

# WORKFORCE 1

Hunts Point Career Center

April 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 8



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## Success Story Featured on Bronx News 12



From L to R: Angie Kamath, Deputy Commissioner, Workforce Development, NYC Small Business Services; Rene Cordero, District Manager, Jimmy Jazz; Melissa Perez, Assistant Manager, Jimmy Jazz; Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Mayor Bloomberg stopped by Jimmy Jazz on April 14<sup>th</sup> to announce 1400 job placements in the Bronx this past quarter. Featured in the press conference was one of our very own Success Stories, Melissa Perez! Melissa came to a Fast Track Orientation with her Career Advisor from New Settlement Apartments' Young Adult Outreach Initiative and was delighted to find that Jimmy Jazz was onsite recruiting for Sales Associates and Assistant Managers. Her resume and presentation were so good that she immediately impressed the Jimmy Jazz recruiter as well as our own Account Managers. Ms. Perez was unemployed when she came to the Center and the most she had earned at any of her prior jobs was minimum wage. She was thrilled to get the offer of Assistant Manager at almost double her previous salary! Within less than a month, Melissa was serving as Hiring Manager at the Bay Plaza store. Congratulations Melissa! 👍

## A Look at... NYC Justice Corps

By Gladys Perez

Many things distinguish the Bronx from other boroughs and towns in the United States. Consider the New York Yankees, "Bronx cheers," (does anyone know why they are named that?) and the fact that we are the only borough of New York City that is part of the mainland of the United States. Some of our most dubious distinctions, however, include the story of our past, i.e., the "Burning Bronx," and the high number of our young people, mostly men, involved with the criminal justice system beginning at a young age. One new program, funded by the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), and a joint collaboration of CEO, New York City Department of Corrections, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (service provider in Brooklyn) and Phipps Community Development Corporation (service provider in the Bronx), stands out from the rest in its multi-pronged approach to working with these young people.

[NYC Justice Corps](#) combines youth development, community development, workforce development and supportive services and serves young people, 18-24. In order to be eligible, participants must live in zip codes 10451, 10452, 10453, 10454, 10455, 10456, 10457, 10458, 10459, 10460, 10472 or 10474 **AND** fit one or all of the following criteria:

- released from jail or prison within the last year
- recently completed or enrolled in an alternative to incarceration program
- currently on probation or parole

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## Center Schedule

Access to all services requires attendance at an orientation session—individuals that attend other Workforce1 Career Centers are welcome at our Center and, depending on when they last received services, may not have to attend orientation (but they will need to be assessed by a Career Advisor)

### Center Hours:

**Monday:** 9:00am - 5:00pm  
**Tuesday:** 9:00am - 8:00pm  
**Wednesday:** 9:00am - 8:00pm  
**Thursday:** 9:00am - 8:00pm  
**Friday:** 9:00am - 4:00pm  
**Saturday:** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
*(every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month)*

### Orientation Schedule:

**Monday:** 9:30am and 1:30pm (both English)  
**Wednesday:** 9:30am (English) and 1:30pm (Spanish)  
**Thursday:** 6:00pm (English)  
**Saturday:** 11:00am (English)

### Fast Track Orientations (by appointment only):

**Wednesday:** 3:00pm  
**Friday:** 9:30am

### **NYC Justice Corps from page 1**

The goals of the program are 1) to reduce recidivism, 2) to increase employment and/or education opportunities for participants, and 3) to foster community development in participants' communities.

The young adults go through three Phases in the program. In Phase I, the service provider (Phipps in the Bronx and Bed Stuy Restoration in Brooklyn) provides job training and skill-building, preparing participants for Corps "service" and long-term employment. This Phase builds teamwork, communicates the Justice Corps mission and lasts approximately three weeks. Phase II lasts at least three months, and participants contribute in a meaningful way to their home neighborhood through identification and execution of local community benefit projects. In Phase III, which lasts a minimum of 6 weeks, participants enter paid internships in public and private sector organizations that provide marketable job skills, work histories and build social networks.

Throughout the phases, participants receive a stipend of \$8-9/hour, support services which include job coaching, counseling, education services, and other resources. Upon graduation, participants are provided with job and/or educational placement and receive retention services for up to six months. In Kareem Fahim's article about the program in the NY Times, "[Seeking to Intervene With Young Adults Before Crime Becomes a Way of Life,](#)" the program is described as "a hybrid of the national youth corps movement, the Depression-era program that put young people to work on community projects, and more traditional post-prison programs that help former inmates find work, shelter and education."

While many participants are mandated to apply for NYC Justice Corps by their Probation or Parole Officers, many apply on their own, anxious to change the trajectory of their lives and establish a foundation for themselves for a better life. Acceptance into the Corps is random and determined by an outside agency. Enrollment for the fifth cohort, which begins June 17th, is going on now. Screening and enrollment will occur the week of June 8th. If you or anyone you know is interested in taking advantage of this valuable program, please contact 347-329-4004 and ask for Melissa at the front desk. <http://nycjusticecorps.org/> 🖱️

*"They do all these background checks, credit checks... what you do now is pretty much irrelevant. It's just hard."*

Yordanis Jusino, Corps Member  
 From NY Times article (see left)

### **Note from the Editor:**

We neglected to include a very valuable member of our Staff in our Staff Updates section last month. **Career Advisor Maribel Rojas-Mirabal** was in the group picture but not listed in the Staff Grid. Maribel's extension is 114 or she may also be reached via email at: [mmirabal@vipservices.org](mailto:mmirabal@vipservices.org)

## From the Desk of the Director

Dear Friends & Colleagues:

I am excited to report that the Hunts Point Career Center has successfully placed over 500 jobseekers into full-time and part-time positions since October 2008. In addition the center has issued over 200 ITG (Individual Training Grants) vouchers for trainings such as Medical Office Assistant, Bookkeeping, CDL and Security.

I would like to send a special thank you to the US Census Bureau, People Care, Inc. and Jimmy Jazz for their assistance in employing some of our great jobseekers over the last three months. I would also like to continue challenging our Community Partners and Friends to provide us with your best "job ready" candidates.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance to the needs of your organization and our jobseekers. The Hunts Point Career Center outreach team is available to facilitate presentations and recruit at your site by appointment.



Sincerely,

*Alex A. Gomez*

Program Director

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Funded by NYC Department of Small Business  
Services an Equal Opportunity Employer /  
Program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon  
request to individuals with disabilities.

### Messages from Partner Organizations

#### The Financial Empowerment Center

Free & confidential service to help you manage your personal finances and resolve any issues that can affect your credit. **Resolve** credit card and other debts, **Manage** expenses and develop a budget, **Research** and apply for additional government benefits, **Report** and resolve identity theft

Counselors available for private appointments from 9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Services are available in English or Spanish. Call (347) 329-3929 for more information or to make an appointment.

#### Bronx Library Center - Job/Career Expo

Friday May1, 2009 from 10am – 3pm  
310 E. Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458  
Call: (718) 579-4257 to reserve a slot.

#### Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP)

As featured in February 2009 newsletter...  
Recruiting goes on throughout the year... Find your community district [here](#) and your [local YAIP](#) here.

#### Health and Literacy Fair

May 13, 2009, 8:30am - 2:30pm  
Presented by the Bronx Community College Adult Education and Training Program together with Literacy Incorporated and PS 33  
PS 33 school yard: 2424 Jerome Ave (West Fordham Rd). All are welcome.  
Information: Joan Henlin, 718-289-5838  
[joan.henlin@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:joan.henlin@bcc.cuny.edu).

#### Beginner/Intermediate Level Computer Class

Microsoft Office training, Job Readiness Workshops and Job Placement Assistance available if you qualify from Bronx Community College Displaced Homemaker Program; next cycle April 27, 2009 - May 28, 2009. Candidates must:

- Be fluent in English
- Provide photo ID, proof of US citizenship or ability to work in the US, social security card for self and eligible children 18 years and under
- Provide proof of income – such as HRA budget letter, 2 current paystubs, 2 unemployment check stubs, or other letter of support.

Call 718-289-5828 for further information and eligibility requirements. You must register before you can be admitted to the class.

## Things to Do... Ways to Be Green this Earth Month

Usually Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, but this year the entire month of April is Earth Month, so we are featuring some free events everyone can participate in!

**Earth Day New York: Giant Earth Images** – Wednesday, April 22 – Saturday, April 25, 10am–8pm  
Public light show illuminating Grand Central with inspiring environmentally-themed quotes, messages, photographs, and graphics by Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein, and Rafal Olbinski, among others.

**Location:** Grand Central Terminal, Manhattan

**Cost:** Free

**Contact Number:** (212) 922-0048; **Contact Email:** [anandi@earthdayny.org](mailto:anandi@earthdayny.org)

**Celebrate Earth Day at Highbridge Park** - Saturday, April 25, 2009, 11am–3pm

Bring out the whole family to celebrate Earth Day at Highbridge Park with music, poetry, dancing, bike jump jam, forest hike, games, giveaways for pets, and the ASPCA mobile office.

**Location:** [Highbridge Park](#), North Highbridge Park (190th Street and Amsterdam Avenue), Manhattan

**Cost:** Free

**Contact Number:** (917) 587-7364; **Contact Email:** [georgedecruz191@yahoo.com](mailto:georgedecruz191@yahoo.com)

**Leaf Out for Earth Day! Lecture and Walk** - Saturday, April 25, 2009, 2pm–3pm

Join Tom Griffing, Central Park Conservancy volunteer and nature enthusiast, for a special lecture and woodlands exploration in honor of Earth Day. Learn how to identify some of Central Park's most common trees and then put your new knowledge into action as Tom guides you on a walk along Turtle Pond and in to the Ramble. Wear comfortable walking shoes! In the case of inclement weather, the lecture will take place as scheduled in Belvedere Castle's Discovery Room, and the walk will be canceled. Advance registration not required. Space is limited; please arrive promptly to ensure your seat. For more information, call (212) 772-0210. Other fun Central Park Conservancy Earth Day events, like Earth Day in Central Park celebration on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> [www.centralparknyc.org/earthday](http://www.centralparknyc.org/earthday).

**Location:** [Central Park](#), Belvedere Castle (Mid-Park at 79th Street), Manhattan

**Cost:** Free

**Contact Number:** (212) 772-0210

**Earth Day in Central Park 2009** - Sunday, April 26, 2009, 12pm – 4pm *Rain or shine*

At the Bandshell (Enter the Park at East or West 72nd Street) FREE! ALL AGES!

Central Park is greener than ever! Celebrate Earth Day with the Conservancy in the heart of the nation's most visited urban green space -- Central Park. Learn about the Conservancy's [environmental initiatives](#) through live performances, planting and mulching projects, tree care and composting demonstrations, environmental education, and crafts with recycled materials at this FREE event for ALL AGES.

**Arbor Day Arts** Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Come out and celebrate Arbor Day with a fun arts and crafts project. Learn how to create earthy picture frames from twigs for your favorite pictures or photographs. Please make sure that all pictures or photos are no smaller than 5" by 7", and no larger than 8" by 11". Participants just need to bring pictures to the workshop, all other materials will be supplied by Green Thumb. The following workshop is in concert with Antonia Pantoja Preparation Academy, and Millennium Art Academy. This workshop will be held in Adlai Stevenson Campus Community Garden and will be held by Kenneth Dale, Green Thumb. (In case of rain, will be in the Student Cafeteria Room 180). For all ages.

**Location:** Adlai Stevenson Campus Community Garden (1980 Lafayette Avenue), Bronx

**Cost:** Free