



## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100 • Bronx, New York 10471-2194

Telephone: 718-884-3959 Fax: 718-796-2763

Email: [bx08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bx08@cb.nyc.gov)

Website: [www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8](http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8)

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Bronx Borough President

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Daniel Padernacht, Chairperson

Patricia Manning, District Manager

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Bronx, New York, May 2, 2016 – Bronx Community Board No. 8 is pleased to announce the winners of the Bronx Community Board No. 8 **2016 Community Service Awards**. Presentation of the awards will take place at the community board meeting on May 10, 2016, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, 5625 Arlington Avenue, Multi-purpose Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, at 7:30 PM. The Community Service Award was established to acknowledge the many volunteer efforts of groups and individuals within our community. It is the Board's belief that by recognizing our committed community volunteers, we can in some small way reward those most deserving and inspire others to follow their example.

This year's honorees are:

**ERIK MALDONADO**, for his volunteer efforts in fostering literacy and the arts amongst Bronx students through the annual poetry SLAMs, at workshops, schools and community centers for our youth. His additional volunteer efforts at teen shelters introducing poetry through his workshops that is applicable to our everyday activities. His volunteer work serves as an inspiration to all young people in our community.

**GEORGINA SEGARIC**, for her dedicated volunteer service at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale to provide friendly visits to residents in need of uplifting. She is there at all special events and celebrations to assist residents' participation. Because of her on-going activities at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, she has helped recommend these college students for internships and volunteer placements at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale. She continues to be in touch with current volunteers and retirees to encourage their on-going participation. Her volunteer work serves as an inspiration to others to assist community residents in need of uplifting social experiences.

**NICHOLAS TAUSSIG**, for his stewardship efforts in Van Cortlandt Park on behalf of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and of the Trails Crew in Van Cortlandt Park. He works on the dirt paths to reduce erosion and increase trail usability. He leads the Get Active Hiking Series. He works to inform community members about the history and ecology of Van Cortlandt Park. His work has contributed to the addition of multiple erosion control methods on the trails, making it safer for walkers and joggers. His volunteer work serves as an inspiration for the more than 2,000 volunteers who devote their time and efforts to maintain and enhance this park's facilities for community use.

*Serving the neighborhoods of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights,  
Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Village*

**CARMELO VELASQUEZ**, for his volunteer work in regulating traffic at the intersection of Eames Place and Claflin Avenue each morning and each afternoon as the children of P.S. 307 go to and from school. No adverse weather deters him. Parents feel comfortable in knowing their children will be able to cross this street intersection in safety. He began this service when a speeding car injured a student. The community hopes he will continue this service for a long time and inspire others.

**HORACE MANN SCHOOL – UPPER DIVISION SERVICE LEARNING TEAM**, for its initiative in encouraging its school's students to engage in community service activities that can provide life-long learnings for them. Students after school programs take them to Riverdale Neighborhood House, P.S. 37's Arts and Sciences Workshops, Ampark School's "Road to Success" Program, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and Riverdale Senior Services. The Team meets weekly for the planning, learning and the reflections on these activities. It is our hope that these activities will serve as a life-long inspiration for student participants.

**MARBLE HILL SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES – STUDENTS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM**, for inspiring students to volunteer their time to provide community service to improve our community facilities and to assist elderly residents and young students improve their lives. It is our hope that these activities will serve as a life-long inspiration for student participants.

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You can also visit the Bronx Community Board No. 8 website that announces the Community Service Awards winners at <http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8>.

**Bronx Community Board No. 8 (BXCB8)** plays an important role in improving the quality of life for the communities it serves. BXCB8 is a vital liaison and advocate for the community in dealing with New York City government, elected officials, municipal service delivery, land use and zoning issues, community and business development, the City budget and many other matters relating to the community's health, safety and welfare.

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