



## NYCHA's Best and Brightest CUNY Students Earn Scholarships

By Eric Deutsch

Receiving their caps and gowns to graduate college will be a little bit easier now for 11 NYCHA residents who attend City University of New York (CUNY) colleges. This year's winners of the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship received their \$1,000 awards at a ceremony on September 15.

"This scholarship will help me achieve and excel in my goal to become a nurse," said Miguel Acosta, a resident of Mitchel Houses who attends Hunter College. "It will help me buy the books I need."

Mr. Acosta made the decision to become a nurse after his son was hit by a car a few years ago. He has one semester remaining in his coursework to receive his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. He then plans to attend graduate school so he can become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

The NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program was established in 2005 to support the efforts of NYCHA residents in their pursuit of higher education. The Resident Scholarship Program awards \$1,000 scholarships every year to eligible residents who are enrolled at a CUNY college. Recipients can use the money to pay for tuition, books or other education-



The winners of the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship were honored on September 15, 2011. Each winner received a \$1,000 award to use toward their college education.

related expenses. This year's scholarships were funded in part by grants from New York City Council Members Robert Jackson and Letitia James.

Ti-Anna Lee, a single mother of two, is entering her final semester to receive an associate degree in Nuclear Medicine

from Bronx Community College. "I can better focus on school and my children. Receiving the scholarship came at the right time," said the University Avenue Rehab resident.

Ms. Lee plans to enter a clinical program next spring after she graduates.

Her goal is to be a nuclear medicine technologist who works on radiation treatment for people with cancer.

"When I hear about the wcontributions you already have made and the struggles that you have overcome to be sitting here tonight, *continued on page 4* ▶

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## "Mighty, Mighty NYCHA!"

### Far Rockaway Residents Show Emergency-Readiness

By Zodet Negrón

The steady drumbeat, the colorful handmade signs by children and hundreds of cheering residents broke the calm of a Saturday morning. "We are NYCHA... the mighty, mighty NYCHA," they chanted. "We're not scared... 'cause we're prepared!"

NYCHA residents of all ages marched from their far-flung developments in Far Rockaway to draw attention to emergency preparedness during the Emergency Preparedness Festival and Parade on September 17, the first event of its kind. Far Rockaway is considered to be among the most vulnerable low-lying Hurricane Evacuation Zone areas in New York. When Hurricane Irene hit the tri-state area in August, these public housing residents were among the most prepared.

The high evacuation rates before the storm were a result, in part, of NYCHA's efforts this spring to teach residents the importance of being prepared for extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods.

"Most of us at our development evacuated," said



Residents of Hammel Houses join the NYCHA Emergency Preparedness Festival and Parade on September 17, 2011.

Lawanda Gainey, a resident of Carleton Manor. "I came to the parade and festival with members of the Youth Council so that they can go back to the development to benefit others with the information shared on being prepared."

More than 400 residents from all six developments in Far Rockaway celebrated their success and learned more about emergency preparedness during the event, which began with a parade starting at Redfern and Hammel Houses at the far end, joined by Carleton Manor and Beach 41st Street residents along the *continued on page 3* ▶

# NYCHA Board Meetings



Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2011 are as follows:

<b>October 12</b>	<b>November 9</b>	<b>December 7</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>November 23</b>	<b>December 21</b>

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Secretary at **(212) 306-6088** no later than five business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call **(212) 306-6088**.



## Resident's Voices

**August 29, 2011**

(sent via mail)

I am writing this letter to thank the Red Hook East staff for the great job you did to protect me as a tenant during Hurricane Irene. You went above and beyond what I expected of you. You had NYCHA personnel knock on my door all weekend to make sure that I was okay. Even the housing police dropped by and they left me their numbers just in case I needed help. Your staff was really nice and answered any questions that I had. They seemed very concerned about my welfare. I felt safe and protected. I am confident that during any future disasters, you will make sure that I am okay.

**Rosa Garcia, Red Hook East Houses**

**August 28, 2011**

(sent via Facebook)

Shout out to all NYCHA workers who had to leave their families and stay overnight to help with the storm. Thumbs up to u may god bless u all, u did the best u can and the best was being there amen.

**Shawn Holland, Albany Houses**

**August 29, 2011**

(sent via Facebook)

I must applaud the NYCHA for their persistent concerns & efforts in working with all tenants during this storm Hurricane Irene.

**Dolores McCollin Gross, Ocean Bay Houses**

**August 29, 2011**

(via phone)

People were able to leave in a timely fashion. All of the staff, caretakers and maintenance did a bang-up job. We all came together as a family. We were prepared thanks to the information provided by Commissioner Margarita López

during the Emergency Preparedness meeting held earlier this year. All in all, our

development did darn good.

**Peggy Thomas, Hammel Houses, Resident Association President**

**August 29, 2011**

(via phone)

I am grateful for all the great work during and after the storm. The staff has done a good job. They helped a lot of residents.

**Cornelia Taylor, Ocean Bay Apartments (Oceanside), Resident Association President**

**August 30, 2011**

(via e-mail)

I just want to say thank you to our Chairman, job well done. Your staff and Board member Ms. M. Lopez has done a very good job, the warning came early to get ready. We should have had another meeting to let the residents know the possibilities of where they would have a place to go, and also the seniors, many of us have complications.

**Lolita P. Miller, Ocean Bay Houses, Resident Association Secretary**

**September 7, 2011**

(sent via Twitter)

Just got a NYCHA newsletter via email and SMITH is on the front cover for their evacuation efforts beahhhhhh SMITH stand up!

**Danielle Moran, Smith Houses**

**August 31, 2011**

(sent via Facebook)

I started my future...when all is said and done I'll be one of the women construction workers for NYCHA.

**Joselle Aponte, Richmond Terrace**

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There are many ways to share your thoughts with us at the *Journal*:

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**Check out NYCHA's Facebook page!**

Got a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA's Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA's Facebook page is on the right.

**Step 1:** Download a QR code scanner application from your phone's marketplace (many of these "apps" are free to download).

**Step 2:** Point your phone's camera at the QR image.



**Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).**



## Message from the Chairman

Since I joined NYCHA, I have been committed to working with residents to increase their financial stability and economic growth. We place a priority on assisting residents through workforce development, job opportunities and career advancement. I am very pleased to report that our efforts are creating results.

In 2010, NYCHA made or facilitated 1,490 resident hires through the Section 3 program – the most of any public housing authority in the country. This included 862 residents hired

directly by the Authority and 623 residents hired by outside contractors for various construction projects at NYCHA developments.

The Section 3 program, which mandates public housing authorities to provide job training, employment and contract opportunities, supports an important part of our mission – assisting NYCHA residents in forming a career. NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), in collaboration with residents, partners and other stakeholders, spent 2010 redesigning the ways in which we can support residents to achieve their career and financial goals. We already are seeing positive outcomes.

Ty-rik Harris, a resident of Bay View Houses in Brooklyn, is just one of our success stories. With REES' support, Mr. Harris landed a job with ASHNU, Inc., a contractor working at Linden Houses. NYCHA even paid for him to take the required 10-hour safety class in order to qualify for the position.

The proof is in Mr. Harris' own words – "Since earning employment as a Carpenter/Masonry Helper, I now have a sense of stability. I know that in the future, doors will

open to more opportunities because of the position granted to me through NYCHA's Section 3 program."

Ladia Faison, from Marlboro Houses in Brooklyn, trained as a construction laborer through the Section 3 program, and currently works as a Laborer for Liro Group – "Now I am called for jobs instead of me looking for them on my own. My daughter looks at me a lot different. She looks at me like I have more stability and am headed in the right direction."

NYCHA is able to support more residents like Mr. Harris and Ms. Faison through enhancements we have implemented through REES, including the NYCHA Resident Training Academy (RTA); hiring planning and tracking tools; diversifying the types of jobs offered within and beyond the construction industry; and agreements with various unions that create apprenticeship and journey person opportunities. We also established "re-placement" support for residents to foster employment continuity given the short-term and seasonal nature of many Section 3 jobs.

And there is more we will do, including expanding the RTA to provide pest control training, the expansion of Jobs-Plus sites in NYCHA developments through Mayor Bloomberg's recently announced Young Men's Initiative, and the roll-out of localized community economic development service coordination networks.

Section 3 is just one tool for generating economic opportunities for public housing residents. Supporting resident empowerment, promoting financial stability, enhancing career opportunities and investing in the overall health of every NYCHA community by forging additional partnerships will be key as we continue to preserve and strengthen public housing in New York City.

*John B. Rhea*  
John B. Rhea

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### "Mighty, Mighty NYCHA!"

(FEMA), American Red Cross, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Coast Guard. FDNY gave CPR training to 40 residents, who signed up during the event.

NYCHA's Green Committee, as part of its effort to promote environmental awareness, had recycling companies on-site to collect electronic waste such as television sets, DVD players and computers and to demonstrate how common household items can be recycled.

"I was happy to participate," said Carol Walker, a senior resident at Redfern who was thankful to NYCHA for providing her with transportation to the event. "There was a lot of helpful information."

As part of its ongoing efforts to empower more public housing residents in low-lying coastal developments to be emergency-ready, NYCHA plans to expand its emergency preparedness forums to additional developments this fall.

To see more photos from the Emergency Preparedness Festival and Parade, point your smartphone's camera here.

way. From that three-mile trek, they all converged at Ocean Bay Apartments (Bayside) where they joined NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea for the festival.

"We need events like these," said Marc Rochebun, a resident of Hammel Houses in Queens. "People should know what to do in an emergency."

NYCHA Board Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López led the way with residents chanting "Are you prepared? Are you aware? Yes, we are!" as drivers passing by honked their horns in support, and fellow residents waved from their windows.

"This event is about one thing; about us doing something for the rest of us to make sure we do not lose one life," said Commissioner López. "Separate, we will not stand; together, we will prevail."

During the festival, NYCHA and its partners offered information on planning for emergencies. The Authority was supported at the event by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), NYPD, FDNY, NYC Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency



This model shows one of the planned exhibits that will be installed by the Children's Museum of Manhattan in the James Weldon Johnson Houses Community Center in 2013.

## Children's Museum of Manhattan Coming to Johnson Houses

Residents living in and near Johnson Houses in Manhattan won't have to travel too far to have fun in a museum in the near future. NYCHA and the Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) are teaming up to create a permanent

interactive exhibit and hands-on educational programs inside the new James Weldon Johnson Houses Community Center. It will include 2,000 square feet of interactive exhibits with up to 25 interactive stations and activity areas that

will engage children through play, exploration and discovery. Programming will begin as early as the beginning of 2012, following a period of community engagement. The completed project is scheduled to open in September 2013.

## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of September 15, 22 and 28, and October 6 and 13, 2010.

### Prohibited as of September 15, 2010

**Maurice Green** a/k/a **Laney Green** Morris Houses, 1309 Washington Ave., 11th fl., Bronx  
**Lamar Holmes** Marlboro Houses, 63 Ave. W, 7th fl., Brooklyn  
**Kenneth Lopez** Van Dyke I Houses, 362 Sutter Ave., 2nd fl., Brooklyn  
**Robert Mitchell** Mott Haven Houses, 340 Alexander Ave., 7th fl., Bronx  
**Simone Parlor** Johnson Houses, 165 E 112th St., 13th fl., Manhattan  
**Jose Rosa** Washington/Lexington Houses, 210 E 102nd St., 9th fl., Manhattan

### Prohibited as of September 22, 2010

**Thomas Cruz** Wise Towers Houses, 74 W 92nd St., 2nd fl., Manhattan  
**Quashawn Houston** Pink Houses, 1237 Stanley Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Vincent Johnson** Van Dyke Houses, 419 Blake Ave., 3rd fl., Brooklyn  
**Wilfred Ortiz** Mott Haven Houses, 383 E 143rd St., 10th fl., Bronx  
**David Pless** a/k/a **Douglas Pless Berry** Todt Hill Houses, 30 Dongan Hill Ave., 4th fl., Staten Island  
**Jose Quinones** Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses, 1055 Rosedale Ave., 3rd fl., Bronx  
**Cory Stith** Astoria Houses, 2-04 Astoria Blvd, 6th fl., Queens  
**Beltran Wells** South Jamaica Houses, 109-52 160th St., 3rd fl., Queens  
**Mark Williams** a/k/a **Anthony Williams** Forest Houses, 1020 Trinity Ave., 8th fl., Bronx

### Prohibited as of September 28, 2010

**Derwin Bruce** a/k/a **Derwin Owens** Farragut Houses, 237 Nassau St., 6th fl., Brooklyn  
**Johan Colon** Straus Houses, 224 E 28th St., 20th fl., Manhattan  
**Francisco Cotto** Chelsea Houses, 446 W 26th St., 7th fl., Manhattan  
**Andre Credle** a/k/a **Andre Keene** Stuyvesant Gardens Houses, 700 Quincy St., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Jamar Credle** Stuyvesant Gardens Houses, 700 Quincy St., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Mariano Galarza** Pink Houses, 2628 Linden Blvd, 6th fl., Brooklyn  
**Jullian Miles** Richmond Terrace Houses, 151 Jersey St., 5th fl., Staten Island  
**Herbert Parker** Pink Houses, 2628 Linden Blvd, 6th fl., Brooklyn  
**Jonathan Sanchez** Ocean Hill/Saratoga Houses, 33-35 Saratoga Ave., 7th fl., Brooklyn  
**Bennie Thomas** a/k/a **Diron Thomas** Harborview Terrace Houses, 520 W 56 St., 9th fl., Manhattan  
**Shawn White** Coney Island Houses, 2926 W 25th St., Brooklyn  
**Lakim Williams** Redfern Houses, 15-30 Hassock St., 4th fl., Queens  
**Rayquan Williams** Bushwick/Hylan Houses, 869 Flushing Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Michael Wright** Ocean Hill Houses, 33 Saratoga Ave., 4th fl., Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of October 6, 2010

**Derrick Adams** Tilden Houses, 360 Dumont Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Michael Barcliff** Baisley Park Houses, 116-40 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Queens  
**Robert Bell** Pelham Parkway Houses, 948 Mace Ave., 4th fl., Bronx  
**Rockim Britt** Brevoort Houses, 300 Bainbridge St., 5th fl., Brooklyn  
**Elijah Frazier** Woodside Houses, 31-60 51st St., 1st fl., Queens  
**Michael Glasper** Ocean Bay Apartment Houses, 54-22 Beach Channel Dr, 2nd fl., Queens  
**Lawrence Harvey** Pink Houses, 1305 Loring Ave., 8th fl., Brooklyn  
**Kevin Jenkins** Morris Houses, 1480 Washington Ave., 8th fl., Bronx  
**Maxie Leak** a/k/a **Rejuhn Young Reid** Consolidated Houses, 750 Fenimore St., 11th fl., Brooklyn  
**Alejandro Morales** Grant Houses, 75 LaSalle St., 6th fl., Manhattan  
**Marvin Rutherford** Bronx River Houses, 1595 E 174th St., 8th fl., Bronx  
**Wilshawn Thomas** Baychester Houses, 1930 Schieffelin Ave., 1st fl., Bronx  
**Leonie Torres** Douglass Houses, 140 W 104th St., 5th fl., Manhattan

### Prohibited as of October 13, 2010

**Leroy Legree** Brownsville Houses, 251 Osborn St., 3rd fl., Brooklyn  
**Kevin Parsons** Melrose Houses, 681 Courtlandt Ave., 4th fl., Bronx  
**Miguel Santiago** a/k/a **Miguel Maldonado** Lehman Village Houses, 70 E 108th St., 13th fl., Manhattan  
**Martin Williams** Red Hook East Houses, 131 Lorraine St., 1st fl., Brooklyn  
**Booker Wynn** Brownsville Houses, 296 Sutter Ave., 5th fl., Brooklyn

Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).

# Plug Into Safety and Prevent Apartment Fires

A Message from the Fire Department of New York City



A quick look around the average NYCHA apartment finds many electrical devices that greatly improve the quality of life – computers, televisions, air conditioners, stereos, portable heaters, microwaves. However, having a home that makes use of all of these items comes with a responsibility to think always about safety. Too many devices being used at the same time, or using devices that are not safe, can cause an overload of an apartment's electrical system, which can lead to overheating and an electrical fire.

By simply taking it easy on an apartment's electrical power system, electrical fires can be prevented. This can be done by using these safety measures, as provided by FDNY in connection with Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 9–October 15:

- ▶ Use bulbs with the appropriate wattage for the size of the light fixture. Too-high wattage may lead to overheating and fire.
- ▶ Purchase electrical devices with the **UL** or **FM** mark. The marks show that the product has been safety tested.
- ▶ Inspect devices regularly. If a device begins to operate with a weird smell or sound, and/or feels too warm to touch, unplug it and discontinue use.
- ▶ Never use a device with a frayed or worn cord. The rubber insulation is meant to cut down on heat output. If it is worn or missing, the risk of fire increases significantly.
- ▶ Give televisions, stereos and computers plenty of space around them to prevent overheating.
- ▶ Never plug more than two appliances into an outlet at once or "piggyback" extra appliances on extension cords or wall outlets.
- ▶ Make sure plugs fit snugly into an outlet. Loose plugs may cause sparks.
- ▶ Unplug devices such as toaster ovens, hair dryers, flat irons and coffee pots when not in use.
- ▶ Avoid plugging large appliances that use high wattage, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, irons, microwave ovens, dishwashers and deep fryers into the same outlet or circuit.
- ▶ Limit the use of power strips. They do not provide more power, just more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit. Use extension cords for temporary use only. And NEVER use an extension cord with large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, clothes dryers or space heaters. These large current appliances generate increased heat in the cord, causing it to overheat, melt or ignite.
- ▶ Pay attention to the number of devices plugged in at one time. Make it a habit of unplugging devices not in use and unplugging one device when plugging in another.

For more information on how to keep apartments safe from electrical fires and other fire hazards, go to the 'Fire Safety Brochures' page on FDNY's website at [www.nyc.gov/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/fdny).

## It's Heating Season! October 1 – May 31

As required by New York City law, tenants must be provided with a minimum level of heat during heating season. Between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., the indoor heat must be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 55 degrees.

Between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., the indoor heat must be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 40 degrees.

Here are some tips to keep your apartment warmer during heating season, and reduce utility costs.

- ▶ Keep windows closed

- ▶ Open curtains to let the sun provide heat
- ▶ Keep radiator areas clear
- ▶ Seal leaks (Tenants who think they have an air leak and do not know how to fix it can call the Customer Contact Center at **718-707-7771**)
- ▶ Use blankets
- ▶ Dress warm while inside

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## NYCHA's Best and Brightest CUNY Students Earn Scholarships

it speaks volumes about what NYCHA is all about," NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea told the scholarship winners. "I am really proud and touched that there is so much quality in our city and in public housing."

This year's winners were spread across a wide demographic of boroughs, ethnicities and, as Mr. Acosta pointed out, ages. "I'm 51 years old. It's never too late to go to college," he said.

One of the scholarships, the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship, goes to a disabled NYCHA resident. Ms. Figueroa,

who spent most of her life in a wheelchair, lived at the Throggs Neck Houses and was a graduate of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She worked at NYCHA for 10 years in the Department of Communications before she passed away in 2010. This year's winner was Heriberto Vega (Hostos Community College/Amsterdam Houses).

The other 2011 NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship winners are Christina Chaise (Hunter College/Ravenswood Houses); William Dean (Borough of Manhattan Community College/Grant Houses); Taffney Eustache

(New York City College of Technology/Penn-Wortman Houses); Christine Ho (Hunter College/Washington Houses); Sara Lewis (South Jamaica Houses/Queens College); Yessenia Mejia (Woodside Houses/Queens College); Hui Bin Pan (Baruch Houses/Baruch College); and Virgilio Rivera (Kingsborough Community College/Nostrand Houses).

To see video from the NYCHA-CUNY Resident

Scholarship ceremony, point your smartphone's camera here.



# It's 2 a.m.

## Do you know why your carbon monoxide alarm is beeping?

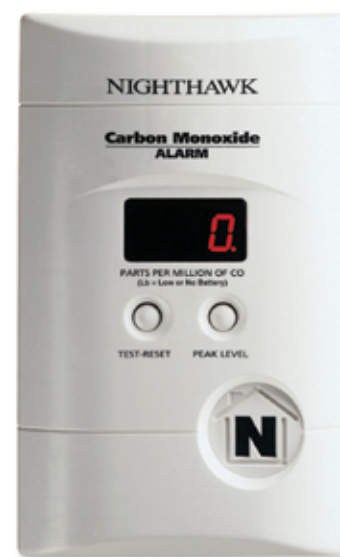


### It May Not Be What You Think

About seven years ago, New York City passed a law requiring carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in multi-family and private dwellings. Those alarms now need to be replaced. In fact, some of them may be sounding their end-of-life warning.

UL requires this warning in all CO alarms, which means seven years after installation, your Kidde CO alarm will sound to let you know it's time to replace the unit.

Kidde's CO alarms have the longest lifespan available on the market, so make sure new Kidde CO alarms are installed in your building today!



For more information, contact your local contractor or visit [www.beatthebeep.com](http://www.beatthebeep.com).



# Randolph Houses Will Be First NYC Combined Public Housing & Affordable Housing Development

*NYCHA and HPD Partnership a Part of Mayor's Affordable Housing Plan*

**R**andolph Houses in Manhattan is getting a new look in a couple of ways. The development will be turned into the first-ever development in New York City to combine public housing units and affordable housing units. As part of the plan, Randolph Houses will be rehabilitated and have its historic buildings preserved. NYCHA and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) are seeking proposals from developers to perform the rehabilitation.

Randolph Houses is made up of 36 tenement buildings on West 114th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Work will begin first on the south side of the street, where 22 tenements currently are vacant. Renovations will turn these buildings into 140 public housing units. NYCHA residents who currently live on the north side of the street then will move into the new units.

"I'm excited about it. It will bring hope to the development," said Randolph Houses Resident Association President Robertus Coleman. "This will enhance the block and the neighborhood."

The 14 tenements on the north side of the street then will be rehabbed and turned into a minimum of 155 units for affordable housing. These apartments will be available to New Yorkers with a wide range of incomes. At least 25 percent must be affordable to households at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), which is \$49,080 for a family of four. The remaining units may be affordable to families



*Randolph Houses is named after A. Philip Randolph, the principal organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He led efforts to end segregation in the Armed Forces and in schools.*

earning up to 130 percent AMI, which is \$106,340 for a family of four.

"The partnership among NYCHA, HUD and HPD represents a milestone in the revitalization of Randolph Houses," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "We look forward to the successful rehabilitation of Randolph Houses as a model for future redevelopment."

The buildings were constructed in the 1890's and were acquired by NYCHA in the 1970's. They were determined by the New York State Historical Preservation Office as eligible for historic designation. The rehabilitation must preserve certain historic elements of the buildings' exteriors.

"At the Randolph Houses we are not just breathing a new life into these buildings – we are creating new homes, new opportunities, and a more affordable and sustainable New York," said HPD Commissioner Mathew M. Wambua.

The development will include at least 2,000 square feet of community space and outdoor open space for the use of all tenants.

"With the mixture of incomes and with other people occupying the building, programs will come; residents will have something to do," said Ms. Coleman. "It could be a deterrent to crime."

The NYCHA-HPD partnership began in 2005 and has produced more than 1,500 affordable housing units, with another 2,300 in construction or in the development pipeline. The Randolph Houses rehabilitation is part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan, an \$8.5 billion initiative to finance 165,000 units of affordable housing by the end of the 2014 fiscal year. The Plan has funded the creation or preservation of more than 124,400 units of affordable housing across the five boroughs so far.

## Smith Houses TA President Honored for Leadership During Hurricane Irene



*Aixa Torres (center) proudly displays the proclamation she received from the New York State Assembly for her efforts to help her Smith Houses neighbors during Hurricane Irene. Joining her on August 31, 2011, were, from left to right, State Senator Daniel Squadron, State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Resident Association Vice President Trenton Turner, City Councilwoman Margaret Chin, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, and City Councilwoman Rosie Mendez.*

**By Zodet Negrón**

**A**s NYCHA staff began to mobilize for evacuation prior to Hurricane Irene, Aixa Torres, President of the Smith Houses Resident Association, sprang into action. She partnered with NYCHA and elected officials to evacuate residents from the Lower Manhattan development. Thanks to these efforts, nearly 90 percent of Smith Houses residents evacuated to safety ahead of Hurricane Irene.

"On August 27, all of us came together to work as people, not 'you and us' but a 'we' to evacuate this development and to protect the lives of those who live here," Ms. Torres exclaimed tearfully during a ceremony on August 31 in recognition of her valiant efforts. She received a proclamation and was celebrated for her compassion and strong leadership during the hurricane.

Ms. Torres' response included an emergency meeting; recruiting volunteers and translators to communicate with residents; and helping coordinate transportation with NYCHA, elected officials and other sister agencies to help many of her neighbors get to nearby shelters. Without hesitation, Ms. Torres reached out to elected of-

ficials, including State Senator Daniel Squadron, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and New York City Council Members Margaret Chin and Rosie Mendez to assist her.

"It is a pleasure to celebrate the courage, resolve and the amazing spirit of community that was shown here at Smith Houses – and all across our great city – during Hurricane Irene," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea during the ceremony. "Ms. Torres, as a leader, as a community advocate and as a New Yorker, represents the very best of our city and the very best of NYCHA and we are grateful to her and proud of her outstanding contribution."

Also honored at the ceremony were Alverista Hall, the Borough Administrator for Manhattan Property Management; NYCHA staff members for their work during the storm; and staff who volunteered and translated on their own time to ensure residents' safety.

"On behalf of our residents, we thank all the employees and volunteers who worked around the clock to ensure our safety and well-being," said Ms. Torres.

## The Chief's Corner

### SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN from the NYPD

- Trick-or-treaters always should have adult supervision, even if they are traveling in a group of friends.
- An adult always should examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat open or unwrapped Halloween foods.
- Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping.
- Children's ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
- Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
- Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
- Children should carry a flashlight and wear reflective or bright colored clothing at night.
- Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
- Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
- As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas and homes of people they do not know.
- Halloween treats only should be consumed if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages – no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit or homemade goods.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

If after eating a Halloween treat there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department's Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at **(212) POISONS (764-7667)**, **(212) VENENOS (836-3667)** for Spanish language speakers, or **(212) 689-9014** for TDD users. The national toll free number, **1-800-222-1222**, connects to the nearest poison control center.



### NYCHA Seniors Bring Down the House at Annual Senior Show

NYCHA's 34th Annual Senior Show drew steady laughter from a packed house at City College on September 15. "Step Right Up 3 – Going to the Chapel," a two-act musical comedy, focuses on a widow who marries a former boyfriend. A cast of 25 NYCHA residents performed, including shown from left to right, Hester Snipes (Marcy Houses), Laverne Campbell (Lincoln Houses), Myna Majors (Lincoln Houses), Lois Credle (Pink Houses), Gloria Geddie (Lehman Houses), Sylvia Cunningham (Todt Hill Houses) and Rachele Waymann (King Towers).

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### New "High-Dose Flu Shots"

**F**luzone High-Dose is a new influenza vaccine commonly called the "High-Dose Flu Shot." This shot is designed specifically for people 65 years and older, because immune responses become weaker with age. The antigen in a flu shot is the part of the vaccine that causes the body to produce antibodies that fight the flu virus. "High-Dose Flu Shots" contain four times the amount of antigen as in regular flu shots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has approved Fluzone High-Dose for use in people 65 years of age and older.

Both "High-Dose" and "Seasonal" Flu shots now are available. In addition, this year's flu shots provide protection from last year's H1N1 virus as well as the seasonal flu virus. If you ever have suffered from a severe reaction to the flu shot in the past or are allergic to chicken or eggs, then you should not get a flu shot. The City recommends that you see your doctor for your flu shot. You also can call **311** to find out where flu shots are available near you.



### "Literacy Day" at St. Nicholas Houses

**M**ore than 100 NYCHA youth took part in the first "Literacy Day" at the St. Nicholas Houses Senior Center on September 24, 2011. The back to school event for elementary school children focused on promoting literacy and encouraging St. Nicholas families to engage in community-based events through fun and interactive activities, including creating their own journal, making banners and face painting. The event was hosted in partnership with the Harlem Children's Zone, which is building a charter school on part of the St. Nicholas Houses property.



### NYCHA Youth Meet a Met

**F**ormer Mets pitcher John Franco joins NYCHA youth at the Brooklyn Cyclones game on August 17, 2011. They were there to celebrate the minor league baseball team's 'Brooklyn Night,' which gathered famous Brooklynites together at MCU Park in Coney Island. Mr. Franco grew up in Marlboro Houses.



Amanda Torres, from Johnson Houses, is a senior at Syracuse University.

### A Summer of 'Achievements' for NYCHA College Students

By Starr Lane

**"T**his was my first internship and it was challenging, but in a good way. It absolutely was the experience that I needed," said 21-year old Amanda Torres, a resident of Johnson Houses in Manhattan.

Ms. Torres was one of 50 college or college-bound students who traded in their summer break to pursue their dream careers. The NYCHA Achievers program allows resident students aged 17-22 to intern with the Authority or an external organization. The young adults are employed full-time during the eight-week program.

Ms. Torres received hands-on experience working in the Law Department, fulfilling Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, preparing respondent requests and drafting letters. A senior double majoring in women's gender studies and sociology at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY, she plans to work in the government sector after she graduates. The internship gave Ms. Torres a realistic view of what it takes to be a lawyer, an experience that she says will help her when she applies to law school.

Cameron Sutton, a 21-year old resident of Pomonok Houses in Queens, enjoyed his time as a NYCHA Achiever in 2010 so much he returned to the program again this year, serving in the Chairman's Office and the Finance Department. "This experience taught me about the corporate world. I was partnered with a staff accountant and was able to learn what an accountant does on a daily basis," he said.

Mr. Sutton, a junior at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, pursuing an economics degree, aspires to work one day as an investment banker. He was able to apply his knowledge when working on major assignments such as the New Market Tax Credit Project and the Resident Board Member Project. "I'm very grateful for this opportunity," said Mr. Sutton. "This program shows the good that NYCHA does."

The program was created by NYCHA's Human Resources Department and received funding from New York State Assemblyman Vito Lopez (Brooklyn).



Cameron Sutton, from Pomonok Houses, is a junior at Trinity College.

### Future leaders plan for the future

The NYCHA Achievers were divided into 10 project teams and assigned to develop Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that can provide services to NYCHA communities. Each team came up with the type of programs the CBO would offer, along with their communications and funding strategies. Mr. Sutton and Ms. Torres served on a team that proposed initiating a violence-free week in NYCHA developments as a step towards violence prevention – Love Initiated Violence Eliminated (LIVE). "It's a good thing," said Mr. Sutton.

NYCHA residents would never go hungry with the ideas of the group called 'Fab Five.' Their CBO, Feed a Village, would provide three balanced meals per day and culinary courses to teach people how to prepare healthy meals. Team members saw this as an opportunity to address hunger issues in the Bronx and concluded with a quote from Virginia Woolf, "One cannot think well, love well, or sleep well, if one has not dined well."

The group 'Project Hope' created Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) Outreach, which would provide services and support for the LGBT community, including teaching strategies to cope with societal issues of homophobia and how to live a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle. The idea was presented as a citywide program.

Target Excellence in Academia (T.E.A.) addressed the need for health services in East Harlem. Their CBO, the REACT Clinic, would provide reasonably priced health care services and educate residents on nutrition, sex and alcohol abuse.

## NYCHA Seniors Spend a Day Expanding Their World

By Starr Lane

Always a lively event, more than 1,600 NYCHA seniors gathered at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan on September 21 to participate in the Authority's Seventh Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair. Repeating 2010's theme of "Expand Your World," NYCHA continued its efforts to bridge the gap between seniors and technology by providing services that introduce them to innovative ways to improve their quality of life.

Attendees learned how to use

social networking websites, digital cameras and mobile devices.

Manhattanville Houses (Manhattan) resident Loretta Richardson was at the event for the second straight year. "I'm searching for the technology center," said Ms. Richardson. "Last year they took digital photos and I want some pictures taken again. I just want to look around and see what else they have."

Judy Davis, from Grant Houses in Manhattan, heard of the senior event when she

recently joined the senior center at her development. Excited about the information that she would gain, she was mostly interested in taking advantage of the hearing and diabetes testing that was offered. "I sit on the Resident Association," said Ms. Davis. "Any information that I get, I would like to share with the other residents."

Eddie Hayes, from Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn, was impressed with how much there was to do and how busy the event was. "The information here is useful. The event is very fun," said Mr. Hayes. "I'm just waiting for the lines to calm down before I make my next round."



A NYCHA senior learns how to use e-mail at the Authority's Senior Benefit & Entitlement Fair on September 22, 2011.

In addition to health screenings, other services included health insurance information, financial counseling and safety precaution information. GroNYC introduced seniors to healthier eating habits and NYCHA provided social services and green-

ing advice. The event also had Metro Card and Access-A-Ride tables set up.

Summing up the event in three words, Carmen Diaz and Elba Burgos from Queensbridge Houses in Queens said in unison, "Everything is nice."

## Riding in Style: NYCHA's New Elevators are Safer and More Modern

*Elevator teams meeting with residents to highlight improvements*

By Heidi Morales

"Fix the elevators." This phrase was heard frequently over the past year as NYCHA met with residents during community conversations and town hall meetings. Many residents are getting their wish granted.

NYCHA's Capital Budget for 2012 includes more than \$250 million to install new, modern elevators in 79 developments. This is in addition to the 29 developments where work already had begun or been completed since 2009.

"I am very satisfied with the new elevators," said Daniel Barber, Resident Association President of Andrew Jackson Houses in the Bronx where elevator modernization work has been taking place. "Once the job is completed we won't have to worry about elevators getting stuck or going out of service. I thank the elevator division for working closely with me to ensure things are taken care of in a timely manner."

NYCHA's elevator team has been visiting the developments where the new elevators will be installed to highlight the improvements. "NYCHA's elevators make more than 3 million trips per day and more than a billion trips per year," said Brian Clarke, Assistant Deputy General Manager of Operations for Support Services. "Modern-

izing the elevators ensures they meet national standards for safety, saves money by reducing maintenance and energy costs and improves how the elevators perform."

The new elevator cabs and doors are made of stainless steel that is resistant to graffiti and rust. The elevator doors in the lobbies have a display that lets residents know what floor an elevator is on. All new elevators are wired to allow for the installation of closed circuit TV cameras, which will be installed when funding for the cameras is available.

Other features include:

- ▶ Call stations in every entrance placed no higher than 42 inches from the ground in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ▶ Brighter lights for added safety. The light fixtures reduce how much heat is emitted, providing a more comfortable environment while keeping with the Authority's Green Initiative.
- ▶ Braille tags on each side of the elevator frames and on the push button display panels inside the elevators.
- ▶ Sensors that perceive movement as people enter and exit. This safety improvement eliminates the need to push or force the doors open.



- ▶ Emergency communication from inside the elevator.
- ▶ Remote monitoring for improving service response time and elevator performance.
- ▶ Door restrictors to prevent the doors from opening when an elevator is more than three inches from a floor level and to protect against the doors coming out of their grooves.



Chelsea-Elliott in Manhattan is one of the developments that has the new, modernized elevators.

## NYC Public Schools Upcoming Important Dates

For more information on any of the activities listed below, parents can contact the Parent Coordinator at their child's school or call 311.

To receive up-to-date information about children's academic progress, including attendance and test grades, parents can go to [ARISparentlink.org](http://ARISparentlink.org). It is available in 10 languages and includes online tutorials about how to use this information to support students. Parents who need their password or have questions about logging on should contact the parent coordinator at their child's school.

District Middle School Fairs and School Based Open Houses	Tuesday, October 4 – Thursday, October 13
Columbus Day Observed (Schools closed)	Monday, October 10
Borough High School fairs	Saturday, October 22 Sunday, October 23
High School Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thursday, October 27 – Evening Friday, October 28 – Afternoon
Specialized High Schools Admissions Test All current 8th grade students	Saturday October 29 or Sunday, October 30
District 75 School Programs Parent-Teacher Conferences	Wednesday, November 2 – Evening Thursday, November 3 – Afternoon
Specialized High Schools Admissions Test All current 9th grade students 8th and 9th grade students with special needs and approved 504 accommodations	Saturday, November 5
Veterans Day (Schools closed)	Friday, November 11
Elementary School Parent-Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 14 – Evening Tuesday, November 15 – Afternoon
Intermediate and Junior High School Parent-Teacher Conferences	Wednesday, November 16 – Evening Thursday, November 17 – Afternoon
Open School Week	November 13-19
Thanksgiving Recess (Schools closed)	Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25