

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

NHSBS News Celebrating 22 Years of Excellence
In Bedford-Stuyvesant and Beyond

Summer 2014



Honoring the Past/Building the Future NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant's Annual Fundraiser

On Thursday, September 25th at 6pm, Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant (NHSBS) will host its annual fundraiser held at The Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. The theme for the evening will be 'Honoring the Past/Building the Future'. We will be honoring the dedication of the organization's first three board presidents; Mr. Reginald D. Shell, Ms. Catherine Arline and Mr. James C. Durrah. We will also recognize some of our young resident graduates of the new Youth Financial Literacy and Leadership Program (YFLLP). The YFLLP addresses all of the underlying social and economical barriers in the community. Youth play a pivotal role in healthy community development and the YFLLP emphasizes the importance of that role in building a sustainable community. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Council Member Robert L. Cornegy Jr., 36th District, Brooklyn. The evening will entail refreshments, conversation and a taste of Historic Brooklyn.

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Reginald D. Shell



Catherine Arline



James C. Durrah

Realizing the American Dream Buying a First Home in Brooklyn

Jeffrey Legree has lived in New York all his life. Moving from apartment to apartment in Flatbush, Park Slope and Clinton Hill, he was tired of the constant uprooting of his family. He ached to put down roots in one location and where he could raise his children and enjoy one neighborhood. He heard about NHSBS from a co-worker. After doing his research, he attended a Program & Service Orientation where he learned about all the products and services that NHSBS offered and was especially intrigued about the possibility of him being eligible for down payment and closing cost assistance through HPD's Home First Program, as well as the opportunity to also receive funds from the City Lift program for principal reduction. After attending the Home Buyer Education Workshop, Jeffrey came in to sit with his counselor for a one-on-one session. He was thrilled to find out that he was qualified to purchase a home up to \$425,000.00. With his pre-qualification letter in hand, he set out to find the home of his dreams to hopefully, finally settle down with his family. After a few months of hard bargaining and dashed hopes, he found the perfect home. He was able to get into contract, securing \$40,000.00 to help offset the upfront costs of buying a home: he received \$30,000.00 from the City Lift program and another \$10,000.00 from HPD.

Mr. Legree is now a proud homeowner in Brownsville. He has begun developing great relationships with his neighbors and he and his family are settling into an easy routine. So satisfied was he with the help he received at NHSBS he has since referred three friends to the Home Buyer Education Program. We congratulate Mr. Legree on his recent purchase and thank him for the referrals.





Youth Financial Literacy and Leadership Program (YFLLP)

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 18th from 10am until 3pm, NHSBS will host a Community Resource Fair, at Medgar Evers College.

NHSBS Staff, Board of Directors and Local Community Partners will be on hand to provide: First-time Home Buyer Education mini-seminars and information, Foreclosure Intervention Assistance, Tenant Advocacy Information and Rental Housing Assistance, Home Maintenance Training Information, Home Improvement Lending Information, Homeowner and Rental Insurance, Financial Literacy, Financial Services, Energy Efficiency, Health and Fitness Information, Community Youth Programs, Human Rights Assistance, and Much More.....



The YFLLP is well underway in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Young residents across the community are experiencing something they have never experienced before and that is their understanding of basic money management and building a foundation for their future financial success. The first series of financial literacy classes were held in late 2013 at NHSBS with 7th grade students from Middle School 246. Since then we have facilitated additional workshops working students from Middle Schools 313, 246, and 382; PS 181; Acorn Community High School; the Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA's after school program; the local 81st Precinct Youth Development Program; DIVAS for Social Justice; and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), a program designed to keep at-risk youth off the street. The YFLLP has been very well received in the community with strong support from our local elected officials and residents. The program is a preventative method of educating our youth about the importance of them being in control of their financial future to prevent adult-situations such as foreclosure, bankruptcy and financial distress. The program is currently partly funded through Neighborworks® America and most recently through FY015 City Council funding. NHSBS intends to expand the program across Central Brooklyn and hope to have additional support to continue this effort.

New Board Members



Shaniqua Carter



Sundra Franklin



Christine Parker

On Thursday, May 1st, the Board of Directors held their Annual General Meeting at the NHSBS office from 6:00pm to 8:00pm: committee members, Shaniqua Carter, Sundra Franklin and Christine Parker were installed by the newly elected Council Member, the Honorable Robert L. Cornegy Jr., 36th District Brooklyn. Ms. Carter is a resident and homeowner in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Her inspiration by the work that NHSBS does in the community sparked her interest in becoming a member of the board of directors. She has over 14 years experience in corporate credit analysis and seven years experience in real estate finance and project management. She really enjoys being close to the community and being able to help people attain their goals of financial stability and/or homeownership. This has fueled her to do more in the community. Ms. Carter is a new Bedford-Stuyvesant representative serving on the board of directors of NHS of NYC. She also serves on the fundraising and loan committee of NHSBS. We welcome Ms. Carter to the NHSBS family. Ms. Franklin is also a resident and homeowner in Bedford-Stuyvesant as well as a former client. She is an accomplished national, independent consultant with more than 35 years experience in workforce & educational program development, youth development, program administration and organizational development. She has developed and implemented alternative educational programs that focus on basic skills, GED preparedness, credit retrieval and vocational skills development. Ms. Franklin joined the board of directors of NHSBS in her appreciation for the service that was provided to her. She currently serves on the fundraising committee of NHSBS. We welcome Ms. Franklin to the NHSBS family. Ms. Parker is a resident and homeowner in Brooklyn. She said that her interest in joining the NHSBS family was largely driven by her being very impressed with NHS's strong mission to community development and the demonstrated leadership in developing programs that assist NYC's most vulnerable residents. Ms. Parker is Strategic Human Resource leader with demonstrated knowledge in best practices particularly in functional area of recruitment, compensation, performance management and training. She has excellent interpersonal and critical thinking skills with the ability to manage multiple priorities while driving business success. NHSBS welcomes Ms. Parker to the family and looks forward to her skills to move the organization toward greater success.



Bed-Stuy Gathers to Honor Madiba at New Field Dedication



Nelson Mandela's legacy will remain strong in Bedford-Stuyvesant for a long time to come. That was the consensus at the celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day of Service held at Boys & Girls High School on Friday, July 18th. The Day of Service was declared by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly in 2009, in response to Mandela's charge for the next generation to take up the mantle of tackling the injustices of the modern world. It marks the birthday of a man known as a freedom fighter, humanitarian, and father. His love for the people, and his dedication to building strong communities of mutual support, made him a powerful leader.

In commemorating the life of the beloved "Madiba", the residents and leaders of Bedford-Stuyvesant participated in beautification activities around Boys & Girls High. These included the planting and dedication of new trees and the clean-up of the school's learning garden. A number of neighborhood organizations were on-hand to provide information on programs and services that are critical to the people of the neighborhood and borough. These ranged from organizations dedicated to healthy eating and food justice to affordable housing and education. A summer food program truck provided lunches all day for those 17 and under.



In the afternoon, the attendees joined in a 67-minute walk around the new field, recently rebuilt with help from the NFL's Legacy Grant Foundation and the New York City Council, walking one minute for every year of service Mandela dedicated to the struggle for justice and freedom. Led by the Black and Gold Marching Elite; a local after-school marching band program that provides instruments and training to underprivileged youth from around the area; those making laps around the field included local residents, politicians, educators, and religious leaders.

The culmination of the day's festivities was the dedication and renaming of the new outdoor space as Nelson Mandela Field. The dais was filled by 36th District Councilmember Robert E. Cornegy, Assemblywoman Annette Robinson, Rev. Herbert D. Daughtry, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, DOE's Deputy Chancellor of Operations Kathleen Grimm, and Boys & Girls Principal Bernard Gassaway. All gave touching remarks about Nelson Mandela's impact on their lives and work, with Reverend Daughtry recalling with pride that everyone in his family went to jail in opposition to South African apartheid, and Senator Montgomery recounting how then-Assemblyman Vann charted a bus for the elected officials in Albany to get into the city to welcome Mandela on his visit in 1990.

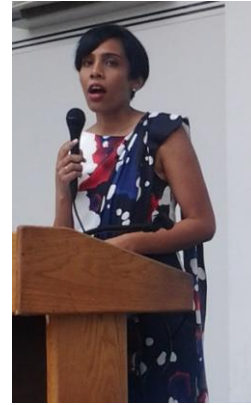


The most honored guests at this ceremony were former Mayor David Dinkins, Mr. George Monyemangene, and Ms. Baleka Mbete. Mr. Monyemangene is the South African Consul General in New York, and Ms. Mbete is the Speaker of the South African National Assembly and the Nation Chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC). Mayor Dinkins mentioned that, when Mandela's plane was delayed and his New York visit was running behind schedule, someone recommended skipping Boys & Girls High and Bedford-Stuyvesant and continuing to the next space, but that Mandela and the organizers refused. They were rewarded with a crowd of thousands waiting for a chance to see and hear from Nelson Mandela. Dinkins tearfully spoke of the regular messages he would send to Mandela on his birthday, which is 10 days after the former mayor's, saying that "when you're 110, I'll be 100." I won't be able to send that message anymore." He finished his remarks by saying, "we adults owe it to our children to have the opportunity to achieve their potential." Ms. Mbete spoke about the loss to the ANC and to the world when Madiba passed away, saying, "If we'd have known it would turn out this way, we would have asked for him to stick around just a little longer. But so many times Madiba gave us just another time to realize that he was only human." She brought to mind the day he stepped down as president of the ANC, explaining that there was more work to be done in the streets among the people, and he couldn't spend all of his time running meetings. "Looking at you, you could easily have been my cousin, my uncle, my father. Humanity continues to pose problems even to our children: poverty, hunger, war, diseases. So many of the socioeconomic problems we face are avoidable." Taking the last word, she called on those gathered to commit to honoring Nelson Mandela's legacy by standing against the inequities we see around us.





CIBS in Action



Tamecca Tillard, Managing Director

WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS

HOMEBUYER COUNSELING

MEET ONE-ON-ONE WITH OUR HUD-CERTIFIED HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE MORTGAGE-READY AND MEET WITH A LENDER THE SAME DAY!

EVERY 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00AM TO 2:00PM
BEGINNING AUGUST 13TH & 27TH

THURSDAY WALK-IN FORECLOSURE CLINICS

MEET WITH OUR FORECLOSURE COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS YOUR AVAILABLE MORTGAGE OPTIONS!

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
10:00AM TO 2:00PM
BEGINNING JULY 17TH

On Wednesday, June 25th from 9am to 12pm, CIBS hosted the 11th Annual Senior Breakfast for the 36th Council District in the Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The theme for the morning was "Living Longer, Living Better." Following an invocation by Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman, CIBS' Program Manager, Laryssa Green, provided a welcome. Rob Crocker of WBGO Radio served as master of ceremonies as a number of speakers dealt with issues important to Brooklyn's aging population. A panel talked about ways of maintaining your health and safeguarding your assets in your golden years. Councilmember Robert E. Cornegy delivered a keynote address in which he spoke of his personal experiences caring for elderly parents, as well as the steps he is taking to protect and defend our seniors. The Managing Director of CIBS, Tamecca Tillard, gave information about the Bed-Stuy Aging Improvement District (AID) and detailed its progress. There were also presentations from Single Stop and MTA Access-a-Ride. The breakfast closed with remarks from Assembly Member Annette Robinson and New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Our Mission

Neighborhood Housing Services revitalizes underserved neighborhoods by creating and preserving affordable housing and providing opportunities for homeownership education, financial assistance and community leadership. Working in partnership with government and business, we are led by local residents and guided by local needs.



NHSBS Workshop and Seminar Calendar

July

First-Time Homebuyer Club Class: Saturday, July 19th, 8:30am-4pm

August

Program & Service Orientation: Wednesday, Aug 6th at 7pm (will be held at the Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA- 1121 Bedford Ave.)

First-Time Homebuyer Club Class: Saturday, August 16th, 8:30am-4pm

Chase Home Mortgage Info Session: Saturday, August 16th, 2pm-3pm

September

Program and Service Orientation: Wednesday, September 3rd, 6pm-8pm

Getting Ahead- Financial Capabilities #1: Tuesday, September 9th, 6pm-8pm

First-Time Homebuyer Club Class: Saturday, September 20th, 8:30am-4pm

Please RSVP as seating is limited

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