



3450 DeKalb Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467
718-882-4000

¡SE HABLA ESPAÑOL!

Notes from the Director...

Greetings,

As the new year gets under way, the Support Services Department is continuing to grow. In the month of February, we were awarded 2 new grants. We were awarded a \$250,000 grant for the Building Resiliency and Vaccine Equity (BRAVE) Initiative. This program is set to begin in March 2024. We also were awarded a \$25,000 seed grant to start our Intergenerational Urban Tower Farm. We are working through the particulars as we will need to coordinate with the Older Adults and Youth Services. We are submitting RFP's for several grants including Home Delivered Meals, NYC Public Housing Trust Social Services Assessment and ESOL. These opportunities will further enhance our commitment to improving the lives and communities of those we serve.

We are aware of burdens such as inflation, unaffordable housing along with increasing mental health concerns, which disproportionately affect our community. We work diligently to ensure that these issues get addressed in a timely manner. Our Support Services staff is available Monday-Friday, from 9:00am-5:00pm and can be reached at 718-882-4000 ext. 444/366. If anyone is in need of immediate crisis intervention outside of these hours please dial 988.

Warmest Regards,

James Bishop Jr.

Director of Support Services at MMCC

**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**



OLDER ADULT CENTERS

Are you 60+ years old?

Come join our Older Adult Centers which provide recreational, physical and educational activities. To sign up please contact the directors listed

below:

Maya Doyle, Director of Main Building Older Adult Center: mdoyle@mmcc.org

Josephine Medina, Director of Fort Independence Older Adult Center:

jmedina@mmcc.org

Dr. Maria Garcia, Director of Marble Hill Older Adult Center: m.garcia@mmcc.org

NDA Healthy Families assist families in the Norwood Section of the

Bronx NDA 7:

Did you know NDA healthy families program started at MMCC in 2015

with a contract of serving 75 clients for the year with only 1 case manager on the program?

Today NDA healthy families has grown and now serves over 900 individuals and families with accessing resources for identified needs,

including domestic violence, substance abuse health and nutrition.

Programs also provide advocacy and assistance in obtaining government benefits, housing, education and employment, and other

social services. It now has a staff consisting of 1 Program Director, 2

case managers and 1 data entry clerk. It continues to grow as the

need continue to rise in our communities.....

C2C

Connections to Care: Building Resilience in Youth is presently conducting screenings for individuals aged 13 to 21. Our program is dedicated to enhancing the mental well-being of young people within the TRIE neighborhoods of the Bronx. Through our initiative, participants gain valuable insights into managing their emotional and behavioral challenges, supplemented by stress management sessions.

During the first and second quarters, our program has surpassed the mandated screening targets, thereby extending crucial support to our community. As we progress into the third quarter, our aim is to further expand our screening efforts to identify and assist young individuals in need of mental health support.

Moreover, our program facilitates referrals to mental health providers for those who express a desire for such services. Should you have any inquiries or wish to refer youths within the cohort, please do not hesitate to contact our program director, Shae at 646-581-1193.



Building
communities
one life
at a time

!Welcome

Bienvenidos, Bienvenu, مرحباً, স্বাগত, 欢迎!
to our English second language program

**We offer free English classes, Certificates of completion,
Group activities, and Individual tutoring**

Our sites with availability:

Marble Hill

5365 Broadway, Bronx, NY. 10463

Level 1-2: 10am-2pm Saturdays

Highschool of Language and Innovation

925 Astor Avenue, Bronx, NY. 10469

Level 1-2 5pm-7pm Tuesday & Thursday (coming soon)

Our sites with waitlist:

Main Center

3450 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, NY. 10467

Level 1-2: 9am-11am Monday-Thursday

Level 2-3: 9am-11am Monday-Thursday

Level 1: 11:30am-1:30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

Pelham Cornerstone

785 Pelham Parkway N, Bronx, NY. 10467

Level 1-2: 9am-11am Monday-Thursday

Level 2-4: 9am-11am Monday-Thursday

Beacon 8

3010 Briggs Avenue, Bronx, NY. 10458

Level 1-2 6pm-8pm Monday-Thursday

718-882-4000 (413)

SNAP

Vilma Santos our SNAP NOEP Coordinator of Support Services and a successful client advocate at MMCC. She has successfully reopened two cases that were closed due to missed benefit recertification and failure to submit required documents to HRA. She has developed a corrective action plan to make sure one of her elderly clients receives her SNAP benefits. Vilma has an impeccable track record of assuring that all applications sent through the MARU (FAX) are completed with a confirmation page of receipt.

HRA staff are experiencing an overload of cases and struggling to respond to inquiries. However, Vilma works diligently to ensure that her clients avoid problems with their cases and works effectively to resolve them. Vilma just was working with an elderly client who is well known at the center with a challenging case. She collaborated with a partnership contact administrator from Food Banks who can connect to HRA to resolve the issue. Vilma's passion is helping clients on her caseload

MARBLE HILL OLDER ADULT CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 5th, 2024- **Latin Swing exercise w/Walter:** This a form of exercise which utilizes merengue, salsa etc. and weights. The seniors love this type of exercise, it's held every Tuesday at 1:30pm

March 6th, 2024- **Healthy Minds discussion w/Evelyn:** This group which is held every Wednesday, will discuss different topics which consists of the following: vision board, Alzheimer, dementia, schizophrenia, bipolar, older adult caregiving, loss and mobility etc. This event is held at 1pm.

March 7th, 2024- Discussion -managing post stroke, psychological adjustment to post stroke changes and other research studies w/Dr. Jaywant from Weil Cornell Hospital. This is only a one day session which will be held at 1pm.

For any information, contact Program Director Dr. Maria Garcia at 718-562-8551 or m.garcia@mmcc.org

*March Newsletter submission for Pantry.**Volunteer Appreciation:*

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and effort to support our initiatives. In February, volunteers from diverse backgrounds united to distribute food, organize events, and spread positivity. Your unwavering commitment is truly inspiring!

Ways to Support:

There are numerous ways to make a difference at MMCC Food Pantry. Whether it's volunteering your time, making a donation, or spreading awareness about our services, every act of kindness contributes to our mission. Together, we can cultivate a healthier, more vibrant community for everyone. If you're interested in volunteering, feel free to contact Melanie Plaza, Volunteer Coordinator at MPiazza@MMCC.org

Looking Ahead:

We are gradually transitioning to Plentiful as our primary system. What does this mean for you? Faster check-ins and shorter wait times at our pantry. However, as we navigate this transition, we appreciate your patience as we distribute and ensure that all pantry participants have their Plenti-Pass QR Code ready.

To all our pantry participants observing Ramadan: Ramadan Mubarak! We invite you to join us on Wednesday, March 13th, for a special pantry distribution featuring culturally appropriate items for the Ramadan season. We look forward to celebrating this special time with you and providing support tailored to your needs.

Pantry Procedures:

Tickets for the pantry will be distributed at 8:30 am on each pantry day, followed by the distribution of pantry bags starting at 10 am in consecutive numerical order. To receive a pantry bag, you must present your pantry ticket along with a valid NY State ID or Plenti-Pass QR Card. Please be aware that collecting pantry items on behalf of others will not be permitted under any circumstances. We sincerely thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we strive to maintain a fair distribution of resources. For any inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Africa Dawson at ADawson@MMCC.org.

March Pantry Distribution Dates & Times:

Wednesday, March 6th : 10am-12pm

Wednesday, March 13th : 10am-12pm

Wednesday, March 20th : 10am-12pm

NYC BENEFITS



On February 5, 2024 from 11am-2pm NYC Benefits program put together an grand opening event at our Southern Blvd location for tenants and the community.

MMCC NYC Benefits and RY Management Co., Inc. came together for this event. MMCC staff interacted with the tenant and community discussing the benefits and services NYC Benefits is bringing to the Southern Blvd complex. During the event tenants were provided with flyers and gifts away for their participation. MMCC NYC Benefits staff will continue providing outreach to Southern Blvd complex with flyers to inform all tenants that we will soon operate these services in their complex.