

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am pleased to present you with the 2009 Annual Report for the Department of Youth and Community Development. As you know, New York City continues to feel the harsh effects of the most severe national recession in more than 60 years. Despite these challenges, DYCD has worked hard to maintain our core services and engage New York City youth and communities in new and exciting ways.

In 2009, as part of Mayor Bloomberg's plan to ensure continuity of youth services at 25 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Community Centers, DYCD undertook an extensive community planning process. I am proud to report that the resulting Cornerstone Initiative was shaped by input from young people, parents, NYCHA residents, Resident Association leaders, elected officials, school principals and other community stakeholders. Implemented in January 2010, the Cornerstone Initiative serves both youth and adults with a variety of activities from homework help to photography to parenting skills and intergenerational programs.

Another new development of 2009 was DYCD's Summer of Service Initiative. Last year, both President Obama and Mayor Bloomberg called on citizens to increase volunteerism efforts. DYCD enthusiastically responded, and partnered with New York Cares, the Department of Parks and Recreation and NYCHA to develop opportunities for young people. Summer of Service, which kicked off on July 24, was part of Mayor Bloomberg's NYC Service initiative.

In addition, DYCD received an allocation of more than \$80 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds, allowing us to develop 14 initiatives to create and retain jobs while also serving communities in need. We received \$32.2 million in ARRA Workforce Investment Act funds and \$50.48 million in ARRA Community Services Block Grant funds. These initiatives enhanced or expanded many of our strongest programs.

These are just a few examples of new 2009 initiatives that focused on adding value to our communities. By teaming up with other City agencies and community-based organizations, bringing services to previously underserved areas and helping teens and young adults give back to their communities, DYCD remains committed to continue our mission to provide the high-quality services that New Yorkers deserve.

Jeanne B. Mullgrav
Commissioner