara Sokoloff and Herb Rakatansky, M.D.

Clare and Chris Tayback

**GEOFF KESSELL**

Ellen Reed-Fox and Tim Fox

Gary and Trudy Sudin

**SEAN O'NEAL**

Suzanne and David Ward

**MICHAEL ROTHENBERG**

Susan and Kanti Rai

Christopher Tahbaz

**IN MEMORY OF**

**DR. T. CASTELNUOVO**

June Castelnovo

**DORIS CLARK**

Marty Cohen and Randy Ellen Sheinberg

Marilyn Gelber

**MARILYN W. GROVES**

Hurst Groves

**MARY ELIZABETH HANSENS**

Margie Hanssens and Kevin McGrath

**JOHN STEPHENS**

Robert Stephens

**SALLY YARMOLINSKY**

Ben Yarmolinsky

Matthew Yarmolinsky and Margaret Leipsitz

**To contribute, or to learn how you can help, please visit [www.BCHands.org](http://www.BCHands.org)  
or contact BCHS' Development Department at (718) 852-9322 ext. 2140**



105 Carlton Ave  
Brooklyn, NY  
11205

## Brooklyn Community Housing and Services

### Board of Directors

#### Chairman

Benjamin Baxt

#### Vice-Chairman

Tim Hosking

#### Treasurer

Thomas Castelnuovo

### Board Members

Ia Andrews

Elizabeth Bailey

Kim Bingham

Clifford Cohen

Patrick Fry

Peter Hansen

Margie Hanssens

Darryl Hollon

Sean O'Neal

Michael Rothenberg

Christine Spadaro

Asif Talukdar

Aricka Westbrooks

### Executive Director

Jeff Nemetsky

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Brooklyn, NY  
Permit No. 1308

# TALENTED BROOKLYN

A gala celebration of art, creativity and compassion  
to benefit Brooklyn Community Housing and Services



*We're committed to  
ending homelessness  
in Brooklyn.*

### SAVE THE DATE:

**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 18, 2011**

*6 TO 9 P.M.*

### **GALAPAGOS ART SPACE**

*16 Main Street  
(DUMBO) Brooklyn*

### HONOREES:

**MARTIN DUNN**

*Dunn Development Corp.*

**RON MOELIS**

*L+M Development Partners*

**ELIZABETH DIMICHELE**

*Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP*