

New York City Housing Authority Journal

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Outpouring of Donations from Vladeck Houses Residents in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

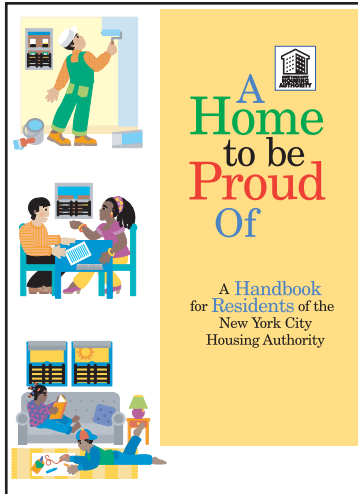
VLADECK HOUSES TENANT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT NANCY ORTIZ DIDN'T WASTE A MINUTE CALLING FOR THE HELP OF HER FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT THE LOWER EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT, TO COME TO THE AID OF THE SURVIVORS OF HURRICANE KATRINA. On August 30th, one day after the eye of the storm made landfall in New Orleans and the levees holding back Lake Pontchartrain gave way flooding the city, Ms. Ortiz and members of the Tenant Association were busily posting flyers in English and Spanish in the lobbies of all of the development's 24 residential buildings as well as in the Management Office, community rooms, and commercial spaces.

The flyer's appeal was simple and direct. It mentioned the extraordinary support New York City and the Lower East Side, in particular, received after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. It also included a prayer for those affected by the hurricane and for everyone trying to help. Rather than monetary donations, the flyer asked for supplies, referring those who wished to send cash to a number of organizations.

The response was tremendous, with donations coming in not only from New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and others in the community, but also from relatives and friends as far away as Long Island. The Department of Environmental Protection even sent donations.

Vladeck Houses' Manager Juan Bello reported that in one week's time, the Tenant Association Room at the devel-

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Resident Handbook Coming Soon!

All families living in conventional public housing developments will soon receive a copy of the handbook, "A Home To Be Proud Of." The handbook is chock full of the most

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SENIOR BENEFIT & ENTITLEMENT FAIR The Medicare Prescription Drug Program



The Senior Identification Program was one popular service at the Senior Benefit & Entitlement Fair on October 6th at Riverbank Park. Here seniors take a moment to have their photos taken by Housing Bureau Cadets for NYCHA Senior ID cards. "It's in case a senior gets lost," explained Housing Bureau Detective Steve Straber, who was overseeing the operation. "If they have this ID on them, we'll know who they are and where they live."

By Eileen Elliott

TODAY'S SENIORS FACE MANY DAUNTING CHALLENGES ON A DAILY BASIS: IN ADDITION TO THE NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE, SENIORS MUST ALSO FIND WAYS TO PAY FOR THE EVER-RISING COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. FORTUNATELY, MEDICARE IS IMPLEMENTING A NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM THAT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE

IN JANUARY 2006. In an effort to facilitate enrollment in that program and help the more than 60,000 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) seniors (65 or over) stay informed about additional benefits and services that are available to them, NYCHA held its first-ever Senior Benefit & Entitlement Fair on a surprisingly warm October 6th at the Riverbank State Park in Upper Manhattan. More than 800 seniors from the five boroughs attended the fair to avail

themselves of a wealth of information.

As NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez told the crowd, "Seniors comprise one-third of the heads of household at NYCHA. You've paid your dues. You deserve the best quality of life possible. That's what this event is about: all the benefits that can help make your life better."

The program began with an uplifting performance of "I Believe I Can Fly," by the NYCHA Senior Chorus, after which NYCHA's Department of Resident Support Services Director Richard Greene welcomed the crowd and introduced the dignitaries in attendance. Along with Chairman Hernandez and Vice-Chairman Earl

Andrews, Jr., they included Assembly Member Keith L. Wright, Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, Social Security Administration Deputy Regional Director Paul Doersam, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Assistant Deputy Commissioner Mary Ellen Kris, and North River Community Environmental Review Board President and Chief Executive Officer Ann Rocker. Also in attendance was Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"Our goal is to provide you with the opportunity to enroll in many programs designed specifically for seniors here in

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43rd Annual Garden Competition Awards Borough of Queens Wins All Three Citywide Categories



New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) gardeners from the five boroughs gathered together in the glass-enclosed Palm House at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens to celebrate the fruits, flowers and vegetables of their labor at the 43rd Annual Garden and Greening Program Awards Ceremony on October 17th. Surrounded by potted palms strung with tiny lights and seated at tables decorated in fall colors amidst gold, maroon and purple chrysanthemums, the gardeners were praised for the dedication it took to keep their gardens growing through a dry summer, and perhaps more importantly, for the beauty those gardens have brought to the City. Community Operations' Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence said it best when he told the crowd, "Gardens are literally an oasis in our developments." A total of 572 gardens were entered in this year's competition in three categories: Flower, Vegetable and Children's Theme. The borough of Queens came in first-place in each of the categories. **Joining NYCHA staff in the photo above (left to right) are Citywide Flower Garden winner Marian Dolphus, Citywide Vegetable Garden Winner Georgia Breaker, both from South Jamaica Houses, and Citywide Children's Theme Winner Sandra Ruffen from Woodside Houses.** See page 10 for a complete list of the winners.

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Food Safety



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Garden Winners!



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**Improving Access To Employment
In The Construction Trades**



THE CITY'S \$16 BILLION A YEAR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS PLAYING A MAJOR PART IN NEW YORK'S ROBUST ECONOMY TODAY. Within the next few months, nearly \$10 billion in public and private construction will be underway at or near the World Trade Center site. And that is just the beginning of what promises to be the greatest era of public and private construction New York has seen since the end of World War II.

Last month I was pleased to be joined by Congressman Charles

Rangel, City Comptroller William Thompson, and New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez among many others to announce 10 exciting initiatives of the Mayor's Commission on Construction Opportunity. Created in March 2005, the Commission was charged with exploring strategies and setting goals to ensure that all New Yorkers are well-prepared and can gain access to good jobs in construction, in both the private and public sectors, during the coming construction boom.

The 33-member Commission has forged consensus around a set of policy actions in three major categories: (1) increasing the representation of minorities and women in the construction industry, (2) preparing minorities and women for participation in the construction industry, and (3) enhancing and creating government tools to promote the goals of the Commission.

The initiatives that were announced by the Commission consisted of:

- The unions in the City's Building and Construction Trades Council have made an unprecedented commitment to reserve over 40% of the slots in their apprenticeship programs by the year 2010 for veterans, women, high school graduates, and economically disadvantaged New Yorkers.

- The City will dedicate a new \$45 million, 1,000 seat high school — The Design, Engineering and Construction Trades High School — to be opened in 2006. The school will administer a curriculum that emphasizes all dimensions of the building trades and create internship and employment programs.

- The City will fund a multi-faceted educational and work preparedness program to ready economically disadvantaged individuals for the construction industry. The City and the Department of Education will partner with STRIVE, a nationally recognized expert in workforce development located in Harlem, to help individuals earn GED's and provide them with work-readiness training. Graduates of this program will then be eligible to enter Construction Skills 2000, a pre-apprentice program run by the Building and Construction Trades Council and the Building Trades Employers Association that prepares entrants for construction apprentice programs.

- The City University of New York (CUNY) will work with leaders from the construction contracting industry to create a curriculum focused on preparing students for managerial and administrative jobs within the construction industry.

- The City has agreed to collaborate with Non-Traditional Employment for Women (NEW), a construction skills pre-apprentice program for women, to begin a public service announcement campaign to encourage women to enter the construction trades. The Commission has requested that the New York State Department of Labor allow graduates of NEW to enter directly into union apprenticeships.

- The City will enhance its enforcement of Executive Order 50 which gives the Department of Small Business Services the authority to monitor EEO compliance and workforce diversity on public contracts and certain private commercial projects receiving public assistance;

- The City will take steps to reduce the exploitation of workers and ensure fair bidding among contractors by increasing the City's capacity to enforce prevailing wage laws. I will join the City Comptroller to urge the passage of State legislation that further empowers the City to monitor and enforce the payment of prevailing wages.

The Construction Commission is co-chaired by Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding Daniel L. Doctoroff and Deputy Mayor for Policy Dennis Walcott, and includes thirty-three members including private developers and contractors including minority and women-owned businesses, union representatives, advocates, and government officials. The Commission will continue to meet to monitor the implementation of these initiatives and to discuss and develop additional recommendations.

Michael R. Bloomberg

FIGHTING TO KEEP OFF THE STREET CORNERS

—By Heidi Morales—

BIG DREAMS HAVE BEEN TAKING SHAPE IN A GYM IN THE SOUTH BRONX. For the past nine-and-a-half years, young men and women of the Mott Haven section of the infamous "Boogie Down" have decided to leave the streets and enter the ring, fighting through any and every obstacle life swings their way.

The kids at the Betances Boxing Program, one of the top amateur youth boxing programs in the City, not only enjoy top-notch instruction in fitness, shadow boxing and sparring, but they also get homework help, go on trips, and develop a sense of family with other kids in their community.

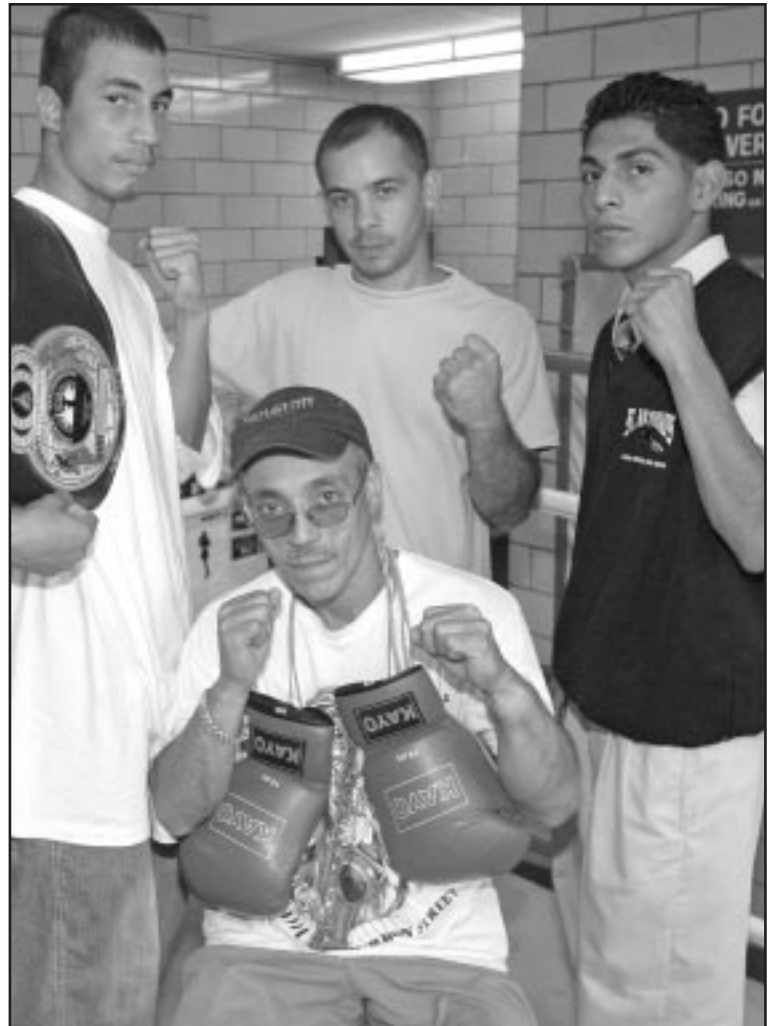
The program run by Jerry Kortright, who was an amateur boxer in the late 60's and who grew up in NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses, has produced many Golden Glove and Junior Olympic champions. Countering critics who frown on the idea of boxing for inner-city youth, Mr. Kortright said people don't understand how important boxing is to the "development of the human spirit." He explained that boxing doesn't incite violence; if anything it helps develop discipline.

"One of the things about boxing is that it instills self-esteem in people; it builds character; it builds discipline, some of the vital components needed to become successful in life. Two perfect examples are Emanuel Gonzalez and Danny Martinez [two of Betances' top boxers]. They've taken the sport to a level where they have the opportunity to become real productive in life because they're not at the corners. Without boxing I don't know where they would be. It takes commitment to stay away from what I call the people, places, and things."

Seventeen-year-old Emmanuel "Manny" Gonzalez, two-time Junior Olympics winner, says this program has kept him out of a lot of trouble and he's gotten quite a few other lessons too. "Most of these trainers speak a lot of Spanish and even though I'm Puerto Rican I learn more and more Spanish every day," he said.

Eighteen-year-old Golden Glove Champ Daniel "Danny" Martinez agrees. "The boxing program helped discipline me. At first I wasn't on the right path; I was hanging out with my friends a lot in the streets. It keeps me here instead of out there."

But the discipline instilled in these boys doesn't just stem from the sport itself. Mr. Kortright takes his work very seriously. At first glance, Mr. Kortright, a man of short stature but with a loud and authoritative voice, might remind you of Burgess Meredith who played "Mickey," Rocky Balboa's trainer in the "Rocky" films. With little prompting, Mr. Kortright's eyes light up and he begins to talk about what it takes to be a champ.



AND IN THIS CORNER: Jerry Kortright (seated) who runs the Betances Boxing Program is show here with (left to right): Manny Gonzalez, Assistant Coach Luis Olmos, and Golden Glove Champ Danny Martinez.

"It takes a big commitment that's the first thing. Boxing is not easy. You have to have consistency in what you do. It's about getting up in the morning when you don't want to, running when you don't want to and doing things that may lead you to second-guess where this is going to lead you." So far, boxing has led the Betances boxing team thousands of miles away. "We do a lot of traveling...I know it's tough on the families."

NYCHA provides the Betances Boxing Program with a yearly budget that is used to fund the after-school program. The staff at Betances holds fundraisers such as tournament fights or mini-events in order to finance the traveling expenses incurred by their fighters. The elite team of boxers, which includes Manny and Danny, has been to competitions in Louisiana, Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania and even Puerto Rico for the Roberto Clemente Cup.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**Prevent Domestic Violence All Year Round**

"CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU!" WAS THE TITLE OF NYCHA'S FOURTH ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS ACTUALLY A WEEK-LONG SERIES OF CONFERENCES THAT TOOK PLACE IN EACH BOROUGH FROM OCTOBER 17TH THROUGH OCTOBER 21ST. NYCHA residents who attended these conferences were presented with a broad range of perspectives, materials and information on family violence that continues to have a devastating effect on families everywhere. I commend

all residents who attended the Domestic Violence Conferences and for those of you who could not attend, I want to make sure that you know that there is help for victims of domestic violence and that no NYCHA resident should keep silent because she or he is afraid.

Silence is one of the main obstacles in preventing domestic violence. Although many victims of domestic violence will turn to police, family, friends, clergy, or healthcare professionals for help, too many do not. It is critical to increase awareness of domestic violence so that victims and the children who witness the abuse can get the help they need and the future victimization of others be prevented.

To help victims of domestic violence, we must first know what domestic violence is. It is the effort by one person in an intimate or family relationship to control another through emotional, physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse. Domestic violence cuts across all racial, social and economic backgrounds, and can occur in all types of relationships including: married couples, elderly dependents, unmarried couples, gay and lesbian partners, teen dating relationships, siblings, and parents with adult children. The effect on children can be devastating.

Do not be afraid to speak up. Domestic violence is everybody's business. Again, "Change begins with YOU!" Even if you are not the victim, but especially if you are, do not keep silent.

For organizing this year's conferences, I want to thank NYCHA's Director of Social Services Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, Deputy Directors Jenelle Mitchell and Marlene Martinez, and the NYCHA Management and Social Services staff in the boroughs for five very successful programs. In addition, I want to thank resident leaders and residents for their invaluable participation, especially the Council of Presidents (COP) Chairs who were in attendance: Brooklyn South's Rosia Wyche, Brooklyn East's Reginald Bowman, Bronx South's Joanne Smitherman, Bronx North's Gerri Lamb, Manhattan North's Barbara G. Barber, Manhattan South's Nikki Azure, Queens' Connie Taylor; and Staten Island's Vice-Chair Geraldine Parker. We deeply appreciate the participation of the keynote speakers at the conferences: CAMBA Program Manager Rick Rodriguez, the Urban Justice Center's Lisa Bengler, State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Safe Horizon Case Manager Jennifer Flynn, and Sanctuary for Families Senior Staff Attorney Linda Lopez. And a very special thanks to Wambui Bahati, whose dramatic presentation, "I Am Domestic Violence" had a powerful impact at all five borough conferences.

Yes, October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and now we are in November, but domestic violence knows no calendar; it occurs every day of the year. We must prevent it together.

Again, remember if you are a victim of domestic violence, you are not alone. Help is at the other end of a telephone, toll-free in all languages at the 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-621-HOPE (4673) (TTY: 800-810-7444). You can also call 311 and an operator will connect you to the Domestic Violence Hotline.

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST**The Bronx:**

They look like super-spiffy golf carts but are in fact "emission-free electric vehicles." Thanks to the New York Power Authority (NYPA) NYCHA received 10 such vehicles, also referred to as General Electric Motor Cars or GEM Cars, last month. NYCHA and NYPA held a press conference at Throggs Neck Houses on October 24th to announce the arrival of the mini-fleet. The cars can travel for 30 miles on a full charge and can be re-charged using a standard 110-volt battery. The vehicles will be used to move work crews around development sites, transport light equipment and respond to emergency maintenance calls. Thanks NYPA!

Brooklyn:

An estimated 325 children of all ages pedaled more than five miles from Cypress Hills Houses down Linden Boulevard into Pink Houses, at the 7th Annual "Bike Run" on October 1st. Riders, who showed up with everything from scooters to bicycles with training wheels, were escorted by Captain Kevin Harrington and the Officers of PSA #2 (on bikes). Detective Walter Brant and Pink Houses Resident Association President Clarissa Moore (who is also PSA #2 Council President) came up with the idea for the increasingly popular Bike Run. The children also enjoyed food, a clown, and great raffle prizes including a bicycle, a DVD player, CD players, and cameras.

Manhattan:

The children of Baruch and Gompers Houses on the Lower East Side have a new playground! On October 21st Grand Street Settlement, hosted a "Build Day" at its Head Start site on Delancey Street. Build Day was underwritten with a \$60,000 grant from Madison Square Garden's Cheering for Children Foundation and organized by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that links communities and corporations together through playground building projects. Grand Street was responsible for raising \$10,000 for the project and recruiting 200 volunteers to get the work done. Many NYCHA staff volunteered, along with community volunteers and 100 corporate sponsors (not to mention a few New York Knicks). Work began at 8:30 AM and ended at 2:30 PM with a Ribbon-

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DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Friendships Blossom—On August 13, 2005, while family and new friends gathered, two cakes sat on the table one trimmed in pink and the other in blue as symbols of the celebration at hand. It was a dual celebration theme: the first cake trimmed in pink was to celebrate the birthday of Ms. Moore and the other cake trimmed in blue was to say thank

you to a very special group of men. Ms. Moore will never forget that dreadful day when she fell out of her wheelchair, injured herself and couldn't get up. She screamed for help and it was Herbert Martinez, Abraham Cohen, Sammy Rivera, and Tony Maniero who heard her cries and came to her rescue. So each year Ms. Moore thanks them with a wonderful array of food such as rice, macaroni and cheese, fried chicken, turkey, potato salad, cake and much much more. "It's my way of saying thank you to my heroes and newly found family," explained Ms. Moore. "I do not know if I would be here today celebrating my birthday, sharing my food if it wasn't for these wonderful men and excellent NYCHA employees," said a grateful Ms. Moore. Ms. Moore doesn't get outdoors much because of a disability but she is always ready and willing to help others in need. Back on June 17, 2001, she became an ordained reverend and can provide spiritual support, counseling, perform marriages and other related services from the comfort of her warm home in O'Dwyer Gardens, in Brooklyn. **Ms. Moore I am happy to see that from your accident warm friendships have emerged. It's a blessing to know that something good came out of this.**

Graduates—Is learning computer technology one of the keys to success? Well 20 NYCHA residents would agree. And that's because on September 27, 2005, they graduated from a 12-week Introduction to Computers course that taught them the basic computer skills needed to compete in this competitive age of technology. The course was a first-time collaboration between the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE) and NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services (RES). CWE instructor Ms. Vienna Carroll not only taught programs on word processing, spreadsheets, database, desktop publishing, and graphics, she focused on the use and function of the external hardware such as: the monitor, keyboard, printer, mouse, CPU, bits and bites. Students learned not only how to navigate a program but also what exactly makes a computer run. The graduates are: Terence Davis and Karen King of Taft Houses; Anna Rodriguez and Yadiva Santos of Johnson Houses; Rhonda Atlas, Marcus Asencio, Peggy Taylor, Jeanette Heath, Ursula Torres and Ralph Rodriguez of Jefferson Houses; Joan Diaz, Winford Welch, Jacques Pavilus, Henly Slogers, Lisa Miller, Madieng Ndiaye and Lewis Grinnard of Carver Houses; Ann Ashwood and Sylvia Gutloff of Lehman House; and Jose Valentine of Washington Houses. According to RES Program Coordinator Lydia Woodson, "The NYCHA residents were committed to advancing their knowledge of the computer in order to further enhance their employment options."

Well, I think this is great. With the right skills and proper training you will be able to secure the job of your dreams. Congratulations on your graduation and I wish you continued success!

History In the Making — On September 7th and 8th the children of Johnson and Clinton Community Centers not only made history but also received a riveting lesson in black history and took a peak into the world of stage acting. It all began with then-Johnson Community Center Director Gary Samuels's affiliation with the YMCA on 63rd Street in Manhattan. Knowing of an upcoming theater production, Mr. Samuels began to form a choir, working with the youth of the Johnson and Clinton Community Center. The choir flourished, and the singers' voices became so attuned that the children were asked to sing in an off-Broadway show, James Baldwin's "Blues for Mr. Charlie." The tale is loosely based on the story of Emmett Till, a young black man who was murdered for asking a white girl on a date. The play was held at the Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater located within the YMCA on 63rd Street. This was the very first theater production that the children were involved in and they performed beyond expectations. Under the direction of Mr. Samuels, who dubbed as the show's Musical Director, the children sang gospel and spiritual tunes to the arriving audience, then opened the show and sang throughout the performance. Mr. Samuels hopes that he will be able to start a borough-wide choir at his new location at the Wagner Community Center in Manhattan. **It sounds to me like this was very exciting for everyone involved. I congratulate you all on your success — you deserve a standing ovation!**

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The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on June 9, 16, 23 and 30, and July 7 and 14, 2004.

**REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE!
THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL
POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of June 9, 2004

Elliott Renta	Case 5487/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 215 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Leon Bedford	Case 5535/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1575 Dean Street, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of June 16, 2004

Gilfred Alicea	Case 5585/04 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 72 Baruch Drive, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.
Edwin Badillo	Case 3976/04 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 50 Manhattan Avenue, Borinquen Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Michelle Moore	Case 5202/04 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 40-08 12th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City, New York.
William Canada	Case 5516/04 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 535 Havemeyer Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Joseph Hicks	Case 5575/04 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 75 La Salle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Angel Sanabria	Case 5640/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 730 Euclid Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Ronald Banks	Case 6052/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 237 West 127th Street, Saint Nicholas Houses, Manhattan.
Frederick McKinley	Case 5718/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 20 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of June 23, 2004

Adelberto Camacho	Case 2660/04 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 550 West 125th Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Richard McKelvie	Case 5747/04 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 405 East 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of June 30, 2004

Giovannie DeJesus	Case 6021/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 423 Blake Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.
Lamont Diggs	Case 4159/04 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 271 143rd Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Carl White	Case 5900/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 666 Water Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.
Christian Barnes	Case 5903/04 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 60 Pitt Street, Gompers Houses, Manhattan.
Roderick Hatcher	Case 3315/04 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1980 Park Avenue, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.
Orzornrasha Rouse	Case 5979/04 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 1905 Second Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan.
Anthony Osorio	Case 6043/04 formerly associated with the twenty-first floor of 671 Westchester Avenue, Saint Mary's Park Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of July 7, 2004

Curtis Wilson Darnell Ravenelle Darnell Ravenell	Case 3268/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1440 River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx
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Prohibited as of July 14, 2004

Tyrone Nelson	Case 6434/04 formerly associated with the thirtieth floor of 2937 Eighth Avenue, Polo Grounds Towers, Manhattan.
Lindsay Stoney	Case 6464/04 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 875 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.
David Segarra	Case 2368/04 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1830 Lexington Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.

BOXERS...

(Continued from page 2)

So, what does the future hold for the Betances Boxing Program? For now they'll continue training at the Department of Parks and Recreation's St. Mary's Recreation Center until renovations to their old space are completed. Once the new center is finished it will be a state-of-the-art facility with a new ring and boxing area with bleachers for 300 spectators and dedicated training and locker rooms.

As for the boxers? "A lot sooner than later they're going to become professionals and I guess they're going to take the program to another level," said Mr. Kortright. "One of my ideas is for them to always, always mentor the younger kids and give back whatever they can give back."

As for Manny Gonzalez, he wants to go pro next year but his trainers would prefer that he fight for two more years and gain more experience and skill before leaving amateur fighting. Danny Martinez plans to try out for the U.S. Olympic Team, fight for two more years and then go pro. He also plans to attend John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Hurricane Katrina

(Continued from page 1)

opment was overflowing with clothing, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pampers, lotion, shampoo, non-perishable food, toys, hats, candles, radios, batteries, board games, insect repellent, coloring books, blankets — you name it.

The items were all packed into 200 boxes which were donated by Manhattan Mini Storage. On September 9th, Ms. Ortiz and resident volunteers loaded all of the boxes into an 18-wheel truck paid for by Assemblyman Herman "Denny" Farrell, Jr. of the 71st Assembly District. "I didn't expect to get as much as we did," Ms. Ortiz said. "We filled up 3/4ths of a 25-foot truck and were listed by NY1 as an official drop-off site."

The truck, which was also carrying donations from sites in the Bronx and Harlem, was driven by three volunteers with commercial licenses. One of the drivers was Vladeck Houses resident Paul Perez. To its destination in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Ms. Ortiz said she was motivated to help because she was deeply moved by the support New York City, and especially the Lower East Side received after September 11th, and by her experiences as a volunteer at the morgue and with the City's Office of Emergency Management during that time.

"Also, my mother lives in Puerto Rico," Ms. Ortiz commented. "When Hurricane

Senior Festival Brings New Orleans To Life



Tammy Benjamin from Two Bridges Houses in Manhattan dances as the sun sets on New Orleans in the musical dream-journey "Reunion," at the 28th Annual Senior Festival.

By Allan Leicht

THE SENIORS OF NYCHA HAD CHOSEN THEIR THEME AND STORY FOR THE MUSICAL PRODUCTION FOR THE 28TH ANNUAL SENIOR FESTIVAL IN JUNE OF 2005 LONG BEFORE HURRICANE KATRINA LAID WASTE THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. It was for good reason, therefore, that everyone — onstage and off — was sensitized to the mysterious convergence of life and art as the dream-journey through the Big Easy, entitled "Reunion," unfolded in the auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology on the afternoon of September 16.

The New Orleans on the stage for this Senior Festival was a vibrant, multicultural, magical city as "Claudine" (Yvonne Lee of Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn) searched for the mysterious "Aunt Sue" (Lois Credle of Brooklyn's Pink Houses).

"Who is Aunt Sue?!" was the question echoed with increasing fervor, providing the inciting moment for the musical expedition into the past, from the 1920's, through the '30's and '40's from New Orleans' Bourbon Street, through China, New York and back to the French Quarter.

The production became a tribute to New Orleans and by a similar token to the seniors of NYCHA, who know a thing or two about survival. "You will continue to be there for us," said NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. in his greeting to the audience, "and we will continue to be there for you."

Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence noted another twist of fate, that just a few weeks before the hurricane, public housing residents from New Orleans paid a visit to NYCHA. "We made some new friends," said Mr. Spence and he told the audience that 10% of NYCHA employees had signed up to go to New Orleans to help.

However, the main thrust of the performance focused not on the challenged New Orleans but on the New Orleans of jazz and joy, of comedy and cuisine and on getting to the bottom of "Who is Aunt Sue and what does she put in her food?"

The book for Reunion was written by Drama Consultant Jessie Saunders Petrus and Andre Le Clech and Keir Nelson of NYCHA Citywide Community Operations. The show was directed by Ms. Petrus with choreography by Consultants Leona Hull, Bernard Dove and Barbara Elaine Pounce. The Musical Director was Consultant Charles Carrington. The set designs of Consultant Donovan Nelson were vivid evocations of New Orleans, China and New York, as were the costumes by Sylvie Subance, Marthana Carrington and Elizabeth Correra. The upbeat mood was set by a pre-show featuring the Fort Independence Senior Performance Group and the NYCHA Senior Chorus.

Andrew hit we were constantly sending things out to her. She had no water, no electricity."

With more than \$200 billion in estimated damage, 1,600 deaths (at the time this article was written) and over a million people displaced, Hurricane Katrina has become the costliest and most destructive natural disaster in the history of the United States.

Ms. Ortiz is no longer accepting donations. Any NYCHA resident who wishes to donate to help the survivors of Katrina should call 311.

SENIOR BENEFIT & ENTITLEMENT FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

NYCHA," said Mr. Greene. Referring to the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, also known as Medicare Part D, Mr. Greene conceded, "There's no question that the new program is complicated. We're doing everything we can to provide the resources you need to understand the program and make the right choices."

DFTA Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago thanked NYCHA for hosting the event and pointed out that DFTA runs over 100 Senior Centers in NYCHA facilities. "We have a Mayor who is committed to keeping every one of our Senior Centers open," said the Commissioner.

He then stressed the importance seniors play in each other's lives. "People live longer in New York City than anywhere in the United States. We also live better because we care about each other more. Gather information. Take it back to your neighbors. We want to make sure that 1.3 million seniors learn about Medicare Part D and sign up appropriately."

The Social Security Administration's Paul Doersam, a former resident of NYCHA's General Grant Houses in Manhattan, explained his agency's role in the new Medicare Program, emphasizing that many people can have the co-payment and deductible for the Medicare Program waived through another program called "Extra Help."

"Social Security takes applications [for Medicare and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program], processes applications and tells people when they are entitled to "Extra Help." We believe there are 1.2 million people in New York City who may be eligible for Extra Help."

After the remarks, most seniors filed into the nearby Athletic Center where the resource tables were set up, while those from the boroughs of Staten Island and Manhattan remained behind for the first of two presentations on the Prescription Drug Program. Presentations to

the other boroughs followed.

At the Athletic Center, seniors strolled from table to table set up in six distinct zones. The first zone featured senior support agencies such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Eldercare, a senior advocacy agency; the second zone was for screenings by Columbia University's School of Dental and Oral Surgery and Lexington Hearing & Speech; the third zone was manned by government agencies such as the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration; the NYPD Housing Bureau Cadets helped seniors obtain Senior ID's in the next zone, and they were joined by NYCHA's Department of Social Services; the fifth station featured transportation and food benefits with representatives from Access-A-Ride and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and eight different Medicare HMOs were represented in the sixth zone.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program

All Medicare beneficiaries, are eligible for the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Anyone already enrolled in Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or Medicare Part B (Medical/Physician services) can enroll.

The Initial Open Enrollment Period begins November 15, 2005 and ends May 15, 2006. For Medicare beneficiaries who enroll by December 31, 2005, the Medicare prescription drug coverage will begin on January 1, 2006. For those who enroll later, coverage will begin the first day of the month following the month of enrollment. Seniors should make sure they join a Medicare prescription drug plan no later than May 15, 2006, however most Medicare beneficiaries will have to personally select a drug carrier beginning in mid-November.

For more information, inquire at your nearest Senior Center or log onto www.medicare.gov.

BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

Cutting Ceremony. The refurbished playground includes two slides, a fire engine car, monkey bars, a balance beam, an adventure bridge, a playhouse and several education panels.

Queens:

Queens is now officially the most beautiful borough! All three Citywide winners in NYCHA's 43rd Annual Garden Competition are from the borough of Queens. The Citywide winners were just three among the 572 gardens entered in the competition. Congratulations to all of the residents who planted and cared for the following first-place Citywide winners: Garden of Zodiac at South Jamaica Houses (Flower), Garden of Joy, also at South Jamaica Houses (Vegetable), and The Children's Garden at Woodside Houses (Children's Theme). For a complete list of the winners and pictures of these three gardens, see pages 10 and 11.

Staten Island:

Did you know that NYCHA and the U.S. Coast Guard are working together to make New York waterways safe? After September 11th the Housing Authority collaborated with the U.S. Coast Guard to allow for the installation of a radar antenna on top of New Lane Shore, a single-building senior development completed in 1984. The antenna picks up any traffic on the New York Waterway between the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and Manhattan, and transmits the signal to the Coast Guard station right next door.

Resident Handbook

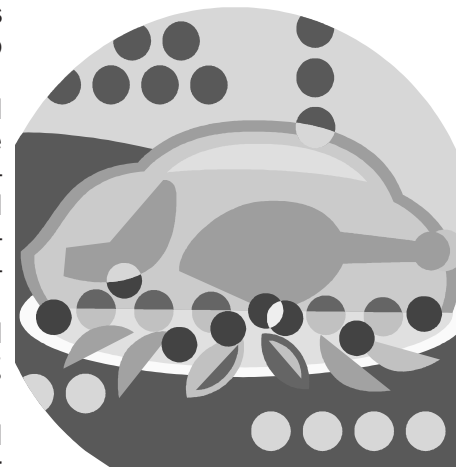
(Continued from page 1)

recent policies and procedures covering everything from what to do if you are locked out, to the policy on pets, to annual inspections, to what to do in case of a fire. Our hope is that this handbook will become a valuable resource for all existing NYCHA families as well as for the new families just moving in. Copies of the handbook are expected to be distributed in the month of November.

Variations of "A Home To Be Proud Of" have been produced since NYCHA's earliest days.

FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR THANKSGIVING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY THANKSGIVING. Following these food safety tips from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for handling, cooking and storing your food, will ensure a savory and safe Thanksgiving meal.



- Keep raw meat and poultry, as well as their drippings, from coming into contact with other foods. Wash kitchen surfaces, cutting boards and utensils with hot, soapy water after preparing raw meat and poultry.
- Always wash hands with hot, soapy water immediately after touch raw poultry meat.
- Fresh turkey may be stored in your refrigerator for one to two days. Make sure it is wrapped carefully while being refrigerated.
- Keep packages of frozen poultry or meat frozen until use. Thaw poultry or meat in the refrigerator or microwave — not on a counter or other surface.
- Using a food thermometer, ensure that the center of the turkey breast and the center of the stuffing inside of a turkey are heated to at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 15 seconds.
- If you do not have a thermometer, do not stuff the turkey. To see if an unstuffed turkey has been cooked adequately, pierce several parts of the turkey with fork. The juices should be clear, without any trace of pink coloring.
- Keep hot foods hot. Refrigerate leftovers immediately. Perishable foods should not be left at room temperature for longer than two hours.

There are many different types and causes of foodborne illness. Symptoms may include fever, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. While mild in most cases, symptoms can be severe or even life-threatening. Incubation periods for different types of foodborne illnesses vary — the amount of time between eating contaminated food and experiencing symptoms of a foodborne illness may range from a few minutes to several hours, days, weeks, or even months.

The Health Department's Poison Control Center is always open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide immediate help and advice in medical emergencies, including concerns about foodborne illness symptoms.

The Poison Control Center hotline phone numbers are (212) POISONS, (212) VENENOS (836-3667) for Spanish language speakers, and (212) 689-9014 for TDD users.

October 1st - May 31st

Minimum Indoor Temperature From 6AM to 10PM

68 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is below 55 degrees.

Minimum Indoor Temperature From 10PM to 6AM

55 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature falls below 40 degrees.

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Community Operations
Department of Citywide Programs & Contract Management



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Earl Andrews, Jr. Vice Chairman	Tino Hernandez Chairman NYC Housing Authority	JoAnna Aniello Member	Director, Human Resources

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New York City Housing Authority
Department of Community Operations
Citywide Programs & Contract Management



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The services provided to NYCHA residents are as follows:

- job referral and placement assistance
- career counseling
- resume preparation assistance
- job interview preparation
- training in searching for jobs on the Internet
- access to job training and education programs

The services provided to prospective employers are as follows:

- access to NYCHA's large pool of "job-ready" candidates
- recruitment and pre-screening of candidates
- design of training programs geared to an employer's needs
- access to conference room space for job recruitment purposes
- technical assistance regarding new-hire tax credit incentives

For more information, please call (718) 250-5904.

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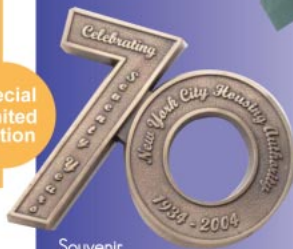
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CITYWIDE WINNERS:

FLOWER: Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses, Queens
VEGETABLE: Garden of Joy, South Jamaica Houses, Queens
CHILDREN'S THEME: The Children's Garden,
Woodside Houses, Queens

BRONX -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Enchanted Garden, McKinley Houses,
2nd Prize: Garden of Paradise, Bronx River Houses
3rd Prize: Garden Gate, Bronxdale Community Center
Honorable Mention: Rain Forest Garden, Patterson Houses

BRONX -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Family Garden, Throggs Neck Houses
2nd Prize: Flowers & Vegetable Delight Garden, Bronxdale Houses
3rd Prize: Mexican National Garden, Throggs Neck Houses

BRONX -

CHILDREN'S/THEME WINNERS:

1st Prize: Pennye's Reading Garden, Bronxdale Community Center
2nd Prize: Butler Community Center Children's Garden, Butler Community Center
3rd Prize: Boston Secor Kid's Veggie Garden, Boston Secor Houses
Honorable Mention: Parkside Community Center Circle of Life Garden, Parkside Houses

MANHATTAN -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Heavenly Scent Serenity Garden, Isaacs Houses
2nd Prize: A Touch of Class Garden, Wagner Houses
3rd Prize: Enchanted Garden, Vladeck Houses
Honorable Mention: L.E.S. Garden, Vladeck Houses

MANHATTAN -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Troche's Garden, Wald Houses
2nd Prize: Senior Citizen's Group Garden, P.S. 139 Conversion
3rd Prize: Wilson Community Center Vegetable Garden, Wilson Community Center
Honorable Mention: Campos Plaza Vegetable Garden, Campos Plaza

MANHATTAN -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Mrs. Pott's Garden, Isaacs Houses
2nd Prize: Bendicion Garden, Elliot-Chelsea Houses
3rd Prize: St. Nicholas' Butterfly Garden, St. Nicholas Houses
Honorable Mention: Riis Community Center Butterfly Garden, Jacob Riis Community Center

SOUTH BROOKLYN -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses
2nd Prize: Renew Your Spirit Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Shining Light Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
Honorable Mention: The Land Before Time Garden, Bay View Houses
Honorable Mention: Mary's Beauties Garden, Breukelen Houses
Honorable Mention: Hummingbird's Garden, Coney Island Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Fajardo Garden, Breukelen Houses
2nd Prize: Puerto Rico's Garden, Breukelen Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Marlboro Houses
Honorable Mention: Pizza Land Garden, Bay View Houses
Honorable Mention: Bay View Vegetable Garden, Bay View Houses
Honorable Mention: God's Vegetable Garden, Marlboro Houses
Special Achievement: Minnie's Vegetable Garden, Marlboro Houses
Special Achievement: Purple Passion Garden, Marlboro Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: The Wishing Well Garden, Glenwood Houses
2nd Prize: Beauty at the Bay Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Flower's of Faith Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
Honorable Mention: Sugar Plum Children's Garden, Red Hook East Houses

WEST BROOKLYN -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Sunshine Garden, 572-574 Warren Street
2nd Prize: Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses
3rd Prize: The Neighborhood Garden, Marcy Houses
Honorable Mention: Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses
Honorable Mention: Garden of God, Gowanus Houses
Honorable Mention: Garden For A Better Tomorrow, Sumner Senior Center
Honorable Mention: Butterfly Heaven Garden, Williamsburg Community Center

WEST BROOKLYN -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Cabbage Patch Garden, Walt Whitman Houses
2nd Prize: The Evergreen Garden, Marcy Houses
3rd Prize: Sunshine Vegetable Garden, 572-574 Warren Street

WEST BROOKLYN -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Hmm, Smells Like . . . Garden, Stuyvesant Gardens Community Center
2nd Prize: Creation of Beauty Garden, Louis Armstrong Houses
Honorable Mention: Herbs Are For Healing Garden, Sumner Senior Center

EAST BROOKLYN -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Rosa & Carmen's Garden, Hope Gardens
2nd Prize: Star Garden, Hope Gardens
3rd Prize: Lea's Garden, Hope Gardens
3rd Prize: Colorful Angels Garden, Hope Gardens

EAST BROOKLYN -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses
2nd Prize: Bountiful Garden, Tilden Houses
3rd Prize: Feed The Poor Garden, Linden Houses
Honorable Mention: God Bless Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses

EAST BROOKLYN -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Garden of Farewells, Boulevard Houses
Honorable Mention: Fannie's Garden of Love #2, Louis H. Pink Houses
Honorable Mention: Give God The Glory Garden, Linden Houses
Honorable Mention: Sunshine Garden, Howard Day Care Center
Honorable Mention: The Thoughts of Inner Peace Garden, Marcus Garvey Senior Center

QUEENS -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Tabernacle Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Just For You Garden, Woodside Houses
3rd Prize: The 4 Ever Garden, Woodside Houses
Honorable Mention: D.J.'s Corner Garden, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Kathryn's Garden Spot, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: I Did It! Garden, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: Down To Earth Vegetable Garden, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Fresh & Green Garden, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Smith's Vegetable Garden, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Cabbage Patch Garden, Redfern Houses

QUEENS -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Love and Beauty Garden, Conlon-Lihfe Towers
2nd Prize: Eye of The Tiger Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: Garden of United, Beach 41st Street Houses

STATEN ISLAND -

FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Secret Garden, Stapleton Community Center
2nd Prize: The Manor Garden, Todt Hill Houses
3rd Prize: Garden of Luv, Mariner's Harbor Houses
Honorable Mention: 218's Gardens, Stapleton Houses

STATEN ISLAND -

VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Dina's Garden, Berry Houses
2nd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
3rd Prize: Bori's Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

STATEN ISLAND -

CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: South Beach's Shady Garden, South Beach Community Center
2nd Prize: Butterflies' Backyard Garden, Markham Gardens Community Center
3rd Prize: A Little Sunshine Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
Honorable Mention: Bridge of Togetherness, New Lane Shores
Honorable Mention: Stony Pond Garden, New Lane Shores



CITYWIDE FLOWER GARDEN WINNER
GARDEN OF ZODIAC, SOUTH JAMAICA HOUSES, QUEENS



CITYWIDE VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNER
GARDEN OF JOY, SOUTH JAMAICA HOUSES, QUEENS



CITYWIDE CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN
THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN,
WOODSIDE HOUSES, QUEENS

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- Cuidado Infantil en Casa
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- Programas de Head Start
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