

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

NHSBS News Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

In Bedford-Stuyvesant and Beyond

Autumn 2012



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Charles-Pierre, President

William E. Smith, Vice-President

Tory Netto, acting Secretary

Reginald D. Shell, Treasurer

Marjorie Bhola, Asst. Treasurer

Catherine Arline

James C. Durrah

Barbara Manuel

Gloria D. Sandiford

Brena Bracy-Seals

Paul G. Hawthorne, Esq.

ADVISORY BOARD

Monica Williams

Bernice Green

A Pioneer in the Community: Dorothy Richardson



NeighborWorks Pioneers: Tom Jones, Frank Nimick, Dorothy Richardson, Harold Tweedy

"I believe people get their roots down when they own their houses... take pride in them. That, in turn, is good for a whole city. Why should a neighborhood be a slum when it can be a place of good, livable homes?"

—DR, March 1988 Pittsburgh Press Interview
(Photo and quote from NeighborWorks® America)

As NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant celebrates 20 years of excellence in the community, we are proud to be a part of the 45-year legacy of service to the community, working hard to empower residents in the housing sector. This legacy reaches back to 1967, when Dorothy Richardson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania began a campaign to defend at-risk members of her community from predatory business and political practices and to improve their quality of life. Richardson and a small group of her neighbors established a block club in a fight to save their dying neighborhood in Pittsburgh's Central North Side. They recruited partners in local government and the business community. This group blossomed into 'Citizens Against Slum Housing' (CASH), which took City Hall and property owners to task for the deplorable living conditions in minority-dominated areas of Pittsburgh. Through high-profile community organizing and targeted pressure on the power structure, they won their battle. In doing so, Richardson (who eventually attained a seat in the Pittsburgh Housing Authority) and her allies, set a precedent that changed the nation's approach to urban redevelopment and spawned the new field of community-based development.

CASH spawned an organization called Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), which is now a publically-funded association of service providers working under the umbrella of NeighborWorks® America. Today, more than 237 community-based organizations across the country provide homebuyer education, homeownership preservation, community leadership and financial empowerment to residents. Each year, NeighborWorks® America recognizes and awards a select group of outstanding community leaders who have demonstrated loyalty, commitment and have made tremendous strides in their community with the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership. In 2008, Mr. Reginald D. Shell, Treasurer of the board of directors of NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant was the recipient of this award.

Giving Back to the Community: Former NHSBS Customer Gives Back

Ms. Brena Bracy-Seals is a retired military service member who was referred to NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant (NHSBS) through Habitat for Humanity's Sweat Equity Homeownership Program. Ms. Bracy-Seals came to NHSBS for first-time homeownership counseling education as well as to qualify for Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance. A single person hoping to buy a condominium unit, she submitted financial documentation for a mortgage analysis and to determine if she was eligible for financial assistance. Ms. Bracy-Seals attended and completed the Homebuyer Education Workshop. While in the Homebuyer Education Workshop, she learned the importance of maintaining a home and further took advantage of NHSBS' Home Maintenance Training Workshop: there she learned how to do basic household repairs like understanding basic carpentry techniques, framing for windows and doors and installing switches and outlets.

After graduating from the Homebuyer Education Workshop, Brena secured a mortgage loan with a 2% interest rate and was awarded financial assistance in the amount of \$7125, which was used to help cover out-of-pocket costs. She closed on her condo unit in February, 2010. Brena has been very active in her local and surrounding communities and serves on her building's Board of Directors. She shares a great deal of information with her neighbors and associates about the importance of good financial behavior, and of working closely with a reputable non-profit like NHSBS. Happily and securely in her home, she believes that anyone looking to purchase a home should utilize their local non-profits to educate themselves on the process.

Brena has since joined the board of directors of NHSBS: she was so pleased with her personal situation that she wanted to make sure that other residents in the community had the opportunity to benefit from the host of products and services available at NHSBS. She advocates for NHSBS in her daily life and never hesitates to recommend a potential client and/or community partner. 'NHSBS has provided me with opportunities to participate in educating the community in a variety of ways: for instance, home maintenance training, budgeting, foreclosure prevention strategies and awareness of the dangers of LEAD poison in our homes'.



Meet the Staff



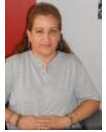
New Managing Director appointed

The Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant (CIBS) appoints a new Managing Director. Ms. Tamecca P. Tillard has been named the new Managing Director of the Coalition. Ms. Tillard replaces Ms. Melissa Lee, who stepped down from the position in late July, to pursue other opportunities in the Gulf Coast. Ms. Tillard brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Coalition with her extensive experience in marketing, collaborative management and in the international public sector. Ms. Tillard's responsibilities include coordinating the existing five CIBS Program networks (Business Vitality, Asset-Building, Workforce development, Social services and Housing and Physical Development). CIBS is a membership association established in 2005 dedicated to working towards greater cooperation of local organizations and others committed to positively impacting the Central Brooklyn community.

Executive Director Richard Truth began his career at NHS on October 29, 2001 as the Homeownership Center Program Manager at NHS of Staten Island (NHSSI). After a year and a half in the position, he was promoted to Interim Neighborhood Director of NHS Bedford-Stuyvesant and November 2003, was named Executive Director: Richard attended Boston University and the City College of New York (CUNY) and holds a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Sociology. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant (CIBS) and is the chair for the Asset Building Network, a committee of CIBS.



Administrative Assistant Madeline Roman has been with NHS for more than 12 years. She was a single parent to three young sons at the time she started at NHS of East Flatbush (NHSEF). Before NHS, she mostly volunteered her time in one of her son's school. She started her NHS career at NHS of East Flatbush as an intern in 2000. In 2001, she was transferred to the Bedford-Stuyvesant office where the Director at the time, Mr. Orville Braithwaite, submitted a grant proposal to hire her as a part-time Program Assistant. Short after, the position transitioned into the now Administrative Assistant position.



Program Manager and Homeownership Counselor Kevin Washington is feting his 11th year with NHS. In 2001, under the umbrella of the National Insurance Task Force, via NHS of Staten Island (NHSSI), Kevin served as a consultant informing homeowners and renters of the importance of having insurance and maintaining it. After three years with NHS of Staten Island, Kevin joined the NHS Bedford-Stuyvesant staff as the Marketing Coordinator: shortly after, he became the Homeownership Counselor and has served in the dual role as Program Manager since 2005.



Rehab Loan Officer Gregory Lewis is the longest-standing employee in the Bedford-Stuyvesant office. He began his career with NHSBS in 1995 when he served in the position of Marketing Coordinator. Greg is an active member of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community and serves on numerous committees and his block association. Greg holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics with concentration in Urban Studies from Brooklyn College. He has further graduate studies in Urban Planning from Hunter College (CUNY)



Foreclosure Intervention Counselor Courtney Corbin first joined the NHS family in 2005 as a consultant, providing building survey assistance through the Community Consultant Program administered by HPD. In 2008, he joined the Environmental Education Assoc. team, working in partnership with NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant, under a three-year Lead Elimination Action Program. In January 2011, he continued his passion for NHS and became the Marketing Coordinator. Courtney recently assumed the role of Foreclosure Counselor in July.



Community Outreach Coordinator Gerard Miller is the newest member of the NHSBS family, having begun his career here this August. An alumnus of the University of Maryland- Baltimore County, he has worked for a long time in community organizing, organizational development, and public relations. With a passion for actionable social justice projects and direct service, especially with regard to youth programs and food justice, Gerard is excited to get out into the community and find out what Bed-Stuy and Brooklyn need from NHS.





NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant Says Farewell to Two Board Members



Ann Kearney was born on August 5, 1946 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. As a small child, she moved with her family to Atmore, Alabama where she attended Escambia County Elementary School. When she was in 7th grade, her parents made the decision to send her to live with her older sister in Long Island, New York. Anne attended Westbury Junior High School and Westbury High School, going on to earn a degree in Accounting from Baruch College. She met Franklin Kearney and fell in love, marrying him on November 17, 1972. During her vibrant life and illustrious career, Anne worked with several companies (including New York Telephone, Home Box Office, and the New York Department of Education). She also worked for the New York City Housing Authority for twenty years and recently retired as Manager of Stuyvesant Gardens Houses.

Very involved in her community, Anne held several positions in her block association, including Vice President. She became a liaison between the New York City Police Department and the community, earning a certificate from the NYPD's Citizens Police Academy. Anne joined the board of directors of NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant in 2005, and in 2006 she was appointed to the position of Secretary. All who knew her respected her brainpower and her ability to tell a great story. She was devoted "Aunt Koochi"- smart, funny, and pretty; she had it all! Anne loved flowers, children, and animals. Most of all, she loved life. The sun set on Anne Thursday, July 26th, 2012. A force to be reckoned with, we mourn her death as we celebrate her life.



Eva Phillips was born on September 11, 1927 and raised in Harlem. Ms. Phillips studied design and dressmaking as a young girl. Her passion was to always own her own business and design her own style of fashion. Eva followed her dream and established her own dress shop which thrived for over 35 years. Her mother, a single parent, raised six children and she was the baby of the bunch. Eva married her childhood sweetheart at age 19: they shared 33 wonderful years together before he passed away. Eva was the first Treasurer of NHS Bedford-Stuyvesant when it was established at Bridge Street Church, twenty years ago. She was extremely active in the community and had a passion for youth development. She devoted most of her free time to providing activities for young people in the community.

She believed that young people needed constructive things to do in order to keep their minds occupied and away from bad temptation. She was president of Good Neighbors of Madison Street Block Association in 1984 where she served as President for 26 years and then Vice President until her passing on September 4th 2012. Eva always planned to write a book about her life. She cherished every moment of it and always wanted to share her experiences with the world. Eva served as the Assistant Treasurer for the board of directors of NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant from 2005 through 2009: in 2010 she stepped down from the board of directors and became an Advisory Board member. In 2011, Eva shared the spotlight with three other founding board members of NHSBS and was honored at a lavish reception held at the Victorian Mansion in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Eva was a pillar in the community and she will truly be missed.

YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED



20th Anniversary Benefit Dinner Cruise

*Celebrating Twenty Years of Dedicated Service
to Bedford-Stuyvesant & Beyond!*



On Thursday, September 20th, the board and staff of NHS Bedford-Stuyvesant were joined by banking partners, business and community leaders and various other supporters to celebrate NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant's 20th year of excellence throughout the Central Brooklyn community. The event honored New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, 18th district. Special guests in attendance were New York City Council Member, Albert Vann, 36th district, who was also recognized for his continued support of the programs at NHS. Other special guests included New York City Council Members Darlene Mealy, 41st district and Letitia James, 35th district.

Departing from Pier 62 at the Chelsea Piers, the group sailed around the New York Harbor, up along the West Side and down under the Brooklyn Bridge. There was an opportunity to spend some time with Lady Liberty as the vessel stopped for photographs while NHS guests enjoyed the cool night air and shared the evening with other passengers aboard the ship. Delicious food and drinks, a lively crew and intuitive DJ made for a wonderful experience. The festivities included a raffle where guests won a variety of gifts donated by local sponsors and community supporters. Having taken stock of the good work and some challenges over the past 20 years, Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant looks forward to giving back even more in the upcoming years to the residents of Central Brooklyn. (photo credits: Andre King)

Our Event Supporters

JP Morgan Chase
Horizon Construction
Associated Bankers Association
Municipal Credit Union
EAG Laboratories
Advanced Pest Control, Inc
The House Detective Home Inspection Agency
Primary Land Services, LLC
Major Construction Co., Inc.
H.M. Village Realty, LLC
Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.
Poon & Rinn
Mr. Robert Cherry
Mr. Shew C. Huang (Goode Realty Corp.)
Ms. Aretha Varo
Mr. Al C. Florant
Ms. Bernell Grier
Ms Victoria Thomas
Mr. Darren Schuringa
Mr. Jeffrey Schanback
Ms. Anita Viera
Mr. Hopeton Simpson: Guiding Light Electric
Ms. Wesley Pitts & Ms. Nathalie Montas-Pitts
Ms. Carrie Agapito
Mr. William Lucas
Mr. Michael Golding
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hobson
Mr. & Mrs. Pardlo
Mr. Nazlin Warner
Mr. Kam Wong (Municipal Credit Union)
Ms. Velva Wright
Kenneth and Valda Jungblut

Upcoming Events/Workshops at NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant

Please RSVP as seating is limited

October

First-Time Homebuyer Workshop (\$100 enrollment fee)
Saturday, October 13, 8:30am-4pm

Home Maintenance Training (\$160 enrollment fee)
Date TBD, please call for more information

November

NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant Open House
Wednesday, November 07, 6pm-7pm

NSP2 Workshop
Saturday, November 10, 9am- 12pm

December

Community Economic Empowerment Seminar
Thursday, December 06, 6pm-8pm

First-Time Homebuyer Workshop
Saturday, December 29, 8:30am-4pm

CONTACT US:

**NHS Bedford Stuyvesant,
1012 Gates Avenue, 1st Floor
(Between Ralph Ave. & Broadway)
Brooklyn N.Y. 11221
P (718) 919-2100, F (718) 919-2725, E-Fax (646) 792-4110**

Visit us online: www.nhsnyc.org www.cibsbedstuy.com