A Letter from the NWBCCC Board President

February 19, 2015

To NWBCCC members, allies, friends and supporters,

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition. Since we started organizing to combat the wave of arson, abandonment and disinvestment that was sweeping through the Bronx in 1974, we have knocked on countless doors, held hundreds of tenant and planning meetings in buildings and churches, developed thousands of Bronx residents into powerful leaders, demonstrated and protested to win local, regional and national campaigns, and developed new ways of organizing through an intergenerational, racial justice and economic democracy framework. We have been shaped by our experiences over the last four decades, building a strong organization with a creative vision for our community grounded in collective decision-making, shared wealth and ownership, and building people power to create long-term and sustainable change.

Our 40th anniversary presents the opportunity to honor all the leaders, staff and allies who have contributed to the development of the NWBCCC, to acknowledge our accomplishments, and to consider the ways we will move forward powerfully in the years and decades ahead.

2014 was a year of great transition for the NWBCCC. Coming out of a financial crisis, we have not only rebuilt our financial and organizational health, we have won some exciting victories and co-created alternative models that contribute to building a healthy, sustainable, and equitable Bronx. Our members and board have led this process with great courage and commitment, as has our skilled and hard-working staff. This process, while challenging, created new leadership, strengthened the role of current members, re-engaged and deepened relationships with allies, alumni and partner organizations giving rise to incredible growth, learnings and great positive movement towards our collective vision.

We are learning the importance of staying grounded in our past, while not being limited or constrained by it. We are building on a strong tradition of member-led organizing, a foundation grounded in faith and the values of social justice, and the wisdom and strength of our communities. Our new framework of inter-generational organizing for racial justice and economic democracy opens new possibilities for our work in the years and decades to come. It builds on our past, and helps us focus on the root causes of the inequalities that we face in our community and throughout society.
These new possibilities are visible in our work over the last year, and in the goals we’ve set for 2015. Detailed in this report are the various campaigns, initiatives and victories that have been made possible because of the dedication, hard work and support of many. Here are some highlights:

Sistas and Brothas United has continued its great work fighting to replace the school-to-prison pipeline with policies and practices that support learning and student success. We are introducing restorative justice practices in local high schools to replace punitive and exclusionary school discipline policies, and are leading citywide alliances in the fight for policy change in these areas. Our College Access Program is growing by the year, sending more Bronx youth to colleges around the city, state, and nation. And in a year of national upheaval around discriminatory policing policies, SBU led us in taking to the streets in protest, making the connection between over-policing in our schools and the abusive tactics often used by police in our streets.

Across the organization, we have been working to bring economic democracy to life by building economic alternatives that keep wealth in the Bronx and ensure it is distributed democratically. We have launched a Church Retrofit program that upgrades church buildings to become more fuel efficient – saving money and stabilizing churches, reducing greenhouse gases, building our consciousness around global warming, and creating high paying local jobs. We are exploring a Housing Retrofit Program that builds on our Weatherization Program by adding organizing to energy upgrades. And our housing organizing is expanding – with many new buildings being organized and many broader alliances being built. Rent regulations are up for renewal, and gentrification is beginning in some of our neighborhoods.

After winning a historic Community Benefits Agreement for the re-development of the Kingsbridge Armory, we are organizing the community to take full advantage of the living wage jobs, community space, and economic development that it promises. We started the Bronx Green Contractors Association to ensure that new construction jobs through these projects benefit Bronx residents. And we are exploring ways to work with hospitals to ensure they put their substantial resources into eliminating the causes of poor health in our communities - such as poor quality housing, unemployment, and poverty – rather than just treating the sick.

Our work in 2015 will build on our 40 year-old organizing traditions, and add new approaches that will move us closer to economic democracy, racial justice, and environmental sustainability. We are working to break out of our issue silos, using our collective vision to connect our campaigns, work more closely together, and address the inequalities we see in the Bronx. We invite you to join us in the exciting work ahead.

In struggle,

Sandra Lobo
Board President
NWBCCC
An Introduction to the NWBCCC and its Values

The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition unites diverse people and institutions to work for racial and economic justice through inter-generational community organizing that transforms the Bronx and beyond. It was founded in 1974, and is celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

The members of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition family seek social, economic, environmental, and racial justice for our families, our communities, and ourselves. We do this through community organizing that utilizes non-violent confrontation, negotiation, and principled compromise. We conduct our affairs with honesty, integrity, strength, and courage. To build a diverse, tolerant, and democratic organization, we act together to ensure all people are treated equally, with respect and dignity, without regard to their age, race, creed, sexual orientation, language, religion, gender, ability, or class. These beliefs are the cornerstone of our work.

- Because we value **Love**, we envision a community where the well-being of all its members is the first and most important factor when making decisions. We value and support all of the diverse members of our community without exclusion or social division. The outside world is embraced with solidarity.
- Because we value **Just Work**, we envision a community where everyone has access to respected, self-sustaining employment that taps into their skills, abilities and/or creativity. These jobs generate shared-wealth back into our communities, which builds a stronger Bronx economy.
- Because we value the **Collective**, we envision a community where people share work, resources, and profit. As a result, diverse and vibrant communities are built off of an inclusive decision-making process. Collective ownership of land and resources should lead to a healthy environment and a sustainable economy.
- Because we value **Pride and Dignity**, we envision a community where the culture and diversity of our collaborative hands and hearts' work is celebrated freely and builds on our traditional and inter-generational strength.
- Because we value **Community Determination**, we envision a community where all Bronxites channel our focused, collective power. We envision Bronx residents creating sustainable neighborhoods with resilient economies.
- Because we value **Equity**, we envision a community where those who have been marginalized are given what they need to thrive, be healthy and happy.

The institutional and individual members of the NWBCCC work together on campaigns to improve local conditions; change policy at the city, state, and federal levels; and move us toward a more just, equitable, and sustainable society.
Economic Democracy and Climate Justice

The NWBCCC is working for a more just and democratic economy that builds wealth in the Bronx. A central part of this work is building a green economy that benefits Bronxites while addressing longstanding environmental injustices. We have launched a Church Retrofit Program designed to upgrade the physical plant and energy systems of local churches with high levels of local participation. The program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money for churches and improve their buildings, create local jobs, and educate congregants on economic democracy and climate justice. Six Northwest Bronx churches have started the retrofit process, and over a dozen more are in the pipeline to have the work started. To support this work, the NWBCCC created the Bronx Green Contractors Association, an association that supports Bronx contractors in obtaining green certification and hiring local residents, including congregants, for projects such as the Church retrofits. We also helped develop a Green Action Plan as part of the Community Benefits Agreement for the Kingsbridge Armory, including renewable energy, water capture, etc.

Additionally, the Green Team organized Bronx participation in the People’s Climate March on September 21. We gathered with groups from around the Bronx at La Finca del Sur garden. With our Bronx-is-Breathing press conference, then joined the march downtown. There we joined hundreds of thousands of people from around the world to pressure the UN to take real action on climate change.

NWBCCC has recruited over 300 Bronxites for green job training, and conducted outreach to over 100 low-income homeowners about ways to save energy and money. We have distributed tens of thousands of free CFL light bulbs to Bronx families each year, collectively saving $1,116,000 for recipients and reducing 13,485,000 pounds of climate change-causing CO2 from the atmosphere (the equivalent of removing 114 cars from the street or planting 4600 trees). We partnered with Hostos Community College to provide internships for eight Bronx youth who received training and performed outreach at 54 Evelyn Place, a special project of our Weatherization Assistance Program, where residents received additional education about ways to go green and how to benefit from Energy Management Systems. We worked with local residents and students from Fordham University and Columbia University to build a compost system and raised vegetable beds at the NWBCCC’s adopted community garden on E. 176th Street and Walton Ave.
Kingsbridge Armory

After signing a historic Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) in 2013, the NWBCCC and KARA (Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance) turned their attention in 2014 to engaging the signatories and the community to ensuring the benefits of the CBA come to life over the coming years. In the spring of 2014, the signatories of the CBA held a productive meeting with John Neary, the Chief Operating Officer of KNIC, to begin building a working relationship with him and KNIC. Around this time some doubt was cast on the future of the project by an internal dispute among the KNIC partners. With the lawsuits settled, the developer signed a 99 year lease with the city in October.

Early in the year, at a NWBCCC membership meeting, the group decided to hold a town hall meeting at which neighborhood residents could share questions and concerns about the redevelopment of the Armory and the CBA. Over 80 people attended the town hall, and many raised concerns about the rent hikes some small business owners and tenants were already experiencing, and the possibility they might be priced out of the community. A working group was created to help organize and structure the next large meeting of KARA. To bring more CBA signatories and community residents into the process a plan was launched to hold a series of information sessions with different signatory institutions to help them understand the CBA and how they could get involved. With the support of a group of Fordham University students, sessions were held at Tolentine Church, Fordham Manor Reformed Church, the Aqueduct Homeowners Association, and the Bronx Green Contractors Association. The meetings went well, and questions from participants overwhelmingly overlapped with the main concerns expressed in the first town hall meeting: rent hikes and the possibility of gentrification.

Since these meetings the NWBCCC has begun organizing merchants and tenants around the Armory to explore what rent increases may have already taken place, and to develop strategies to control future increases and their impact on the community. Working with the Kingsbridge Road Merchant Association, we are surveying merchants about their situation and concerns. A meeting is planned for February 23, 2015 to talk about the ripple effects of the Armory Development and how Residents and Merchants can work together.
Housing Committee

The NWBCCC Housing Committee has had an exciting and productive year in 2014. It continued its approach of organizing tenant associations in buildings throughout the NW Bronx, bringing them together through the Housing Committee, and involving them in numerous Bronx- and city-wide alliances to fight for policy change for safe and affordable housing. We have won local repairs in many NW Bronx buildings, and have played a leadership role in broader campaigns to stop tenant harassment and keep housing affordable in the face of rent increases, gentrification, and illegal landlord fees. Several staff have played key roles in the Committee’s work, but its tenant leaders have provided strong and consistent leadership throughout the year. Maria Canela joined the NWBCCC in the fall as a Housing Organizer, and has brought great energy and support to the group.

Alliances

_Cromwell-Jerome Re-Zoning and the Bronx Coalition for A Community Vision:_
The NWBCCC has been part of building a community alliance to coordinate tenant and community input into the City’s plan to re-zone 73 blocks primarily along Jerome Avenue. CASA at New Settlement Apartments is leading the effort, with strong involvement from the NWBCCC and a wide range of other Bronx community organizations and NYC partners. Working under the slogan “Nothing about us, without us, is for us,” we are fighting for a participatory process that ensures that changes do not displace neighborhood residents and small businesses. We want inclusion, not gentrification and exclusion. The area to be re-zoned stretches along Jerome Avenue from just below 167th Street north to 184th Street, including the east-west corridors along 167th Street, 170th Street, Mt. Eden Avenue, Tremont Avenue, and Burnside Avenue. This area includes 7,000 apartments and over 200 businesses.

_Stabilizing NYC:_
This coalition is comprised of twelve grassroots neighborhood-based organizations, a citywide legal service provider and a citywide housing advocacy organization that have come together to combat tenant harassment and preserve affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most. Its campaign combines legal, advocacy and organizing approaches in a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for poor repairs, illegal evictions, and tenant harassment. The NWBCCC is providing strong leadership in this citywide coalition, and is targeting buildings owned by predatory equity landlords in the NW Bronx.

_Real Rent Reform Campaign and the Alliance for Tenant Power_
NWBCCC members went to Albany on Valentine's Day to lobby for strengthening the rent laws, which expire this coming June. The two sponsoring tenant coalitions share a powerful single legislative platform.
Fees are Fraud Campaign:
With partners from across NYC, NWB tenant leaders are fighting illegal fees charged by landlords to force tenants out of their homes and pave the way for more affluent tenants and the gentrification that results from these changes. This campaign is working to change policies of the NYS Department of Homes and Community Renewal regarding illegal fees. Our campaign connects tenants with real actions - like demonstration, reports, videos, letters, pictures, and media actions - in order to ensure that non-rent fees are seen as a citywide problem that needs to be addressed. At the state level we are fighting for legislation that prohibits fees for appliances such as air conditioners and washing machines. This legislation is now part of a package of 8 rent control and tenant rights bills supported by the citywide Alliance for Tenant Power. This coalition is leading the fight to renew and strengthen the rent laws in the 2015. We are also working on a draft bill with the office of Council member Ritchie Torres, to have tenant control of what a rent bill should look like, so that we can prohibit landlords from adding non-rent related fees to tenants’ monthly rent bills.

Buildings

Former Milbank / Steve Finkelstein Buildings:
We’re organizing tenants to meet with Finkelstein and/or start legal actions to stop the illegal Major Capital Improvement charges in a number of these buildings. Tenants are determined to make the landlord recognize and respect the agreement on MCIs won by tenant associations and the NWBCCC.

3224 Grand Concourse:
When we began to support the tenant association in this building in December of 2014, it had been without gas since April 2014, and parts of the building had been without heat and hot water since July. One line had been without heat, hot water, and electricity for several weeks. Tenants organized quickly, and hung signs from their windows to bring attention to their plight. They delivered a letter to the landlord’s home in NJ, did a blitz of 311 complaints to the city, used digital media to spread the word, and got significant press coverage. The City soon showed up to repair the heat and hot water, and the building’s new owner met with the tenants in early December to start the process of restoring gas. Tenants are currently awaiting DOL Authorization for gas connection at the end of February or beginning of March 2015.

Other Buildings:
We started a tenant association at 50 E 191 Street, owned by Ved Parkash, where tenants were facing problems with elevator service, limited hot water, no repairs, pest infestations, and harassment. Tenants organized several meetings, called 311 to get the attention of the city, and succeeded in getting action. City inspectors came, and now the elevator is working, and the hot water perfect. Tenants from another Parkash building have attending recent meetings to learn how to organize their own building.

In late 2013 and early 2014, we began working with several other housing groups to organize buildings owned by the Normandy Group, which were in foreclosure. We door-knocked 7 buildings and held several meetings. In the spring, the Attorney General’s office announced they’d signed an agreement promising tenants new management, repairs and a rent rebate.
Sistas and Brothas United (SBU)

Restorative Justice Work

Sistas and Brothas United (SBU) works with Bronx high schools to create student-led groups that promote the use of restorative justice practices such as peer mediation as an alternative to suspension, while developing campus unity. These student groups focus on developing students vision and identifying their concerns, visions, and building campaigns that bring the campus together, privilege student voice, and forward a student vision of restorative justice on campus. SBU trains student leaders to plan, advocate, and organize for campus-wide student needs, as supports their involvement in citywide and national school and educational justice work. This leads to a more united and supportive school environment.

Local

Validus Prep:
In 2014 SBU organized students in Validus Preparatory Academy to start the School Crew Leadership Assembly (SCLA) to identify needed shifts in school practices other than peer mediation as an alternative to suspension. They surveyed all 372 students and teachers, and learned the top two issues for school administrators were students being “out of uniform” when wearing sweaters over their school uniform, and students “re entering the building” after leaving for lunch off campus. The SCLA designed a cardigan sweater that sports the schools logo and an incentive-based off campus lunch rewards program, and proposed them to the school administration. By spring, 2014 these student-created solutions were approved and implemented. In the 2015 school year the SCLA has officially become the Validus Student Government and is now focusing on bringing all the schools on the campus together through a series of events. Most recently the Student Government met with the principals on campus and won approval for their first campus-wide Valentines Day dance. The student government is also doing research with freshmen, sophomores and juniors to identify the most wanted Advanced Placement classes to be implemented in the 2015-2016 school year. They are also designing a series of workshops to improve student-teacher relationships.

Grace Dodge Campus:
SBU started working with Crotona International, high school for Energy and Technology and Bronx Academy for Software Engineering in the Grace Dodge Campus this year. There have been a lot of conflicts between students from different schools on that campus. We started doing leadership development and school culture circles on campus to build stronger relationships between students and identify issues we want to work on for the rest of the school year. We had a planning retreat and identified three goals we will accomplish by the end of the school year that are focused on building relationships between students from the 3 schools were working in at the campus and improving relationships between teachers and students.

City-Wide

SBU works to provide alternatives to suspensions in New York City schools by advocating for changes to the NYC public school discipline code. We do this work within the Dignity in Schools and Urban Youth Collaborative coalition spaces. We are working to help students and parents understand what restorative justice is, and how it can be used and an approach to resolving conflicts that can increase positive outcomes and minimize the use of suspensions for minor infractions. We want this to be presented to students, parents, and teachers in language that is clear and accessible. We are asking for
funding for public schools to implement restoratives practices on campus and to hire Restorative Justice Coordinators to deal with conflicts. We believe that school staff need training in using restorative justice in the classroom and school community, and have been advocating for more staff training on using restorative practices in schools.

Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) & Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC):
This year we were able to get new funding approved from DOE and City Council for Restorative Justice Trainings for school staff around the city. Specifically 93 schools already trained in the Tier 1 RJ, are now eligible for Tier 2 training, and 25 new schools will receive the Tier 1 training. The tier 1 training is for schools who haven’t trained their teachers in restorative justice before and Tier 2 trainings are the second phase of the restorative justice trainings. Dewitt Clinton HS, Bronx Academy for Software Engineering are schools that we work with that have gotten the trainings. DSC-NY and UYC began the PASSAGES collaboration with the Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD) at the DOE. Through the Passages collaboration we have started monthly meetings and formed Working Groups to work on changing the discipline code, reducing suspensions and racial disparities in suspensions, and getting more funding for restorative justice programs in public schools. With the support of Dignity in Schools we did know your rights trainings around suspensions for over 60 parents and students. We also trained over 30 students on using restorative justice practices to deal with conflict. As part of the Urban Youth Collaborative we were able to have 7 SBU youth participate in UYC’s Youth Organizing Institute for advanced SBU leaders and get them college scholarships.

National

Alliance for Educational Justice (AEJ) and Dignity in Schools National:
After years of meeting with the Federal Department of Education about the need for schools to end zero tolerance policies and to use restorative justice to deal with conflict, in January of 2014 it issued civil rights guidance on school discipline, informing school districts across the US on their obligations to reduce suspensions, expulsions and arrests in schools. This was a huge victory. The guidance includes an important appendix with recommendations for schools and districts on promoting positive school climates, providing training for staff, ensuring that students and parents participate in developing and implementing discipline policies, emphasizing positive interventions over removal and ensuring data collection and monitoring of discipline. It recognizes the pervasive racial disparities that exist and notes that Black students are more than three times as likely as their white peers to be suspended or expelled. The federal government recognizes research that suggests that these disparities “are not explained by more frequent or more serious misbehavior by students of color” but rather by the discriminatory administration of school discipline policies. SBU youth leaders attended the release of the guidance. The photograph below shows SBU leaders Jessica Morillo and Ashley Payano at the event with the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.
With the support of AEJ, 9 SBU leaders rode down to Mississippi for the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. Students were able to learn about Freedom summer, meet civil rights leaders who fought for many of the rights we have today, and run trainings and share experiences with Mississippi high-school students about the school to prison pipeline.

College readiness

Local

SBU’s College Access Program works to increase the number of NW Bronx high school students who enroll in college. We do this by providing young people and parents with one-on-one support in applying for college and financial aid. We also facilitate workshops and trainings within local high schools. In 2014 the program worked with the Walton Young Adult Borough Center (YABC), Teaching and the Professions High School and Discovery High School in the Walton campus to host a series of workshops for parents and students. We worked in collaboration with Good Shepard Services to train students on the college process and to reinforce the college culture in schools.

Accomplishments

- SBU provided five financial aid workshops for 50 parents and students. The workshops broke down the processes and key terms of college application. During two of the sessions families had the opportunity to complete their FAFSA application with the assistance of the College Access Coordinator and the trained youth leaders.
- In the fall 2014 SBU trained two Walton YABC Students on the college application process. They in turn trained 20 other students.
- SBU hosted several CUNY Days for a total of 16 students. During this day students were introduced to The City University of New York (CUNY), its process, its application and financial opportunities. Students were given the opportunity to complete their application.
- As of May 2014, 20 students applied to a total of 120 CUNY colleges through the program. These students have all completed the FAFSA application as well as the TAP, which is the State Aid for NY. As of December 2014 10 additional students applied to a total of 60 CUNY colleges.
- Juniors have begun their college process. Each junior in the program has a personal college profile, and has begun a search for matching colleges and scholarships.

Citywide

SBU and UYC, working with City Council members, were able to get Mayor Bill de Blasio to sign into law Intro. 403-A, which requires the NYC Department of Education to report on the number of school guidance counselors and social workers employed each year. This information includes the number of
guidance counselors, the ratio of guidance counselors and social workers to students, the number of
guidance counselors who work in more than one school, the number of guidance counselors and social
workers providing services due to an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and other metrics
related to school guidance. We are very excited, because this legislation is a key step towards winning
funding for more guidance and college counselors in public schools to ensure all students have access
to quality guidance services to help them get into and attend college.

**Police Accountability**

Sistas and Brothas United has been organizing to confront unjust policing practices by the NYPD,
including Stop-and-Frisk and the broken windows style of policing. We have been consistently
engaging in police accountability actions and events over the last few years. After the unjust decisions
not to indict Darren Wilson in Ferguson for the murder of Michael Brown and Daniel Pantaleo in
Staten Island for the murder of Eric Garner, the whole country was in uproar.

During the month of December we organized a “die in” in at Union Square in honor of Eric Garner
with youth organizations from around the city. We did a movie night/teach for community members
in at our office around police brutality, focused on stop and frisk policies, the broken-windows
approach to policing, and race in policing. We, along with adult members of the NWBCCC, helped
organized a die in and march in the Bronx against police brutality that ended in front of the Bronx
juvenile detention center where we sang songs, and chanted in unity and support for the young people
incarcerated there.
Health Justice

Toxic-Free Schools

Over three years ago, parents from PS 51 Bronx New School learned that a carcinogen had been present in their school building at levels 10,000 times the acceptable standard and that the Department of Education had waited six months to notify them. Since that time, PS 51 Parents United and the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition have organized relentlessly for justice for themselves and their children and to change the broken policies that created this catastrophe.

We are proud to announce that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is on track to complete cleanup of the 3200 Jerome Avenue brownfield in the winter of 2015. On February 5th, members of PS 51 Parents United signed the School Toxins Disclosure Bill (Intro 126) into law with Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Our School Toxins Disclosure Bill (Intro 126) requires:

- Prompt notification to parents and staff of environmental test results that uncover contamination above acceptable levels within seven days of receiving those results. Parents of alumni and former staff must also be notified where contamination may have been present over extended periods.
- Regular reporting to the public of all environmental inspections, action plans to mitigate environmental hazards and protect students, and progress made to improve air quality in schools.
- Online posting of all school environmental inspections.

We know that a critical way in which the DOE has kept parents powerless has been keeping them in the dark. We congratulate the parent and student leaders who successfully challenged our city and state agencies and elected officials to honor the basic right of parents and students to know about health conditions in their school. We thank City Councilman Fernando Cabrera for his sponsorship and partnership that helped make this a reality. We express our gratitude to the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest for their ongoing guidance and deep support throughout this campaign.
PS 51 Parents United continue to press for full notification of all families of alumni and a full health assessment of the potential impact that toxic exposure may have on their children’s health. Looking ahead, they are excited to work with Sistas and Brothas United and parents across the city to demand educational justice and to create safe, healthy, and supportive schools.

**Labor & Delivery Returns to North Central Bronx Hospital**

When Eileen Markey told her son, Hugh, they would be taking a tour of the new and improved, award-winning labor and delivery ward they fought to re-open at North Central Bronx Hospital, Hugh asked, "Is it because we told them 'Hands Off Our Hospital'?"

For over a year after the Health and Hospital Corporation suspended services at the award-winning NCBH labor and delivery unit, the NWBCCC organized parents and residents alongside nurses, doctors, and health advocates under the banner of “Hands Off Our Hospital.” Mothers with their baby strollers testified at press conferences in front of the hospital. Families and hospital staff packed public meetings with HHC administration. Later, community leaders strategized with HHC administration about how to responsibly return the services and fully engage the community in the process. In October 2014, we celebrated the reopening of the Labor & Delivery Unit with an expanded midwifery program.

We thank the New York State Nurses Association, Doctors Council, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, the Commission on the Public Health System, and our other advocacy and elected allies who were dedicated partners in the struggle. We applaud Councilman Ritchie Torres for allocating $600,000 of City Council funds to support the renovation of the ward and re-instatement of services. We are proud to have contributed to the mighty group of grassroots leaders that mobilized the community to secure this vital asset for Bronx families.

**Launching the NWBCC Health Justice Committee**

Last winter, NWBCCC worked with national health advocacy organization Community Catalyst to organize a series of trainings for 30 community leaders on the social determinants of health the organizing opportunities created by the Affordable Care Act. We designed our vision for a Community Health Needs Assessment and proposed innovative ways to leverage the community benefit re-investment of hospitals in our community to generate shared wealth and ownership for poor people of color and address health disparities at their root—intergenerational poverty and institutional racism. We continue to research the community benefit spending of Bronx hospitals and designed the Healthy Buildings Program as a pilot project to demonstrate anti-poverty development strategies that could eliminate asthma triggers that send Bronxites to the emergency room each day. We also joined NWBCCC affiliate the Mary Mitchell Center to launch the Bronx Healthy Neighborhoods Platform—a comprehensive policy agenda to promote holistic health and wellness in the borough. This year, we convened the Health Justice Committee to support community organizing to win policy change and redirect hospital investment to realize health equity in the Bronx.
Weatherization Assistance Program

Since 1983, NWBCCC has been a NYS Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provider. The Weatherization Assistance Program receives funding from both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department Health & Human Services (under LI-HEAP) to provide services to income eligible households. It is administered by NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). The purpose of the Program is to install energy conservation measures in the homes & apartments of income-eligible persons, especially homes occupied by the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children. Households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income meet the guidelines. Funds are targeted for the most cost-effective conservation measures, determined from a customized on-site energy audit & fuel usage analysis.

Low-income households in the Bronx have significant need for this assistance. Our climate, with cold, snowy winters and hot, humid summers, generates a high demand for heating fuel and electricity for lighting and cooling. Many of our poorest households live in aging housing stock that was built when energy was cheap and plentiful, seeing few substantial upgrades over the years. Additionally, many low-income households in NYS pay 15% or more of their income for utility costs - a condition known as “fuel poverty.” Overall fuel efficiency and conservation measures, coupled with in-unit retrofits lessen the impact of high-energy costs on low-income families.

Besides the obvious direct benefits to the WAP client, the program helps to reduce national energy consumption, reduces carbon emissions from fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and harm our health and environment. WAP also improves the health and safety of assisted households by inspecting for CO and other gas emissions, mold/moisture, ventilation issues, and other potential “sick house” conditions. Performing work in the community also means that NY local business and vendors can find work in the community. NYSHCR encourages the inclusion of state-certified Minority & Woman Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE). NWBCCC submits quarterly data to NYS in support of these goals.

NEW Heating & DHW System and New Energy Efficient Lighting Fixtures being installed.

Because Weatherization is a grant, building improvements in rental housing are not subject to Major Capital Improvement rent increases; this serves to improve and maintain safe, affordable housing for our area residents with limited income. Building owners are encouraged to contribute matching funds or in-kind work toward the weatherization work scope and must maintain the property in good repair. NWBCCC also makes its best effort to leverage funds for improvements from other sources, including NYSERDA-MPP, EmPower, Con Edison, CITGO Venezuela Energy Efficient Lighting Program, and NYC Cool Roofs, among others. NWBCCC’s WAP has grown in expertise, and in the scope of work performed over the years. As a
result of HCR’s requirement for training and certification for most Weatherization positions, clients in our community have benefitted from the latest in energy efficiency technologies, quality assurance, and attention to health and safety issues in the home. NWBCCC has a trained, certified and experienced staff, most of whom are NW Bronx residents. NWBCCC’s current service area includes Bronx Community Planning Boards 5, 6, 7, 8 and portions of 4.

2014-2015 PROGRAM YEAR
In the WAP 2014 Program Year, (ending May 31, 2015), approximately 202 units of multi-family apartment buildings and 1-4 family homes will have been completed, despite drastic cuts in funding due to the Federal Budget sequestration. Four apartment buildings ranging in size from 32 to 87 units are in progress, consisting of privately owned buildings & HDFC’s (non-profits). Additional units in 1-4 family homes (with resident owners) are scheduled. Some of the installed measures include: heating and domestic hot water system replacements; repair or replacement of windows; roof, sidewall, crawlspace and pipe insulation; electrical fixture upgrades in apartments and public areas; replacement of inefficient refrigerators with Energy-Star-rated units; air-sealing measures like weather-stripping, door sweeps and caulking; installation of low-cost measures in each apartment, such as compact fluorescent bulbs, smart-strips, low-flow faucet and shower fixtures, smoke and CO detectors, radiator vents, as needed. All work performed is based on a customized energy audit that calculates the highest savings-to-investment ratio, and is conditional upon available funding. The most cost effective measures are done first.

Client education is a component of Weatherization outreach. Households receive client education materials that include cost-saving energy and water conservation practices and health and safety related awareness (including the hazardous effects of indoor air quality, mold & lead paint hazards).

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<th>Annual Income</th>
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Highlights of the NWBCCC 2015 Annual Plan

In 2015 the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition will:

- Increase its membership to over 20 institutions and 400 individual members;
- Implement a leadership development plan that helps members learn new skills and competencies and use them to build their institutions and forward base building and campaign work;
- Integrate its issue work to move the NW Bronx towards economic democracy and racial justice through intergenerational organizing;
- Win innovative campaigns that change conditions and build a Bronx aligned with our vision and values through:
  - Green retrofits of churches and apartment buildings that save energy, reduce greenhouse gases, improve conditions, create local jobs, and generate local wealth;
  - Working with local hospitals to address the economic and social conditions that lead to poor health including inadequate housing, pollution, unhealthy food, and poverty;
  - Enforcing the Kingsbridge Armory Community Benefits Agreement to provide living wage local jobs, community space, and green economic development for local residents, not for gentrification;
  - Organizing tenants to stop illegal fees, control rent increases, improve housing conditions, and protect tenant rights;
  - Ending the school to prison pipeline and creating a positive learning environment by bringing restorative justice practices into our schools;
  - Supporting Bronx youth in attending college or training for a career; and
  - Weatherizing buildings across the NW Bronx to improve energy efficiency and living conditions;
- Continue to build the NWBCCC as a visionary, impactful, democratic, and sustainable organization with powerful members and staff, sufficient resources, strong internal systems, and alignment with its values so it can change local conditions and contribute to building a more transformative social justice movement that creates a more just, democratic, and sustainable society.
NWBCCC Finances
As reported at Annual Meeting, February 19, 2015

Our accountants from NCheng are almost finished with the audit of our 2013-14 fiscal year. I expect to be able to share it with the board and the membership in April.

Our total revenue for Fiscal year 2014 was $2.3 million. Most of this, $1.5 million, was for our weatherization program. We raised and spent approximately $750,000 on our organizing work with youth and adults, our college access and tutoring program, and management of the organization.

Our revenue came from four major sources:

- Government grants
- Foundation grants
- Dues and contributions from our members and friends
- Income from our annual gala fundraising event

In the 2013-14 year, we reached out to you our membership, and to other individuals who support our work for financial contributions in a way we haven’t done before. And we are grateful that many people responded. In the 2014 calendar year, we collected $8000 in dues and $20,000 in individual contributions. Support like this helps make us financially strong and financially independent. This year, we aim to do the same or better.

Our 2014 draft financial statement will show an organization that is rebuilding financially. While we suffered a very large deficit in 2013, in 2014 we cut costs, raised money, and turned the situation around. Our financial statement for 2014 will show a much smaller deficit, and we are on target to have a balanced budget for the 2014-15 year when we close the books in June. While we still have some significant financial issues to address, I am cautiously optimistic that we are headed in the right direction.