



# Journal

## NYCHA Youth Chorus Performs At Mayor's Fourth Interfaith Breakfast



Photo Courtesy of the Mayor's Press Office

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg gave a warm welcome to the the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Youth Chorus at his 4th Annual Interfaith Breakfast on December 31st at the New York Public Library. Sixteen of the Chorus's 35 members, all between the ages of 12 and 19, delighted and inspired the gathering with selections that included the choral "An Irish Blessing" and gospel singer Donnie McClurkin's "Yes You Can."

Attending the event were former New York City Mayors David N. Dinkins, and Edward I. Koch, as well as religious leaders from the City's five boroughs representing a variety of faiths.

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## Housing Bureau Police Add 128 New Officers To Their Ranks



**BRIGHT FUTURES** NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple addresses the latest class of Housing Bureau Police Officers at the NY Hall of Sciences in Flushing, Queens.

By Eileen Elliott

The NYPD Housing Bureau is 128 police officers stronger. The majority of these new officers, from the latest class to complete the Police Academy's six month training program, will be assigned where they can do the most good — Operation Impact Zones in Brownsville, Brooklyn (PSA #2) and in the Melrose section of the Bronx (PSA #7). Now in its third year, Operation Impact targets resources to high crime areas, and has proven its success with dramatic results.

Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) General Manager Douglas Apple and Resident Leader Gerri Lamb addressed the officers on January 10, at the start of a two-day orientation focusing on housing specific policies and procedures. All three speakers emphasized the sense of community in NYCHA developments and the importance of a positive relationship between police and residents.

Queens Chief Jaffe welcomed the class to the "Housing Authority family" and congratulated the probationary officers on their accomplishment. The Chief emphasized the importance of three things: not giving in to peer pressure but remaining true to the values that inspired the officers to join the force; understanding that police officers are held to a higher standard of behavior both on and off duty; and treating NYCHA residents as well as the public at

In the auditorium at the New York Hall of Sciences in Flushing,

*(Continued on page 4)*



Photo Courtesy Of the IHAD Foundation

**DREAMS DO COME TRUE** especially for 40 first-graders from NYCHA's Elliott Houses in Chelsea who were officially "adopted" into the I Have A Dream (IHAD) Program during a ceremony at P.S. 33, Chelsea School, on December 8th. Thanks to the combined generosity of Jeffrey Gural, who is Chairman of Newmark, a global commercial real estate firm, Howard Kaye, a former Chairman of Kaye Insurance Associates, Joey Jacobs and Frank Williams, both private investors, and NYCHA, these children have the assurance of tuition assistance for higher education as long as they graduate from high school. Not only that, they will receive free after-school programming, including extracurricular activities, tutoring and mentoring through the 12th grade. IHAD founder Eugene Lang led the young "Dreamers" in the Dreamer Pledge, whereby they committed to stay in school and attend college. Eighty-one percent of an earlier group of Dreamers from Elliott Houses, adopted by Gural and Kaye in 1993 either graduated from high school or earned their GEDs.

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# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

**Message From The Mayor**

**Building "A City Of Opportunity"**



Three years ago I was inaugurated as the 108th Mayor of the City of New York. I remember looking out across the crowd that had gathered on the plaza at City Hall that freezing afternoon. And in the distance smoke was still rising from the World Trade Center site. New Yorkers there and throughout the city were asking ourselves the same questions: Will we be able to come back? Can we recover?

Where once there was doubt, New Yorkers believe again. The state of our city is strong — and we are going to make it even stronger for the future. We will do that by building on our successes — and building "A City Of Opportunity." Together, we will foster opportunity by meeting the social and human needs of our people. We will cultivate opportunity by improving the quality of life in every community. We will expand opportunity by creating jobs — in all five boroughs — for all New Yorkers. Finally, and most importantly, we will bestow the blessings of opportunity on our children. That means providing all students with first-rate education.

Let me start with safety. I am proud to report that today we've driven crime 14% lower than it was when I took office three years ago. Crime is also down 14% in public housing. During 2004, we had the fewest murders since 1963. The subways are safer, public housing is safer. Last month, the FBI ranked New York's crime rate the lowest among the nation's 25 big cities.

Our success in making New Yorkers safer extends beyond reducing crime. Last year, we had the fewest fire fatalities in 85 years! In fact, there have been fewer fire deaths over the last three years than in any three-year period since the FDNY started keeping records back in 1916.

We've also committed to protecting our most vulnerable New Yorkers and we're not going to stop. During 2005, our Health Department will implement licensing and inspection reforms to help keep children who are in day care healthy and safe. And make no mistake: We are committed to keeping all New York's Senior Centers open, and taking care of those who built our city. Thanks to the New York City Housing Authority, once again in 2005, 105 Senior Centers that fall under the umbrella of the Department for the Aging, once in danger of being closed will be providing their much needed services.

We've launched the biggest affordable housing initiative New York has seen in 20 years, called the New Housing Marketplace. It's on course to meet our goal of funding the creation and preservation of affordable housing for 200,000 New Yorkers by the end of 2008. It is bringing new homes and new opportunity to communities all over the city.

The University Macomb's Apartments in the Morris Heights section of the Bronx will be NYCHA's first project to be carried out as part of the New Housing Marketplace. A developer will rehabilitate four vacant buildings and a lot to create 210 affordable apartments. In a second project, eight vacant NYCHA buildings known as the Brook/Willis Apartments, located in Betances Houses in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx, will also be rehabilitated, producing 120 units of affordable housing.

Every New Yorker deserves a good home — and that includes the one out of every 19 New Yorkers who live in public housing. So this year, the Housing Authority, helped by the Housing Development Corporation, will launch an unprecedented four-year investment of nearly \$2 billion to modernize and preserve public housing.

If you would like to learn more about what's head ahead for 2005, log onto [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) and read my State of the City Address in its entirety.

**Michael R. Bloomberg**

(Most of this column was excerpted from Mayor Bloomberg's 2005 State of The City Address delivered on January 11, 2005.)

**Childcare Funding for Working Families Who Live Or Work Below 14th Street**

The New York Union Child Care Coalition is offering subsidies to working families who live or work in the Liberty Zone (below 14th Street in Manhattan). Eligible families can receive up to \$6,000 for childcare paid to the childcare provider, for a period of up to one year. In addition to a formal childcare agency, the provider can also be your aunt, grandmother, a neighbor, anyone who is willing to participate in the program.

**Work Requirements**  
To be eligible, each parent residing in the household must work at least 20 to 25 hours a week.

**Income Requirements**  
The income limits for a family of 2 (one adult and one child under the age of 13) is \$34,348; for a family of 3 (one adult and two children or two adults and one child) it is \$43,093; for a family of 4 (one adult and three children or two adults and two children) it is \$51,838 and for a family of 5 (one adult, four children or two adults and three children) the income limit is \$60,583. Please note that only children below the age of 13 are eligible for the subsidy, however children between the ages of 13 and 18 will be counted in an applicant's family size.

**For Additional Information or to see if you qualify, please call: (212) 809-3619, ext. 19.**

This program is funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and is administered by the Consortium for Worker Education in collaboration with the NYC Administration for Children's Services.

**TAX FREE WEEK!  
January 31 – February 6, 2005**

The City and State of New York are providing New York shoppers with a week of sales tax-free shopping from January 31 through February 6, 2005. Purchases of clothing and footwear (including fabric, hats, neckwear, diapers and items used to make and repair exempt clothing) costing less than \$110 are exempt from New York's 8.625% sales tax during this week. So please mark your calendars, and remember that sales tax should NOT be charged on the designated items on these days.

**For additional guidelines and a list of exempt and nonexempt items, please visit [nystax.gov](http://nystax.gov). Flyers are available in your Management Office and Community Center.**

**EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT ARE SALES TAX EXEMPT (UNDER \$110)**

- Clothing – infant, child and adult, including athletic clothing and sports uniforms
- Footwear – shoes, boots, slippers and athletic shoes
- Clothing material – fabric, thread, yarn, buttons, zippers, etc.
- Hats and Neckwear – ties and scarves
- Purchased formalwear
- Diapers – for children or adults, including disposables

**EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM SALES TAX**

- Jewelry and watches
- Handbags and umbrellas
- Rented formalwear
- Sports equipment, e.g. mitts, pads, helmets, skates
- Pet or doll clothing

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? CALL NYS DEPT. OF TAXATION & FINANCE AT 1-800-CALL-TAX**

**October 1st – May 31st  
Minimum Indoor Temperature**

- From 6AM to 10PM**  
**68 degrees Fahrenheit**  
whenever the outdoor temperature is below 55 degrees.
- From 10PM to 6AM**  
**55 degrees Fahrenheit**  
whenever the outdoor temperature falls below 40 degrees.

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**Journal**

**71**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

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**Message From The Chairman****NYCHA Residents Celebrate Black History Month**

The Community and Senior Centers operated by the New York City Housing Authority are filled with educational and recreational programming every day, but special occasions call for special activities — and so it is for Black History Month. I hope all NYCHA residents and their neighbors will take part in these commemorative programs as either participants or spectators because they are certain to

be enriching and enjoyable. Here are some of the events planned for Black History Month this February.

Nine hundred residents from Bronx Senior and Community Centers will gather again this year as they did last year at the Bronx Zoo on February 23rd at 10:00 AM in NYCHA's joint commemoration with the Wildlife Conservation Society, which maintains the zoo, and the Bronx Council of the Arts. The day's activities will include visiting exhibits featuring the animals of Africa and their relationship to the surrounding communities and environments. Zoo staff and NYCHA artists will conduct activities with the children, including an educational scavenger hunt followed by lunch and entertainment. Call Bronx Community Operations at (718) 402-1181 for further information on this extraordinary event.

In Brooklyn on February 18th, Black History Month Celebrations for young people will take place at the Carey Gardens, Sheepshead, O'Dwyer and Williamsburg Community Centers after school, with speeches and African dances by the children and refreshments for all. At the Van Dyke Community Center on February 25th, at 10:30 AM, Brooklyn seniors will present a program entitled, "We've Come this Far by Faith." The children from two local Day Care Centers will also participate with singing, dancing and readings. And throughout Brooklyn on various dates during the month, all Community Centers will be showing movies directed by, performed by or about African Americans. Brooklyn residents should check with their Community Centers for more information.

On February 8th at 7PM, the Jacob Riis Community Center in Manhattan will be sponsoring a program entitled, "A Tribute to Black Culture," that will serve as a fundraiser with all proceeds being donated to victims of the tsunami. The children of the Center will perform an original play entitled "The Assignment," in which they are given the assignment of researching Black History. Different aspects of Black History are covered as children fulfill their assignment.

In Queens, on February 23 at 11:30 AM, International Towers in Jamaica will be the host site as the six NYCHA-operated Senior Centers in the borough collaborate on a program entitled, "Women Who Have Made a Difference." Seniors from each of the Centers will make presentations featuring distinguished persons. The overall focus will be on the late Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the United States Congress, who died on January 1, 2005. The NYCHA Senior Chorus will perform gospel music and lunch will be served.

At the South Beach Community Center on Staten Island, participants from the borough's eight Community Centers and two Senior Centers will assemble for an evening of poetry and a display of art on February 24th. For the time of the event and further details, please call Staten Island Community Operations at (718) 815-0140.

If you are a regular participant at your Community Center, you probably do not need much encouragement to take advantage of these exciting events. However, if you have not yet sampled the wonderful programming that awaits you, these and many other Black History Month activities are a great opportunity to introduce yourself to the wonderful resources NYCHA has to offer.

So, drop in at the Community Center, shoot some hoops, lift some weights, dance, play and maybe even record some music. But don't let the month go by without enjoying these events. Have a great time and enjoy Black History Month!

*Tino Hernandez*

**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ARRESTED FOR DEFRAUDING NYCHA OF MORE THAN \$70K**

On December 7, 2004 New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn announced the arrests of Phyllis Hill and her daughter, Vivian Hill, for fraudulently receiving over \$70,000 in housing benefits after they allegedly concealed their employment with Coler-Goldwater Memorial Hospital, which is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Phyllis, 50, and Vivian, 30, have each been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's charges indicate that neither mother nor daughter ever learned that it doesn't pay to lie or steal. They've learned the hard way that housing scams don't work. Government-funded housing is designed to help people in need not for those who think they can abuse the system."

Phyllis Hill has been the tenant of record of a four-room apartment at the New York City Housing Authority's Queensbridge North Houses in Long Island City, Queens since 1979. Since at least 1994, she has earned anywhere from \$26,520 to \$35,481 a year while working as a food service supervisor for Coler-Goldwater Hospital. However, she told NYCHA since 1994 that her only source of income was the approximately \$600 a month she received from an acquaintance. As a result, she paid between \$140 and \$381 a month in rent from April 1994 through January 2003 when she should have paid \$619 a month, the maximum possible for an apartment that size. As a result, she has been charged with unlawfully obtaining \$46,353 in rent subsidies.

Vivian Hill has been the tenant of record of her own three-room apartment in the same housing development as her mother since 1993. However, since 1997, she has worked as a Dietary Aide, also with Coler-Goldwater, earning between \$8,130 and \$28,125 per year. Like her mother, Vivian failed to report her employment to NYCHA. Instead, she either reported that she was unemployed or that her sole source of income consisted of monthly child support. As a result, her rent from November 1997 through March 2004 ranged from \$95 to \$129 per month. However, she should have paid \$421 per month; the maximum

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Deborah's Diary**

By Deborah Williams

**GOOD CHEER** A joyful noise was heard when a group of unexpected visitors bearing gifts appeared at the home of Althea Date in Brooklyn's Marlboro Houses on December 22, the Wednesday before Christmas. As it happened, the 71-year-old Ms. Date had been hospitalized the previous evening, which made the holiday cheer all the more welcome at her home. Pathmark Supermarkets "adopted" Althea Date's family for Christmas and the Pathmark branch on Cropsey Avenue's **Assistant Store Manager William Hardart, (pictured below, second from right)**, presented Ms. Date's grandchildren with groceries, gift certificates for clothing and necessities, toys and flowers. The grandchildren said that they would quickly bring the flowers to their grandmother in the hospital and share the good news with her. Althea Date is responsible for the care and upbringing of three grandchildren and one great-grandchild and must do so on her fixed income from Social Security. When **Brooklyn Community Operations Coordinator Sara Lee McWhite (pictured below, far right)** initiated the relationship with Pathmark and asked **Marlboro Houses Housing Assistant Thomas Matthew (far left)** to recommend a deserving family, Mr. Matthew thought of Althea Date's household. "I've known this family for five years," said Mr. Matthew. "They are struggling and need help." **Also pictured below are (left to right) two-year-old Jacob Robinson, seated on his new tricycle, Jacob's Mom Rashima Rollocks, and Salema Rollocks** who was in the midst of preparing dinner for the family when the doorbell chimed. The immaculate apartment was filled with the sweet aroma of pork chops cooking and the glow of a sparkling Christmas tree that the grandchildren had just finished decorating. Thirteen-year-old brother, Lawrence Rollocks (not pictured) returned home moments after the visitors departed and shouts of celebration started all over again. Said Sara Lee McWhite of young Lawrence Rollocks, "I can tell you, he didn't believe that anybody cared. I think now he knows differently. We are the adults, we have to take care of them." This is the first time that Pathmark has selected a NYCHA family for Christmas, but working with Sara Lee McWhite, who is herself a resident of Marlboro Houses, Pathmark donated Thanksgiving turkeys to Marlboro families. And how did Salema Rollocks, who a few days before had celebrated her 18th birthday, feel about the interruption of her preparations for dinner? "Shocked. Surprised. Happy, very happy. I'm going to call my grandmother."



*If you have good news you would like to share with your neighbors, drop me a few lines care of The NYCHA Journal/ 250 Broadway, 12th Floor/New York, New York 10007 or by fax at (212) 577-1358, or better yet, you can e-mail me at: williamd3@nycha.nyc.gov. Or hey, make it personal! Give me a call at (212) 306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.*

## The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on October 15 and 29 and November 5, 2003. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

### Prohibited as of October 15, 2003

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Bryan Prescott                    | Case 7020/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 1181 East 225th Street, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.       |
| Tahiem Washington                 | Case 7026/03 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 193 Albany Avenue, Albany II Houses, Brooklyn.            |
| Jose Reynoso, Jr.                 | Case 7033/03 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 826 Columbus Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.       |
| Rasheem Simmons<br>Raheen Simmons | Case 7064/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 707 Kingsborough 7th Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Lovinsky Minier                   | Case 7076/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 20 Catherine Slip, Smith Houses, Manhattan.               |

### Prohibited as of October 29, 2003

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Laron Bracy    | Case 4767/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 427 West 26th Street, Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.    |
| Jose Herrera   | Case 4095/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 1055 Rosedale Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.           |
| Edison Becilla | Case 7229/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 550 East 147th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.          |
| Murat Gibson   | Case 1437/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2628 Linden Blvd., Pink Houses, Brooklyn.                    |
| Jason Outlaw   | Case 3655/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 159-38 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan.         |
| Justin Moore   | Case 7321/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 51 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.             |
| Jasebe Jones   | Case 7322/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 3050 Park Avenue, Andrew Jackson Houses, the Bronx.          |
| Donna Wiley    | Case 7357/03 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 1458-60 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.        |
| Gary Martin    | Case 6237/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 2385 Williamsbridge Road, Pelham Parkway Houses, the Bronx. |

### Prohibited as of November 5, 2003

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Jose Perez                         | Case 7365/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1285 Washington Avenue, Webster/Morrisania Houses, the Bronx.     |
| Xavier Sinclair                    | Case 7471/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 752 Henry Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.                  |
| Benjamin Warner                    | Case 6703/03 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 100 Pitt Street, Gompers Consolidated Houses, Manhattan.       |
| Elmalik Covington<br>Shabazz Malik | Case 7496/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 221 Ten Eyck Walk, Williamsburg Houses, Brooklyn.                  |
| Angel Valentin                     | Case 7560/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 819 East 167th Street, Union Avenue Consolidated Houses, the Bronx. |

### From the Chief's Corner

## A Successful Reduction In Crime In 2004

The Housing Bureau hopes all New York City Housing Authority residents and employees enjoyed a joyful and safe holiday season. With another year behind us, I am happy to report that the Housing Bureau continued to reduce crime in NYCHA developments in 2004.

In overall crime, Housing Authority locations experienced a 6% reduction of reported index crime from 2003 to 2004. In the last two years, Housing Authority developments have experienced a 9.5% reduction in crime and since the merger of the Housing Police with the NYPD in 1995, the Authority has experienced an impressive 52.4% reduction in crime. Crime strategies such as Operation Impact, which deploys approximately 1,000 police officers each day to strategic locations, the opening of the Edenwald Satellite police precinct in PSA #8 in the Bronx, along with enhanced coordination between the various bureaus of the NYPD, a more efficient deployment of resources and improved command accountability have all been instrumental in reducing crime. Nevertheless, this reduction in crime could not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the residents and employees of NYCHA.

In 2005, the Housing Bureau's focus will be to continue to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the residents of public housing by implementing strategies such as Operation Safe Housing, the new Anti-Graffiti Initiative which will focus on enforcement and education, and the opening of the new Red Hook Satellite police precinct at Red Hook Houses in PSA #1 in Brooklyn. In addition, the Housing Bureau received 128 probationary police officers in January to help in this endeavor. Now, as always, we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with NYCHA residents and staff to further our mutual goals.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

## ARRESTED

(Continued from page 1)

rent for an apartment that size. Vivian has been charged with unlawfully obtaining \$24,044 in rent subsidies.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 372 residents, including 117 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.2 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. Since January alone, 77 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$1.3 million in government housing benefits. So far, 278 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$3.7 million in court-imposed restitution.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Queens Borough Management Department for their assistance in the investigations and arrests.

These investigations were conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the cases. Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

(The above information is from a DOI press release.)

## Housing Bureau Police Add New Officers

(Continued from page 1)

large with respect, including people placed under arrest.

"We care about our housing residents," the Chief said. "We can make a difference in lives, we do every day. Don't fool yourself into thinking you know more than the residents of public housing. The residents of public housing by and large know a lot more than we do. Every day we get information from residents. That comes from the relationships we've cultivated over time.

NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple told the officers that he could think of no higher calling than that of a New York City Police Officer, and especially an officer with the Housing Bureau. In presenting Management's point of view on safety in public housing, Mr. Apple emphasized the roles the Housing Bureau and the community play in cooperation with NYCHA to provide a safe and secure environment.

"Your relationship with residents is critical," Mr. Apple said. "I think you'll find that people will thank you, come up to you, talk to you about what's happening in the community. They will see you as an important part of the fabric of the community."

Mr. Apple also mentioned some of the many approaches NYCHA takes to ensure resident safety such as making sure that entrance

doors have proper locking mechanisms and installing new intercom and closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) in NYCHA's buildings. "An enormous number of people are part of the housing community. You have a tremendous responsibility," Mr. Apple concluded. "Welcome to the housing family."

Resident leader Gerri Lamb, who is Resident Association President of Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx and Chair of the Citywide Council of Presidents which represents all of NYCHA's Resident Association Presidents, reflected on her early experiences living in public housing and rejected the stigma that was once attached to living in "the projects."

"I moved into Castle Hill in 1969," Ms. Lamb told the group. "In 1969 it was a blessing. It wasn't easy to get into public housing. Public housing meant continuous heat and electricity that was included in the rent bill. We are hard working low and middle income people," she said.

The Housing Bureau, created in 1995 when the Housing Police merged with the NYPD, polices New York City Housing Authority developments through nine Police Service Areas. The new officers will be on probation for a period of two years.

**Call 311 For All City Non-Emergency Services**

# NYCHA Wildlife



The famous red tailed hawks — Pale Male and Lola — who were ousted from their roosts atop a luxury apartment building on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and then reinstated with a new man-made steel cradle for their nest after public protest late last year, aren't the only birds to have caught the public eye. NYCHA resident John Wynn of Woodside Houses in Queens is a nature photographer who generously contacted the *NYCHA Journal* to contribute a photograph he took of a red-tailed hawk about to pounce on a garter snake, right on the grounds of Woodside Houses. The 49-year-old Mr. Wynn recalled the first time he saw one of the birds of prey, on Christmas Day in December 2003. "My brother woke me and was yelling about a bird — a big hawk or falcon — outside. We watched it trying to catch squirrels for awhile. We never saw anything like it before. From that point on there seem to be a lot of hawks around." This hawk never did catch the snake. "The garter snakes don't have fangs but the hawk didn't know that," Mr. Wynn said.

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

Pretends they were hurt on Housing property?

Doesn't report their income or pretends to be unemployed?

Doesn't report everyone in the household?

Rents out their apartment?

*If you do, money is being wasted!*

## LET'S KEEP THE \$\$\$ WHERE IT BELONGS AT WORK IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT

... after school programs... play areas...

senior activities...

landscaping... a fresh coat of paint

If You Know of any Fraud or Corruption Committed Against NYCHA by any NYCHA Resident, Employee, Contractor or Vendor

CALL NYCHA'S INSPECTOR GENERAL at

(212) 306-3355

or the DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION at

(212)-3-NYC-DOI

(212) 825-5050

(all calls kept confidential)

## Youth Chorus

(Continued from page 1)

In his remarks the Mayor emphasized New York City's 400 year history as a beacon of religious tolerance. "Our forefathers vowed to create a place where everyone — regardless of color or creed — could observe their faith, and pursue their dreams. Today I am proud to join with people of faith to reaffirm our commitment to each other and to honor our diversity."

The Mayor asked for the blessings, guidance and assistance of the religious leaders and their congregations in the new year.

Following the event, Youth Chorus Administrative Coordinator Peggy Morales had nothing but words of praise for the Mayor and the appreciation he showed to the Chorus members. "The Mayor took the time to shake their hands and say a few words to them individually," said Ms. Morales. She seemed unable to contain her enthusiasm as she continued, "These children are really committed. They work so hard. They have a special something. What happens in that rehearsal room is magic."

The NYCHA Youth Chorus, led by Chorus Director Larry Matthew, was established in 1997 to provide an opportunity for youth to participate in year-round performing arts activities. Among highlights of the Chorus's career have been performances at Carnegie Hall and Disneyworld in Florida. The Chorus even has its own CD. If you are a NYCHA resident between the ages of 12 and 19 and would like to audition for the Chorus, please call (212) 427-6648 or (212) 427-8603. Oh, and keep an eye on the Nickelodeon Channel — which is airing special public service message by the Chorus.

A newly renovated **Todt Hill Friendship Club** in Staten Island re-opened its doors on December 15th after being closed for nearly a year while renovations were being completed. Under the auspices of the City's Department for the Aging and located in NYCHA's Todt Hill Houses, the Club's makeover included new ceilings, floor tiles, windows and air conditioning. Among those present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony were NYCHA's Community Operations S.I. Borough Director Carl Billington, Borough President James Molinaro and Assemblyman Michael Cusick. **Shown at right is the Todt Hill Advisory Committee.**

## What's Happening In... The Bronx?

This column is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed about improvements in their developments.



### Elevator Rehab at Polo Grounds Towers

On January 12, 2005, the NYCHA Board approved the award of an \$8 million contract for the rehabilitation, maintenance and service of 24 elevators at Polo Grounds Towers. Each of the elevators will receive new machine room equipment, complete car renovation, entrances and signals. The contract also provides for 24 months of maintenance service. Award of the contract was recommended to Mainco Elevator and Electrical Corp.

Polo Grounds Towers, completed June 30, 1968, consists of four, 30-story buildings with 1,616 apartments housing an estimated 4,207 residents. The 15.15-acre complex is bordered by Frederick Douglass Boulevard, Harlem River Drive and West 155th Street.

### Boiler Replacements At Baychester Houses

On September 8, 2004, the NYCHA Board approved the award of a contract for approximately \$1 million for the replacement of boilers at Baychester Houses in the Bronx. Award of the contract was recommended to Maric Mechanical, Inc. The contract provides for the replacement of three existing boilers with three new hot water boilers. The boilers are equipped with dual fuel burners capable of firing on gas or oil. Temporary boilers will be used during the replacement.

Baychester Houses, completed on October 31, 1963, consists of 11 residential buildings, six-stories high on 8.27 acres. Baychester's 440 apartments are home to 942 residents. The development is bordered by Schieffelin Avenue, East 225th Street and East 229th Street.

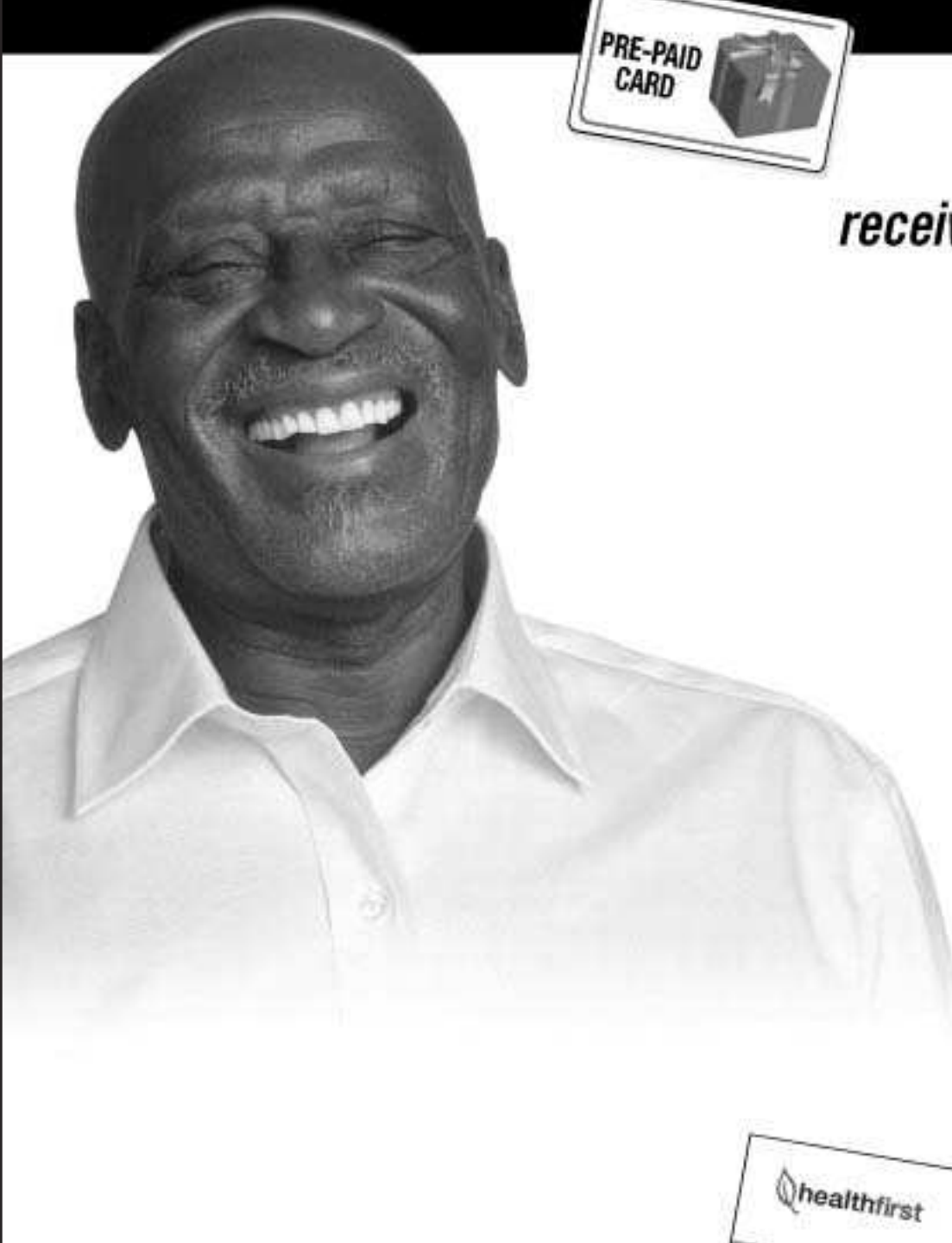
### Stairwell Refinishing at Various Developments

On September 8, 2004, the NYCHA Board also approved the award of approximately \$500,000 to refinish stairwells in various developments in the Bronx. The developments are Boston Secor, Baychester, Boston Road, Marble Hill, Monroe, Gunhill, Parkside, and Twin Parks East and West Houses. The award was recommended to N E H Painting Corp.

NYCHA has made significant progress in its Stairwell Refinishing Program to resurface stairwell walls, which decreases the chances of fires. To date, 215 developments have been repainted, 36 during 2003 and 37 during 2004.



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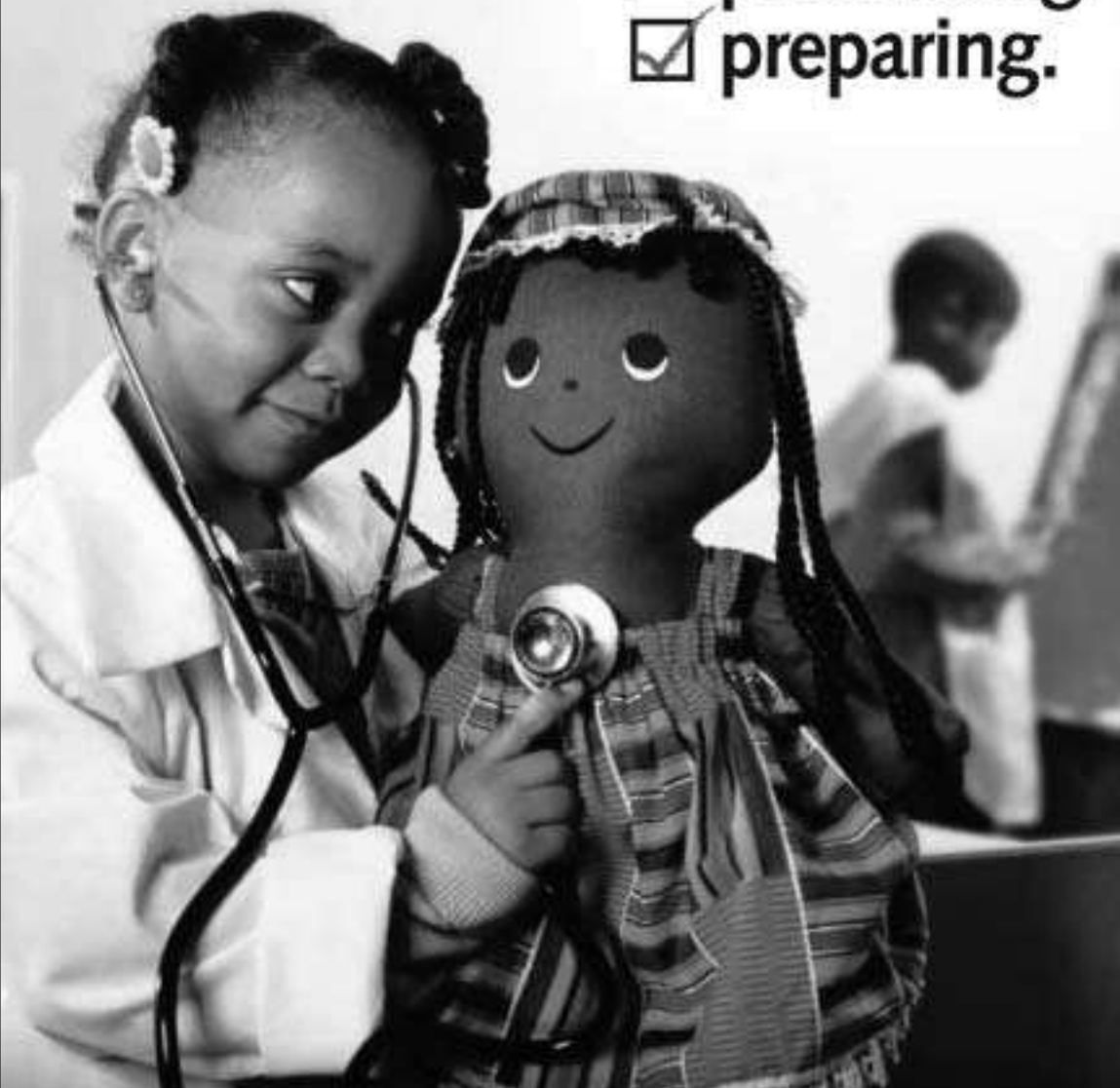
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