Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition

2015 Annual Report

NWBCCC
103 E. 196th Street
Bronx, NY 10468
(718) 584-0515
www.northwestbronx.org

Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

103 East 196th Street
Bronx, NY 10468
Tel: 718-584-0515
www.northwestbronx.org
A Letter from the NWBCCC Board President

February 25, 2016

To NWBCCC members, allies, friends and supporters,

The Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition is back! 2015 was a year of significant growth for the organization, an important 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.
In Dodge High School Campus we’ve been able to host 2 interschool community building circles with representation from all the schools. Students in the BCE campus leadership team all share experiences of discrimination on basis of race by students of neighboring schools. We are implementing restorative practices like community building circles to help address these issues while building campus unity.

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 redevelopment 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.

The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) is a grassroots, member-led organization that has worked to transform the communities of the Northwest Bronx since 1974. Its mission is to unite diverse people and institutions to work for economic democracy and racial justice through intergenerational community organizing. For 40 years, the NWBCCC has helped Bronx residents develop visionary leadership, build community power, and revitalize their neighborhoods. The organization was started by local community leaders in response to the wave of arson, abandonment and disinvestment that threatened to destroy the Bronx in the early 1970s. The organization emphasizes community control, direct action, and a pragmatism focused on winning concrete victories that change material conditions, giving people a sense of their own power, and building a broader movement.

We work on issues that are of concern to our membership and are aligned with our mission. Over the years we have fought for safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing; safe, clean communities with green space; high quality public schools where students have the opportunity to learn with dignity; community-led economic development; immigrant rights; and many other issues. In all areas we work to win local victories and broader policy change that addresses the root causes of these issues. Over the decades we have created a powerful youth wing, Sistas and Brothas United (SBU); established affordable housing corporations, research institutes, and a student-designed public high school; and have won, often in collaboration with allies, major campaign victories including reforming the national lending practices of Freddie Mac to improve housing conditions, the creation of the Community Reinvestment Act with National People’s Action, the construction of 6 new school buildings in
the NW Bronx to reduce overcrowding, passage of Living Wage legislation in New York City, redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory with a comprehensive Community Benefits Agreement, the development of a large Weatherization Assistance Program, and a wide range of other changes in policy and resource allocation. We founded and/or participated in a wide range of successful city, state, and national-level social justice alliances.

Today our work focuses on:
· Ensuring local residents have safe, affordable, and energy efficient housing, and are not displaced by local economic development;
· Building a green, democratic, and locally controlled economy through energy efficiency retrofits, the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, and other projects that create high road jobs and build economic democracy;
· Fighting the school to prison pipeline, building a culture of restorative justice in schools, and ensuring that students are prepared for and have access to a higher education; and
· Addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes through the above issue work, and by ensuring that local hospitals address upstream causes of poor health and are accountable to local communities.
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 proudly celebrating over forty years of strong community organizing and leadership development.

The members of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition 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 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 Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition 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.

**Building Economic Democracy**
Through our partnership with the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI), 7 core leaders and staff are completing an Economic Democracy Training Series (EDTS) —a train the trainer curriculum helping to provide a strong framework from which to build community shared wealth and ownership and collective governance of our assets. These leaders have already begun to use this analysis in our campaigns and are excited to be training peer leaders in economic democracy through the Community Leadership Academy in the coming year.

**Environmental Sustainability**
The NWBCCC has partnered with Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI), Bloc Power, and Emerald Cities Collaborative to conduct energy efficiency retrofits on faith-based institutions through our Building Power Program designed to upgrade the physical plant and energy systems of local churches with high levels of local participation. The program reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves money for churches and improves their buildings, creates local jobs, and educates congregants on economic democracy and climate justice. The first round of retrofits is underway in five faith-based institutions. Most have their financing secured, and several have construction underway. Seventeen churches have fully completed their energy audits, and are assessing options for the scale and focus of their retrofits. Altogether we have 72 buildings in the retrofit pipeline from 60 Bronx faith-based institutions.

The most recent orientation for Building Power focused on engaging Latino clergy. The session was held at the Latino Pastoral Action Center largely in Spanish, and was attended by 35 new clergy. Representatives from the Mayor’s and Governor’s office both attended and encouraged clergy to participate. The session was a great success, as all clergy present learned the purpose and details of the program and left eager to apply. More recently, NWBCCC has collaborated with BCDI to organize bulk purchasing of energy to negotiate for cheaper and cleaner energy through a third partner, Nextility. We hope to expand this project significantly in the coming year.

**Interfaith Clergy Leadership**
After a significant sabbatical, the NWBCCC re-launched the Clergy Caucus with its first gathering on February 2, 2016, an interfaith space that will help develop clergy leadership connected to our mission and campaign work. Five strong core clergy leaders gathered for several months in 2015 to reimagine the caucus to build clergy leadership and connect to the justice work of the NWBCC. The Caucus aims to build interfaith fellowship, nurturing relationships between clergy leaders across faith backgrounds and develop a strong
theological foundation for our justice work. The Clergy Caucus will help engage faith communities across the Bronx in our campaigns through the development of strong clergy leadership that will help build our base and take on strategic and powerful roles in our campaign work. Local faith-based institutions have been a part of our work from our founding and are deeply grateful to be reconnecting, learning from and engaging with these various houses of worship to enact our collective vision.

**Responsible Community Development**

Our work around the development of the Kingsbridge Armory is focused on implementing and enforcing the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), and stopping displacement and gentrification. After the precedent setting CBA was won in 2013, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) focused on building community awareness about the victory, and creating a base of support for its implementation. This past year, KARA began to develop new leaders for the next phase of the campaign, hosting monthly KARA meetings to continue this process, and to engage merchants and tenants in a campaign to stop displacement and gentrification in the community around the Armory.

KARA conducted a strategic retreat with 10 core leaders where the group clarified its goals and articulated its commitment to expand KARA’s work to include organizing for full implementation of the CBA, and organizing to resist displacement and gentrification around the development. KARA members committed to active collaboration with the NWBCCC housing committee, given our shared interest in ensuring community members have affordable housing with dignity, free from the threat of harassment and displacement through gentrification. KARA leaders and staff have been present and active in the Housing Committee and have been an integral part of the development of our anti-displacement campaign.

In 2015, NWBCCC and KARA also focused on supporting and strengthening the two monitoring and enforcement bodies created by the CBA - the body of 27 signatories, and the Community Advisory Council. KARA developed criteria for those who would represent NWBCCC on the CAC and conducted elections among KARA leaders and other community members. These criteria would help ensure those selected would remain accountable to the community as well as embody the principles and values of the organization. Ivan Braun, Carol Garvin and Eddie Ramos now represent the NWBCCC on the CAC and are accountable to the larger KARA community.

In December 2015, NWBCCC hired a new full time staff person to staff the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, who brings a lot of union, political and housing organizing experience to the team, as well as great energy and a strong commitment to grassroots organizing.
Housing

Building Tenant Power
The NWBCCC Housing Committee continued its approach of organizing tenant associations in buildings throughout the NW Bronx, bringing them together to strategize to improve housing conditions and involving them in numerous Bronx- and city-wide alliances to fight for policy change for safe and affordable housing. We have been able to expand our staffing considerably this year, with two full-time organizers, one ¾ time organizer, and a Center for Neighborhood Leadership intern (who is virtually full-time) focused on housing, and other staff collaborating with the Housing Team on displacement issues, especially around the Kingsbridge Armory, and our Healthy Buildings Project. We are currently involved in 25-30 buildings.

Much of this work is focused on predatory equity landlords, who raise rents, harass tenants, and reduce maintenance in their over-financed buildings to force current tenants out and bring in more affluent renters. We have won major repairs, and reduction of harassment and illegal fees in the majority of these building. This work is closely aligned with our efforts to stop displacement related to speculation around new development (such as the Kingsbridge Armory) and new re-zoning initiatives (such as that along Jerome Avenue in the Northwest Bronx) that are part of the Mayor’s housing plan.

Bronx Healthy Buildings Program
Our Housing Committee is working closely with our Health Justice Committee to address health and housing in a holistic way. With support from a prestigious BUILD Health Challenge grant, we launched our Healthy Buildings Program with partners including Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative, Emerald Cities Collaborative, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Councilman Ritchie Torres, NYLPI, Bloc Power and several others. This program is designed to reduce asthma rates due to poor housing conditions, which are a root cause of the disease. By overlaying data of buildings with high asthma related Emergency Room visits, high health and housing violations, and buildings that are required to upgrade their boilers, the project will help organize tenants and work with landlords to implement building retrofits. This unique model aims to improve poor housing conditions, reduce asthma triggers, reduce energy bills and greenhouse gases, while creating high road jobs and supporting local Bronx contractors.

Housing Alliances
Stabilizing NYC
This coalition is comprised of twelve grassroots neighborhood-based organizations, a citywide legal service provider, Urban Justice Center, 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. The 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 very involved in this citywide coalition, and is targeting buildings owned by predatory equity landlords in the NW Bronx.

Through Stabilizing NY, two of the Bronx groups -- NWBCCC and CASA -- have decided to target Ved Parkash, who owns a significant number of Bronx buildings. In part due to our efforts to encourage Parkash tenants to call 311 about their problems, Parkash rose to the top of the Public Advocate’s Worst Landlord list in 2015! Both organizations are organizing individual buildings, and in November 2015 we held the first coalition meeting of Parkash tenants to work out a joint strategy to win better living conditions and an end to harassment, threats, and frivolous court cases.

We’ve had some significant individual building victories. The tenants of 2675 Creston Avenue formed a tenant association with NWBCCC help. They secured representation from Urban Justice Center and were preparing to go to court -- but when they wrote Parkash a letter giving him one last chance to do repairs before they filed papers, he began repairs and replaced the superintendent. The tenants were even able to have a Christmas tree in the lobby for the first time in 20 years. The tenants of 50 East 191st Street got their elevator fixed and other repairs made. Other buildings, like 2015 Creston Avenue, are hard at work and hope to have victories to report soon!

Tenant Rights Campaign
When Legal Aid Society and Legal Services were funded by HRA to provide expanded legal assistance to tenants in the zip codes where re-zoning is planned, they reached out to us for assistance in identifying tenants and tenant groups to represent, and in collaborating to empower those tenants. Lawyers from both organizations have been providing advice at our monthly Housing Committee meetings, and working with several of our buildings -- including 1776 Davidson Avenue and 2200 Aqueduct Avenue, where tenants were without gas for many months.

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 have been 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. We expect that the City will release a draft plan for the Jerome study area in April 2016, and are gearing up to see that the voices of current community residents are included in the planning process.

Real Rent Reform Campaign and the Alliance for Tenant Power
NWBCCC members went to Albany on Valentine's Day 2015 to lobby for strengthening the rent laws, which were up for renewal in June. The two sponsoring tenant coalitions share a powerful single legislative platform. In the kind of last minute deal that Albany is known for, the State Legislature and the Governor renewed the rent laws for four years, adding some small improvements, but overall disappointing tenants. Although the timeline over which MCIs are calculated was stretched out, which helps tenants, apartments still become deregulated after the rent reaches $2700, which means more and more apartments will become deregulated over the next four years.
0% Rent Increase
In the last two years, tenant organizations across NYC have made a concerted effort to win a rent rollback, arguing that owners received rent increases even when their profits were rising, and that rents are becoming unaffordable. The NWBCCC Housing Committee joined with thousands of people in May 2015 to make our case, and won a 0% increase on a 1 year lease renewal for tenants in 2015.

Former Milbank / Steve Finkelstein Buildings
Back in 2011, the NWBCCC and the tenants of the Milbank portfolio of buildings (10 buildings of which we organized 7) organized to survive a protracted foreclosure, scared off one potential buyer, and made an agreement with the new owner, Steve Finkelstein of FTRE. In 2015, we organized a meeting of tenant leaders from four of those buildings, and another FTRE building to ensure that FTRE respects the limits on MCIs in that agreement, and to demand that specific efforts be made to reduce the disruption and health hazards tenants were facing in the midst of construction. We're continuing to work on issues in these buildings, especially very large MCIs.

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 kept the pressure on until gas was finally restored in May 2015.
1775 Davidson Avenue
Tenants from 1775 Davidson Avenue, with the support of the NWBCCC and Legal Services and Legal Aid Society, organized to hold their landlord accountable for six months without gas. The owner, Moshe Piller, ranks 4th on the Public Advocate’s Worst Landlords list. Unable to cook, facing a host of maintenance issues, and still being charged the regular rent, tenants reached out to the NWBCCC, Legal Services, and Legal Aid to assist them in building a Tenant Association to mobilize tenants to 311, and file an HP action against Piller in October 2015. In addition, LAS/LSNY attorneys took the uncommon step of bringing a Warranty of Habitability case, demanding compensation for the families of 1775 Davidson Avenue. This litigation represents a new legal approach to prevent landlords from escaping accountability for their action, which we hope will serve as a model for other buildings. On December 14th, the tenants held a Press Conference with Public Advocate Latisha James in front of the building, an event that was covered by DNAInfo, Bronx News 12 and WPIX News 11.

Housing Court Action
In October 2015, we had a very successful rally in front of the Bronx Housing Court. Many of our tenants spoke out with powerful and moving testimonies about their experience of harassment from bad landlords. Collectively, we raised our voices to let bad landlords know that the NWBCCC will put an end to the injustices tenants face in
the Bronx. The event was covered by *City Limits, The Riverdale Press, Bronx News 12 and Univision 41.*

Know Your Rights Trainings
Our Housing Committee organizes periodic Know Your Rights trainings; the most recent one, in November 2015, focused on harassment. Our leaders created and executed an event where tenants were able to share their experiences and frustrations with one another while strategizing ways in which to combat harassment in their buildings. We also had a lawyer from Legal Aid/Legal Services clarify the various legal strategy tenants can take against harassing landlords. Tenants left the training excited to bring the knowledge they learned back to their buildings.
Health Justice
Building on the success of health campaigns around toxins in PS 51 and access to care for pregnant moms and re-opening the Labor and Delivery Ward of North Central Bronx, the NWBCCC launched a health justice committee for the first time and developed a committed core of 12 leaders to address structural issues of poor, inequitable health outcomes in the Bronx.

Social Determinants of Health
The Health Justice committee developed a social determinants of health curriculum in partnership with Community Catalyst and Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative and trained 12 leaders and staff to be trainers of this curriculum for community members. The curriculum is aimed at helping connect poor health outcomes and racial health disparities to structural root causes beyond individual choice and invites participants to organize to address those systemic issues. The Health Committee held its first training on social determinants of health and health equity for 60 Bronxites at the Mary Mitchell Center, led by 3 health justice committee leaders.

Community Health Needs Assessment
The Health Justice Committee also focused part of its work on developing a vision for a holistic grassroots community health needs assessment (CHNA) that accurately reflected the voices of community members. Non-profit hospitals are required to conduct CHNA to identify community needs and priorities that should ultimately inform their community benefit dollar investments which they are required to do to keep their 501(c)3 status. The Health Justice Committee held a meeting with Assistant Vice President of Montefiore Medical Center, Nicole Hollingsworth, and got her commitment to work with the NWBCCC to design and implement their 2016 CHNA.

NYC Office of Interagency Coordination
The Health Justice Committee built partnerships with the Bronx District Public Health Office, New York State Nurses Association, 1199, and Commission on Public Health System. The Committee helped launch Bill Intro 973-A, that would create an Office of Comprehensive Community Planning (OCCHP) and an Interagency Coordinating Council on Health (ICCH). The OCCHP, among other things, would be responsible for coordinating the improving healthcare delivered by City agencies and other entities that contract with the City. The ICCH would be made up of city agencies, the Council, community boards from each borough, and various organizations. Overall, the bill is aimed at easy coordination among various City and community entities and to leverage resources to support holistic health. The NWBCCC joined the ONECityHealth and BPHC PPSes and worked with BPHC around investing funds in asthma prevention.
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. Although 2015 was a year where we focused on rebuilding our youth base, SBU continued working in three local Bronx high schools to expand and/or develop restorative justice practices. Specifically, SBU trained school staff and student leaders around community building activities, built youth leadership and student led spaces that addressed issues around conflict, and supported the overall understanding around school to prison pipeline within these schools. These student groups focus on developing students’ vision, identifying their concerns, 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.

**Validus Prep**
At Validus Preparatory Academy, SBU staff worked with young people to address the challenges they faced with public safety officers in their schools and their concerns around the lack of AP courses that would support their path to college. In 2015, the Validus leadership team became the official student council on campus bringing their lens of restorative justice to address the various issues facing young people at the school. Over 15 youth leaders, made up of student government and student representatives in every advisory club, were a part of this youth circle that helped bring this restorative justice circle to fruition. Youth leaders won the addition of two new AP courses in response to their organizing.

**Grace Dodge Campus**
Sistas & Brothas United continued to work with Crotona International, High School for Energy and Technology and Bronx Academy for Software Engineering in the Grace Dodge Campus. SBU staff worked with Dodge staff and youth leadership to address the violence and conflicts happening among youth and between youth and security officers. In the Dodge Campus, SBU also worked with staff to address conflict and violence in the school by helping organize a gathering of young people that helped build the Dodge Leadership Council. SBU staff helped conduct outreach for and facilitate a student event that addressed ongoing internal conflicts taking place between the three schools within the campus. Over 15 core leaders helped support and lead this work.

**City-Wide Coalitions**
SBU continued to push for alternatives to suspensions in New York City schools by advocating for changes to the NYC public school discipline code alongside allied partners across NYC. SBU brought in young people and developed their leadership through participation in the Dignity in Schools and Urban Youth Collaborative coalition spaces. SBU staff and youth leaders led local know your rights trainings and information sessions to help educate young people and their parents on restorative justice as an approach to resolving conflicts that can increase positive outcomes and minimize the use of suspensions for minor infractions. These efforts have been focused on asking for funding for public schools to implement restoratives practices on campus and to hire Restorative Justice Coordinators to address conflicts within schools. 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)

Connected to the Dignity in Schools Campaign Coalition work, SBU hosted monthly members meetings every last Thursday of every month through June, bringing together SBU’s youth leadership to engage in this school to prison pipeline campaign work. In these gatherings, SBU leaders were developed to take part in DSC’s monthly membership meetings as well as Coalition led actions. In addition, SBU hosted several Know Your Rights Trainings, including one in April and October, training young people and parents around their rights around police in schools, the discipline code and in regards to suspensions among other important issues facing young people. SBU brought together over 100 participants, including youth, parents, staff and allies to connect to this work.

College Readiness

SBU’s College Access Program works to increase the number of NW Bronx high school students who enroll in college by providing young people and parents with one-on-one support in applying for college and financial aid. SBU also facilitated workshops and trainings within local high schools. In 2015 the program worked with the Walton Young Adult Borough Center (YABC), Teaching and the Professions High School and the International School for Liberal Arts (ISLA) in the Walton campus to host a series of workshops for parents and students. SBU worked in collaboration with Good Shepherd Services to train students on the college process and to reinforce the college culture in schools.
2015 Highlights

- SBU provided six financial aid workshops for 50 parents and students. The workshops broke down the processes and key terms of college application. During one of the sessions families had the opportunity to complete their FAFSA application with the assistance of the College Access Coordinator and trained youth leaders.
- In the fall 2015 SBU trained one Humanities II student intern on the college application process. She in turn trained 10 other students at ISLA.
- SBU hosted several CUNY Days for a total of 20 students. During this day students were introduced to The City University of New York (CUNY), its application process, and financial opportunities. Students were given the opportunity to complete their application with program support.
- As of May 2015, 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 2015 20 additional students applied to a total of 120 CUNY colleges.
- Juniors at ISLA began their college process in February. Each junior in the program has a personal college profile, and completed their college applications and are currently searching for other financial aid opportunities.
- On June 2015 SBU took 15 juniors youth leaders on a college trip where they visited 3 colleges (Schenectady CC, SUNY Albany, and Hudson CC) this trip encouraged 4 seniors to apply to SUNY campuses.

Weatherization Assistance Program

NWBCCC has been a NYS Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provider for the past 32 years. WAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department Health & Human Services (under LI-HEAP) to provide services to income eligible households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income. WAP is administered by NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR).

The program’s purpose is to install energy conservation measures in the homes & apartments of income-eligible community residents, especially homes occupied by the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children. 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 great need for this assistance. Cold, snowy winters and hot, humid summers, generate a high demand for heating fuel and electricity for lighting and cooling. It is documented that low-income households in NYS pay 15% or more of their income for utility costs - a condition known as “fuel poverty.”

Weatherization is a grant program; 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 & other NY State initiatives.

WAP helps to reduce national energy consumption, reduces carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, and lessens the impact of higher energy costs on low-income families. Performing work in the community also means that local businesses 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. Since each dollar invested in program activities can be expected to result in a savings of about three dollars in energy costs over the lifespan of the installed measure, those savings can be returned to the local economy.

Weatherization also improves the health and safety of assisted households—installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, correcting conditions that may allow dangerous mold to grow, or replacing unsafe heating systems—saves or improves the quality of lives.

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

As a result of HCR’s requirement for training and certification for most Weatherization positions, clients in our community benefit from a staff well-trained in the latest in energy efficiency technologies, quality assurance, and attention to health and safety issues in the home. NWBCCC’s service area includes Bronx Community Planning Boards 5, 6, 7, 8 and portions of 4.
2015-2016 PROGRAM YEAR
For the WAP 2015 Program Year, approximately 204 units in multi-family apartment buildings and 1-4 family homes will have been completed. Eight apartment buildings ranging in size from 13 to 36 units are in progress, consisting of privately owned buildings & HDFCs (non-profits). Additional units in 1-4 family homes (with resident owners) are scheduled, as well as Siena House, a residential facility that provides temporary shelter to 27 homeless women who are pregnant or with children under the age of three years old.

Installed measures may include: heating and domestic hot water system upgrades; replacement of apartment windows; roof, sidwall, 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 or LEDs, 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 and owner contribution. The most cost effective measures are done first.

Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
103 East 196th Street
Bronx, NY 10468
Tel: 718-584-0515 cell: 646-646-6313 fax: 718-733-6922
www.northwestbronx.org

Highlights of our NWBCCC 2016 Campaigns
The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition works with leaders in committees to address issues important to our community, supporting those most impacted to create creative solutions that build ownership and wealth and collective governance within a racial justice framework through intergenerational organizing.

Housing Committee
This committee works in partnership with other community organizations, legal support organizations, and borough- and city-wide coalitions to ensure that our residents live in safe, affordable housing that upholds the dignity of each community member.

- Tenant Leaders are working to improve the City’s 311 protocol around processing harassment complaints. Landlords should be fined for harassment and a list of harassing landlords should be made available to the public.

- Tenant Leaders also want the City’s Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force (THPTF) to appoint a designated staff person to address tenant concerns. The Task Force should enforce a zero tolerance policy on harassment and file criminal charges to all harassing landlords. Landlords with a record of harassment should be denied Department of Building permits or any form of public financing until tenant harassment ends.

**Responsible Community Development**

The NWBCCC originally gave birth to the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) to build a coalition of residents, small business owners, local unions, and community organizations and institutions to support responsible development of the Kingsbridge Armory. While there is much to celebrate in the precedent setting Community Benefits Agreement with the Armory developers, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center, committing to wall to wall living wage jobs, 52,000 square feet of community space, local hire, local procurement, revenue sharing and more, there is still much to do to combat gentrification and displacement. KARA works to ensure responsible development that benefits our community members.

- KARA Leaders will continue to ensure the Northwest Bronx community is engaged in the implementation of CBA and helps hold the developer accountable.

- KARA Leaders are working alongside the Housing Committee members to ensure that tenants, especially those living around the Armory, know their housing rights and are not displaced by greedy landlords. Residential tenants, unfortunately, are not the only ones experiencing harassment and displacement. Small business owners, so vital to the fabric of our community, are experiencing various forms of pushout with shorter term leases, high rents and additional fees and harassment with no legal protections. KARA Leaders are fighting for the
passing of the Small Business Jobs Survival Act. This bill would give tenants renewing commercial leases the right to demand a 10-year lease, allow commercial tenants to bring lease renewals to arbitration if they think the terms are unacceptable and provide other commercial tenant protections.

Health Justice
Health Justice Committee has spurred incredible interest in our members and has invited us to see--in a new way--the intersectionality of our issue committees. Health Justice Leaders will be engaging local organizations, institutions and tenant associations around the social determinants of health training to help develop leadership and connections between all of our organizing work and health justice. Leaders will continue to work with Montefiore to ensure that the Community Health Needs Assessment process is one in which community members are authentically engaged and have an opportunity to share the issues most impacting their lives.

- Health Justice Leaders are advocating for Bill Intro 973 establishing an office of comprehensive community health planning and an interagency coordinating council on health.

School to Prison Pipeline

Sistas and Brothas United (SBU) has been a strong force in city, state and national efforts to end the school to prison pipeline and build the school to college pipeline, creating new restorative justice practices in local schools that ultimately invest in young people and demanding important changes in the NYC discipline code that disproportionately negatively impacts our youth of color.

- Youth Leaders are working on eliminating suspensions for the Department of Education Discipline Code, B21 Infraction, which is currently defined vaguely as “defying authority” and “insubordination” which enables young people to be suspended up to five days for wearing a hat, chewing gum or walking away from a teacher. Youth leaders demand that young people be invested in and kept in school, not pushed out.

- Youth leaders are also working on eliminating criminal summons and arrests of young people for all non-criminal violations. These infractions should be addressed in ways that build integrity and leadership in our young people, not set them up for failure.
Youth leaders have helped create powerful restorative justice circles in local schools that build youth leadership and school unity while reducing school conflict. Youth leaders are fighting for investment in restorative justice and demand the DOE invest $20 million in restorative justice for public schools.

We demand that merchant tenants also receive the legal protections that residential tenants receive.

- Increase its membership to over 20 institutions and 400 individual members;
- Implement a leadership develop 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 innovate 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;
  - 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 25, 2016

Our accountants from NCheng are almost finished with the audit of our 2014-15 fiscal year and we expect to share the final report with the board and membership in April of 2016.

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 2014-15 year, we continued to reach out to you our membership, and to other generous individuals who support our work for financial contributions to grow our grassroots fundraising and diversify our funding sources. In the 2015 calendar year, we collected $8000 in dues and over $100,000 at our 40th Anniversary Gala! Support like this helps make us financially strong and financially independent. This coming year, we will expand and build upon these successful fundraising efforts.

Our 2015 draft financial statement will show an organization that is financially stable and strong. The board and staff worked very hard alongside close allies and friends to get us to this financially viable place. While we have significant work to do to help
NWBCCC more financially healthy, we are proud of how far we have come and how strong we are now.