

WHAT'S NEW

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142nd and 143rd streets. Included in the businesses targeted for renovation is a neighborhood butcher shop that first opened its doors 50 years ago, and has remained a family-owned anchor in the block, along with the residential Co-op that owns the commercial floor of the building and is in need of financing and technical assistance.

Our fundraising initiatives continue with positive momentum. Our goal is to make this an ongoing effort by creating a broader base of potential donors, which will allow us to solicit contributions throughout the year.

Our American Institute of Architect (AIA) award-winning office was the site for filming of a television episode on NBC's *Law and Order* during last Christmas. Staff and board members were invited to tune in to view the show, which aired last January. It has been a great year, and we are working diligently to continue providing services to meet the needs of our consumers, to fill the gaps in services, and to continue to serve our communities. ■

CELEBRATE CELEBRATE!

The American Psychiatric Association honored **Dr. Michael Ford**, our consulting psychiatrist, on attaining Distinguished Life Fellow status—the highest honor that the psychiatric profession can bestow.

Jorge Abreu, Associate Executive Director and **Xiomara Santos**, Director of Clinical Services at Jasmine Court, were married on December 20, 2003. **David Abreu** will be Bar Mitzvahed in April. Best wishes and good luck to **Richard Edwards** on his retirement. **Michael and Anita Wigler** had a baby boy. **Rowland Orakwue's** granddaughter, **Nia**, celebrated her first birthday. **Elise Taylor**, **Linda Padmore**, and **Marinelza Romero** graduated with bachelors degrees. **Adan Santos** will complete his first year at Buffalo State University. **Raymundo Sampilo's** son, **Nino-Ray**, will graduate from the New School University. **Shelley Callender's** son, **Justin**, will attend junior high school this fall. **Linda Padmore's** son, **Darryl**, and **Claudette Williams' daughter, Claudia-Jo**, will attend high school this fall.

Elisa Tamarez and **Benjamin Perez** completed 42 CASAC credits at Hunter College School of Social Work's "Understanding Mental Illness," sponsored by the Association for Community Living; **Claudette Williams** completed 56 CASAC credits. Seven members of the staff applied for the Department of Mental Health's scholarship to obtain their masters degrees at the Hunter College School of Social Work. Four Jasmine Court tenants have been hired as peer counselors.

Staff promotions include **Majorie Walters**, **Harold McBride**, **Radasia Berroa-Jorge**, **Jacqueline Reyna**, **Eliza Tamarez**, **Kenneth Catoe**, and **James Clark**. ■

NEW YORK'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Joe Weisbord

New York City is witnessing the beginning of the most significant housing initiative since the 1980s: Mayor Bloomberg's "New Housing Marketplace." If fully implemented, the Mayor's plan could produce and preserve 65,000 housing units during the next five years.

Everyone agrees that New York City must increase its housing supply, especially its supply of housing that's affordable to working, low-income, and homeless residents. The signs are clear: the rental vacancy rate is at its lowest level since the mid-1980s, and more than one-quarter of all renters pay more than 50 percent of their income on rent. The worsening housing situation combined with the recent recession has pushed many families beyond the limits of their resources. More and more households are living in overcrowded, unsafe, and unhealthy conditions; the numbers of homeless families with children are at record levels.

Mayor Bloomberg's housing plan is a critical step in the right direction. But is it enough?

About three years ago, Housing First!—a coalition of community, business, civic, labor, and religious organizations—forged a 10-year, \$10 billion plan to build and save more than 185,000 homes. The plan represents the consensus of housing

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HERITAGE HAS BEEN HELPING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS—PROVIDING SERVICES, ENRICHED HOUSING, AND CARE IN TIMES OF NEED.

WE HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR WORK AS WE EXPAND OUR CAPACITY TO HELP OUR CONSUMERS TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES AND MOVE TOWARD GREATER INDEPENDENCE.

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