



Above: Emcee Lu Celania Sierra.

Below: Model Selia Powell with BCHS resident Ke'Jahnie.

Photos: David Tufino



8th Annual Fashion on Fulton Gala Raises Vital Funds and Awareness to Help BCHS End Homelessness in Brooklyn

On Thursday, June 10, more than 250 friends gathered for BCHS' 2010 *Fashion on Fulton* Gala at the beautifully restored *Skylight One Hanson* - formerly the Williamsburg Savings Bank Building - in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. The annual *Fashion on Fulton* event celebrates the agency's achievements, honors community partners who positively impact the lives of Brooklyn's residents, and spotlights the diversity and creativity that continue to earn the borough its place among the world's major cities.

Proceeds from *Fashion on Fulton* help fund BCHS' programs for formerly homeless women, children and men. This year's supporters contributed more than \$70,000 to the event and for the agency's life-saving services.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz made a special appearance to proclaim June 10, 2010 "Brooklyn Community Housing and Services *Fashion on Fulton* Day" in the borough. He also joined the agency in saluting its 2010 Honorees: Thomas Castelnuovo - Project Manager at *SCO Family of Services* and outgoing Chairman of BCHS' Board of Directors; and Saundra Thomas - Vice President of Community Affairs for *WABC-TV* in New York.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at an opening reception catered by *Paradis to Go*. As attendees mingled, they also bid on an array of exciting auction items including theater tickets, sports memorabilia, fashion and beauty items, fine wine, artwork, and much more.

The *Brooklyn Steppers Marching Band's Blackfire Percussion Drum Line* kicked off a vibrant fashion show that featured top Brooklyn designers and models, along with a number of BCHS employees and residents. Following the fashion show, guests ended the night with a scrumptious dessert reception.

Thanks to all of the generous sponsors, guests, volunteers and friends who helped make the 8th Annual *Fashion on Fulton* Gala Celebration a tremendous success!

See inside for more Fashion on Fulton.

Below Borough President Marty Markowitz (center) presents an award to Honoree Thomas

Left: Castelnuovo (left) and his wife, Carolyn.

Center: Members of *Brooklyn Stepper's Marching Band* prepare to dazzle the crowd.

Right: Honoree Saundra Thomas addresses guests after receiving her 2010 *Outstanding Achievement Award*.

Photos: Kevin Kane



6/18/2010

To Staff of BCHS

Hello. This is Tirzah,

I want to first say how grateful I am to all the staff for being so kind, generous, loving, sincere and devoted to helping me grow! Since I left in April I haven't forgotten any of you.

Suddenly my life is falling into place. I am working selling makeup - and my boss used to be on Broadway as a singer and actress!

I am attending A.A. meetings near my new home, and I am also seeing a therapist. Thanks to her, I am doing a daily exercise to remind me of things I feel grateful about. I remembered all of you at BCHS and how much you have done for me in little ways and big ways. I send all of you a BIG BEAR HUG.

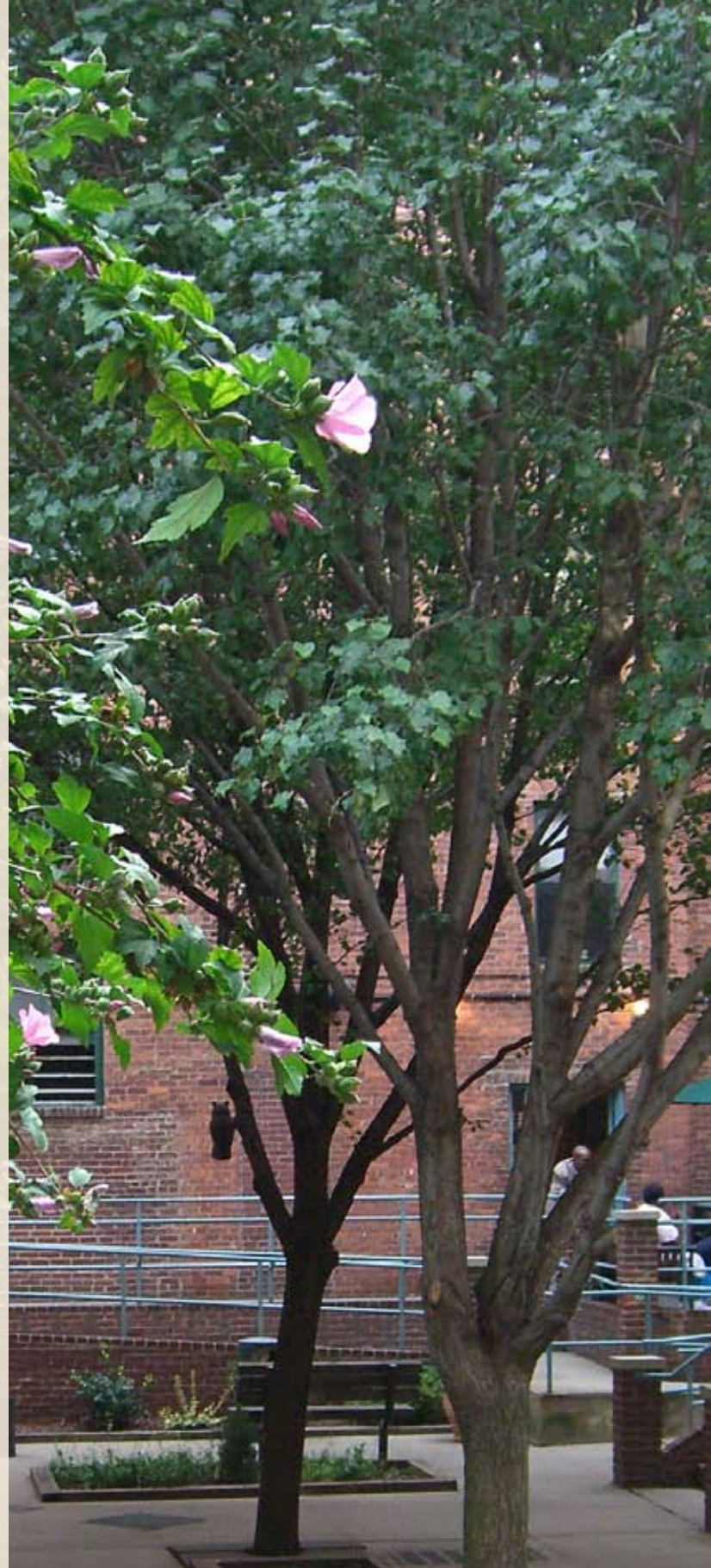
I hope all is well. Please pass this letter on to everyone that has worked with me.

Love to Everyone,

- Tirzah

Hug! (I'm smiling)

In April 2010, Tirzah graduated from BCHS' *Arbor Inn* program and moved to independent housing. For confidentiality purposes, BCHS has changed the client's personal information in the above letter.



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.

To contribute or learn how you can help, visit www.BCHandS.org or call (718) 852-9322 ext. 2140.

Message from Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky



Dear friends,

This Spring and Summer have not only brought record temperatures but also saw a sizzling fashion show – our 8th annual *Fashion on Fulton* gala. It was a wonderful evening, as you can see in this issue of Community Notes.

Because fashion and homeless services can seem like such an unlikely mix, I am often asked about the show's origins. My predecessor, longtime Executive Director Doris Clark, loved to window shop on Fulton Street, and she loved all the clothes, which she felt were more diverse and creative than the things she found in Manhattan. Doris would go into the stores and chat with the designers, and they would discuss their respective businesses: Doris would lament that government contracts were no longer enough to cover essential services, while the designers would talk about how difficult it was to gain attention for their work in the shadow of the Manhattan fashion world. Inevitably, they said 'let's do something together' that simultaneously raises private support and awareness for BCHS **and** brings much deserved attention and recognition to the Brooklyn fashion scene. *Fashion on Fulton* was born.

And just as *Fashion on Fulton* grew out of this very real sense of shared community, BCHS' history, mission, and services are all based on the very simple idea that individuals are at their most vulnerable when they are isolated, but that when they are part of a community they thrive. And I am proud to say that BCHS' focus on community as a programmatic approach has resulted in a year of unprecedented success for the agency, as all of our programs achieved outstanding outcomes during FY 2010.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our generous supporters and *Fashion on Fulton* attendees – none of our work would be possible without you, and your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. Please know that it makes a great difference in every way.

Thank you so much for your support, and thank you for being part of the effort to end homelessness in Brooklyn!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Nemetsky', written over a faint background image of a building.

BCHS' Board of Directors Elects New Chair and Four New Members

BCHS is pleased to welcome four new and dedicated volunteers to its Board of Directors. The newly elected members come to the Board with diverse expertise and experiences that compliment the many strengths of the established participants, and that will help them continue to lead the agency's success and growth. The Board also elected its officers for the new term: Benjamin Baxt, Chair; Tim Hosking, Vice-Chair; and Thomas Castelnovo, Treasurer.



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Second Annual Art Show Highlights Creative Works by Talented BCHS Residents

Below:

- Artist Hilde Freedom
- BCHS Supervisor Brian Kelly (left) and Artist Jenny Chan
- Artist Lindora Slowe (left) and Poet Denise Solomon
- Artist Ryan Thomas
- Clay figures and chalk carvings by Barry McCrea



In 2009 BCHS created a vibrant Arts Program for its formerly homeless residents. Residents meet with an Activities Specialist each week to produce art that is rich and therapeutic, and that allows them to express something essential about themselves through their work.



BCHS' *Annual Resident Art Show* affords the agency and artists an opportunity to share samples from these highly personal works, representing in different ways each artist's history, influences and journey. Participants display many different forms of creative expression, including abstract painting, drawing, sculpture, figure carving and poetry.



On Friday, April 23, Board Members and friends attended the opening-night reception for the 2010 show at *Spoke the Hub* in Park Slope. The Brooklyn-based arts organization once again generously donated its space for the Art Show and exhibited the residents' works throughout the month of May.



Prior to the opening reception, BCHS and the artists hosted a pre-show exhibition at *Brooklyn Gardens*, the agency's multi-faceted apartment complex. Staff and residents got an exclusive opportunity to preview the complete catalog of submitted artwork before selected pieces were moved to *Spoke the Hub*.

Thanks to all of the 2010 BCHS Artists:

- Jenny Chan • Hilde Freedom • Barry McCrea
Lindora Slowe • Denise Solomon • Ryan Thomas

Special Thanks to:

- Elise Long and *Spoke the Hub*
- L.B. Brown and *Clinton Hill Simply Art & Framing Gallery*



Above:

- Paul Kennedy (left) and BCHS Board Member Elizabeth Bailey
- BCHS Board Member Margie Hanssens (left) and Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky
- BCHS Board Members Tom Castelnovo (left) and Peter Hansen
- 2010 *Fashion on Fulton* Committee Member Venice James (left) and Gail Flanery
- *Flowers* (detail) by Jenny Chan



The 8th Annual Fashion on Fulton Gala Celebration

Thursday, June 10, 2010 • Skylight One Hanson

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Photo: David Tufino

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FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED BY

Rebecca Shepherd Floral Design & Adornments

Photo below left: David Tufino

Photo below right: Kevin Kane



Above:

- BCHS Case Manager Kim Nelson
- BCHS Resident Helena H.
- BCHS Case Manager Tianna Dixon

Photos: Kevin Kane



Activities Program Offers Residents a Full Schedule of Spring and Summer Festivities

BCHS provides a robust program of recreational activities to encourage positive social interaction, relaxation and fun for its formerly homeless residents. Throughout the year, Activities Coordinator Tamara Ramsey presents a diverse schedule of free events to entertain, educate and excite participants from all of the agency's programs.

Spring and Summer are particularly busy, thanks to warmer weather and a series of celebratory holidays. Between March and July of 2010, residents enjoyed a wide range of events including a Women's History Month workshop, an Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day and Father's Day lunches, Memorial Day and Independence Day barbecues, and even a day-trip to *Rye Playland* Amusement Park.

In August, Tamara is planning a Summer Cookout, starting a "movies under the stars" series in the lush courtyard at *Brooklyn Gardens*, and gearing up for Labor Day and the busy Fall and Winter holiday seasons. All of these events are made possible by the generous support of many friends who provide crucial funding and in-kind resources to ensure that BCCHS' continues to help its residents learn to live productively and independently, with dignity and with hope.

To learn how you can support BCCHS' Resident Activities Program, visit www.BCHandS.org or call the Development Department at (718) 852-9322 ext. 2140.



New HVAC Tower Keeps Brooklyn Gardens Cool Amid Heatwave

As temperatures soared to dangerous levels in NYC, residents and staff at *Brooklyn Gardens* stayed comfortable thanks to a brand new cooling tower. The tower, which is integral to the building's central air conditioning system, replaces a 19-year-old unit that was failing and beyond repair.

Board Members Ben Baxt and Peter Hansen offered their professional expertise to help coordinate the installation. With their guidance, and the hard work of the installers, the cooling tower was up and running in mid-May - just in time to tackle the Summer's record heat.

Funding for the cooling tower came from BCCHS' government contracts, along with generous support from the Vincent Mulford Foundation and the Hyde and Watson Foundation.



Left:
The new cooling tower at *Brooklyn Gardens*.

Below:
The 19-year-old cooling tower that was replaced in May, 2010.



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Spring Gardening Day

On May 4, a group of dedicated volunteers from *Goldman Sachs Community Team Works* generously donated their time to help BCCHS staff and residents beautify the grounds of *Brooklyn Gardens*. BCCHS is extremely grateful to *Goldman Sachs* and its employees for their continued support and commitment.

Left (top to bottom):

- Thomas Bellinger (left) and Tamara Ramsey
- Dawn Johnson
- Sharon Troutman



Annual Staff Picnic

On June 24, BCCHS' employees enjoyed a day of camaraderie and relaxation in Prospect Park. A staff Picnic Committee arranged an afternoon filled with good food, fun games and exciting prizes. The annual *Employee Recognition Awards* were also presented to 2010 winners Ofnie McDonald (Case Manager) and Tamara Ramsey (Activities Coordinator). Congratulations to Ofnie and Tamara, and thanks to everyone on the Picnic Committee for a great day!

Right (top to bottom):

- Ofnie McDonald (left), Jeff Nemetsky (center), and Tamara Ramsey
- Igor Zhitomirskiy
- Relay racers

