



**BCS**

Brooklyn Community Services

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

# Mission

**BCS partners with people to overcome obstacles on their pathway toward self-determination.**

**Since 1866, founded on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, BCS has worked in neighborhoods impacted by systemic poverty. Today, we continue to strengthen communities by fostering the educational success of children, the leadership development of youth, the employment and housing stability of adults, the advancement of individuals living with disabilities, and the empowerment of seniors and families.**

**Our work is rooted in the struggle for social justice and through action and advocacy, we commit to shine a light on barriers that perpetuate inequitable systems as a part of the collective effort to ignite change.**

# Vision

## **BROOKLYN FOR ALL**

**BCS believes all Brooklynites should have the resources, education, opportunities, and safety they need to thrive. We envision healthy and sustainable communities, where members are engaged as leaders, neighborhoods draw from their strengths and generations flourish together.**

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# A Message from BCS' Executive Director and Board Chair

Dear Friends,

We are proud to bring you a report on our accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2021—a year that commemorates Brooklyn Community Services' 155th year of service! As we reflect on our past year of serving Brooklyn, we are proud of our accomplishments during a historical pandemic, particularly in providing supportive housing and homelessness solutions and in addressing the widening digital divide faced by the children and families we serve. We embarked on an ambitious strategic planning process to focus our future in line with our vision of One Brooklyn, a place where everyone has access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive.

## This year, BCS:

- **Served on the front lines of the COVID-19 global pandemic**, to provide groceries, vital mental health services, PPE, and housing to some of the most under-resourced communities in New York City.
- **Expanded our work in supportive housing:** We opened the doors to a new supportive housing unit, **Cortelyou**, which provides **46 affordable housing units** with on-site support services for young people who have aged out of the foster care system.
- **Launched Brooklyn's first mobile shower bus** to advance our commitment to address homelessness by providing hot showers and caring support to unhoused Brooklynites.
- **Bolstered our fundraising efforts to raise critical funds for our clients during this unprecedented time.** This included raising thousands of dollars in support of NYC's only shelter for young women transitioning out of foster care.

- **Helped bridge the Digital Divide** by lessening the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. We trained staff to improve their digital skills and our virtual program offerings. We also increased access for many of our clients to the vital technology needed to succeed in an increasingly virtual world.
- **Recommitted to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).** In the years ahead, we will look internally to ensure our policies and actions reflect DEI, ensuring that all of our programs are inclusive and equitable for the diverse communities we serve.

Thank you for your interest in and support of BCS. As you review our report, know that we are off to a strong start in 2022, and we continue to be incredibly grateful for the support of our partners, staff, and community.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janelle Farris".

Janelle Farris  
President and Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn Austin".

Shawn Austin  
Chair of the Board





BCS works to achieve its mission by providing comprehensive **critical services** throughout the Brooklyn borough. With over **42 programs** across 4 divisions, BCS serves **20,000 Brooklyn residents** annually.

## Program Divisions



- **Education & Youth Development**
- **Families, Community Building, and Workforce Development**
- **Health, Housing, and Homelessness Solutions**
- **Services for People Living with Disabilities**



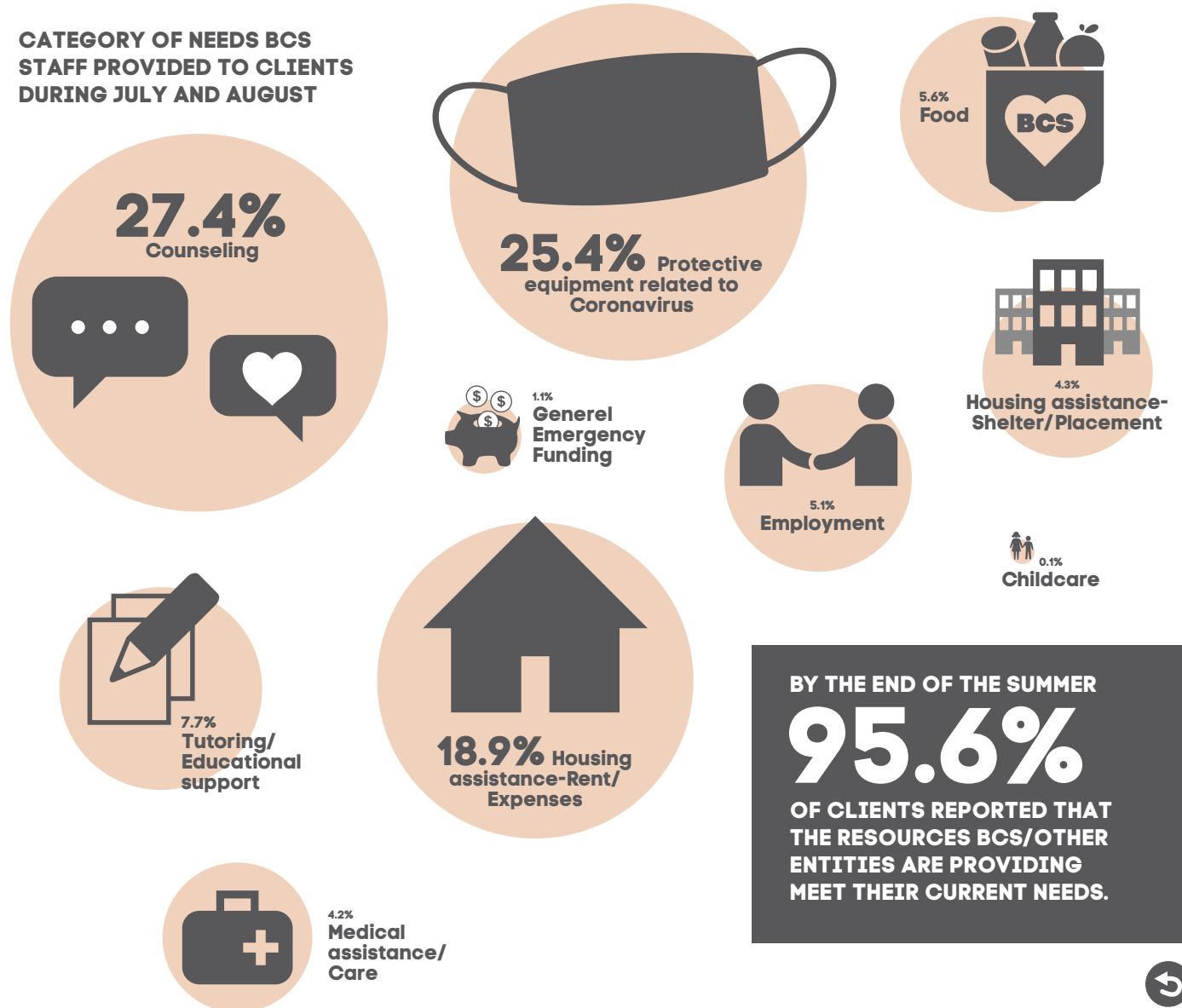
# Summer 2020

BCS staff made over 8,000 wellness checks by phone, helped clients access food, technology, health counseling, and met other crucial needs exacerbated by the Pandemic.

The majority of BCS clients are people of color living at or below the poverty line, and were among some of the hardest hit by COVID-19. BCS responded to the increased need in Brooklyn by opening **four food distribution centers** across the borough.

BCS began regular vaccine outreach and education to both our clients and staff through our **BCS Vaccine Task Force**. The Task Force partnered with the NYC Department of Health to hold a Town Hall for staff and clients, addressing many questions regarding the vaccine and serving as a trusted resource of accurate health information for our community. **We transformed our Coney Island Carey Gardens Community Center into a large vaccine distribution center**, hosted **vaccine pop-ups for our clients living with Intellectual Disabilities**, and **launched a COVID-19 Outreach Program** that connects Coney Island residents to testing, vaccination sites, and more.

## CATEGORY OF NEEDS BCS STAFF PROVIDED TO CLIENTS DURING JULY AND AUGUST



# Summer 2020



**5,000+**  
individuals benefited  
from food distribution



**10,000+**  
grocery bags shared



**1,500**  
masks distributed



**435 youth participated in empowering virtual internship opportunities through BCS Youth Development programs.** These young people promoted the Census, encouraged voter registration and helped their communities find resources. BCS began offering credentialing programs for youth attending our transfer high school and education center, where students learned about Communications Design and graduated with a certificate in Adobe InDesign.

**BCS was one of four NYC nonprofits to receive a grant as part of Nike's Black Community Commitment,** which funded these credentialing programs and allowed our students the opportunity to participate free of charge.



# Fall 2020

## BCS pivoted its services to 80% virtual programming and provided technology to clients without adequate access.

Here at BCS, we saw firsthand the need to shift our programming to virtual platforms at the start of the pandemic to keep our clients safe. As we entered into Fall of 2020, we **provided over 90 hours of virtual tutoring to students monthly** and served **1,000 adults with serious mental health concerns or intellectual disabilities with virtual health services.**

Yet for many of our clients, technology access was becoming even more crucial. We saw our hardest hit communities falling behind because of the widening **Digital Divide**, the gulf between those who have access to computers and technology and those who do not.

### In response to the Digital Divide, BCS:

- Drew upon our long standing partnership with the **NY Times Neediest Cases Fund**, which provides support to numerous BCS clients. One of our recent high school graduates, Gilbert, received a computer, desk, and chair to complete his remote college coursework from his one-bedroom apartment that he shares with his family.
- Raised over \$16,000 in **Giving Tuesday** funds in support of our virtual programming. With these funds we were able to purchase computers, tablets, and smartphones for clients using our virtual services.
- Partnered with the NYC Department of Education to open **BCS Learning Labs**. BCS Learning Labs provided after-school childcare as well as computer access to students whose schools offered only remote classes. These sites allowed parents to continue to work while providing a safe learning environment for their children.



# GIVING TUESDAY



# Spring 2021

BCS launched new programs including **Brooklyn's first mobile shower bus**, providing 50 hot showers a week, hygiene kits and referral services to unhoused Brooklynites.



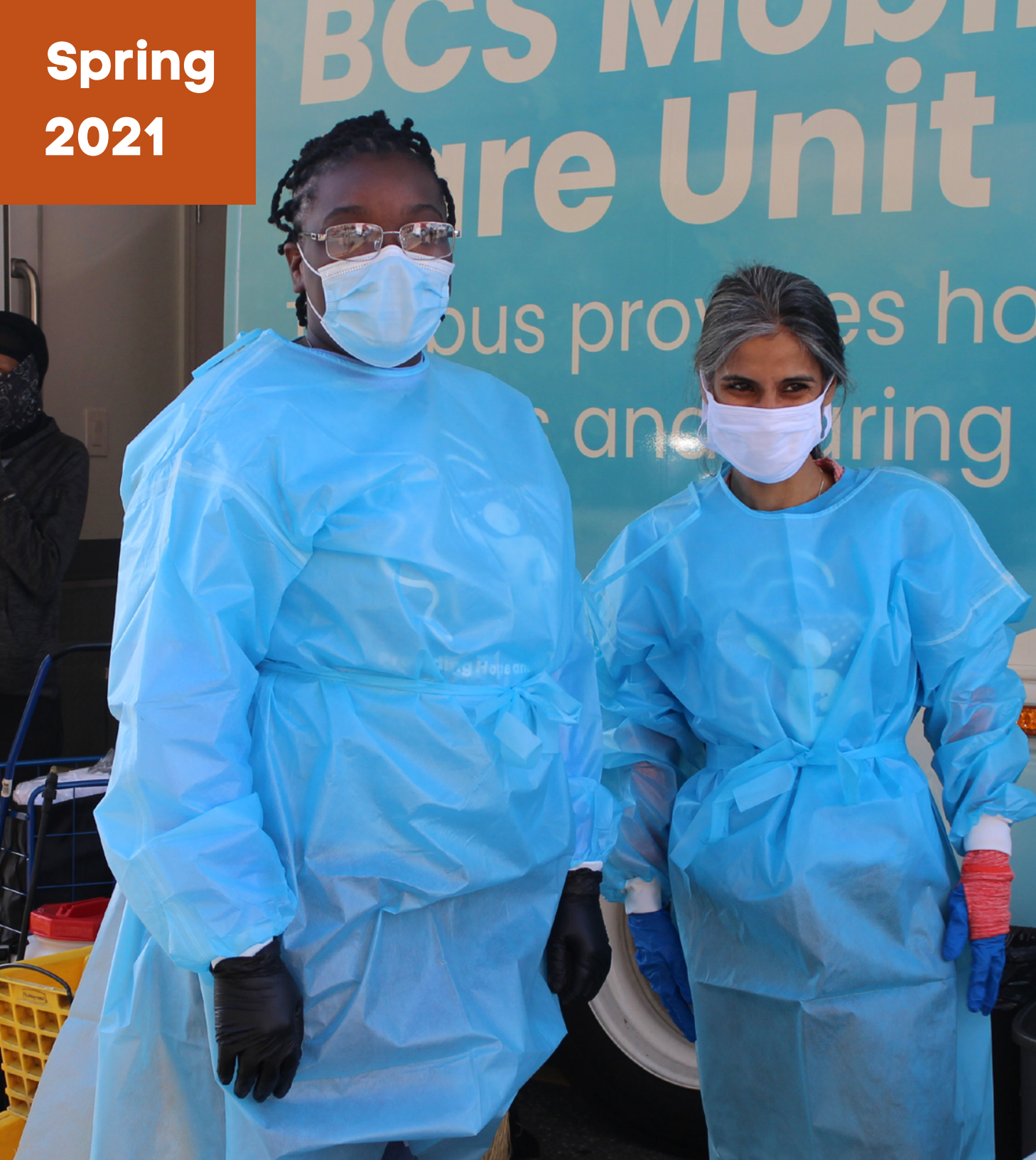
In April 2021, the **BCS Shower Bus program** officially **hit the road**, providing mobile hot showers and caring support to unhoused Brooklynites. The bus adopts a holistic approach to hygiene by also giving out clean towels, shampoo, shaving kits, soap, snacks, fresh socks and underwear, laundry services, and a safe space to relax. Program staff who work at the bus are already building relationships with clients, getting to know their individual needs and connecting them to support around housing, mental health, education, and employment.

Today, the bus is an active participant in community-wide health initiatives, joining the **Brownsville Safety Alliance**. Organized by the 73rd precinct, this initiative aims to reduce over-policing and address chronic quality of life issues in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The bus joined the precinct and our community partners to bring hot showers, hygiene kits, and other vital social services support to Brooklyn residents.

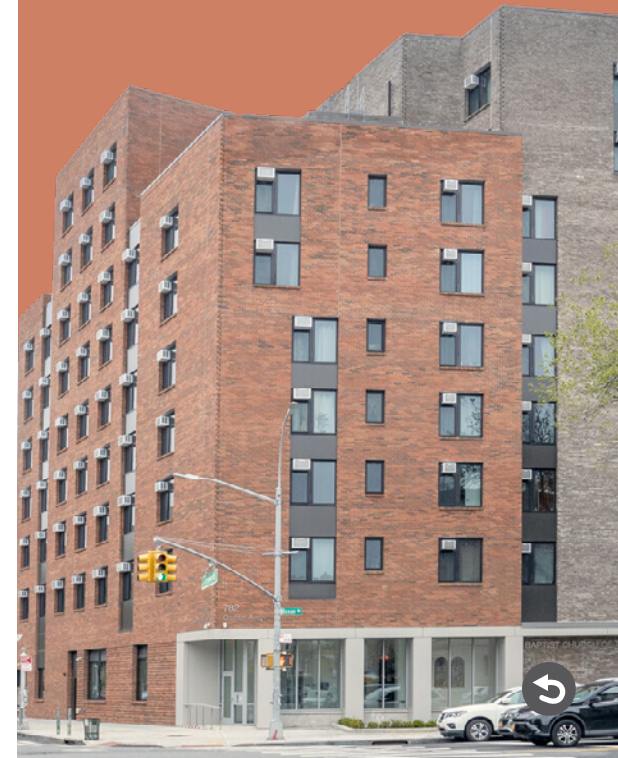




Spring  
2021

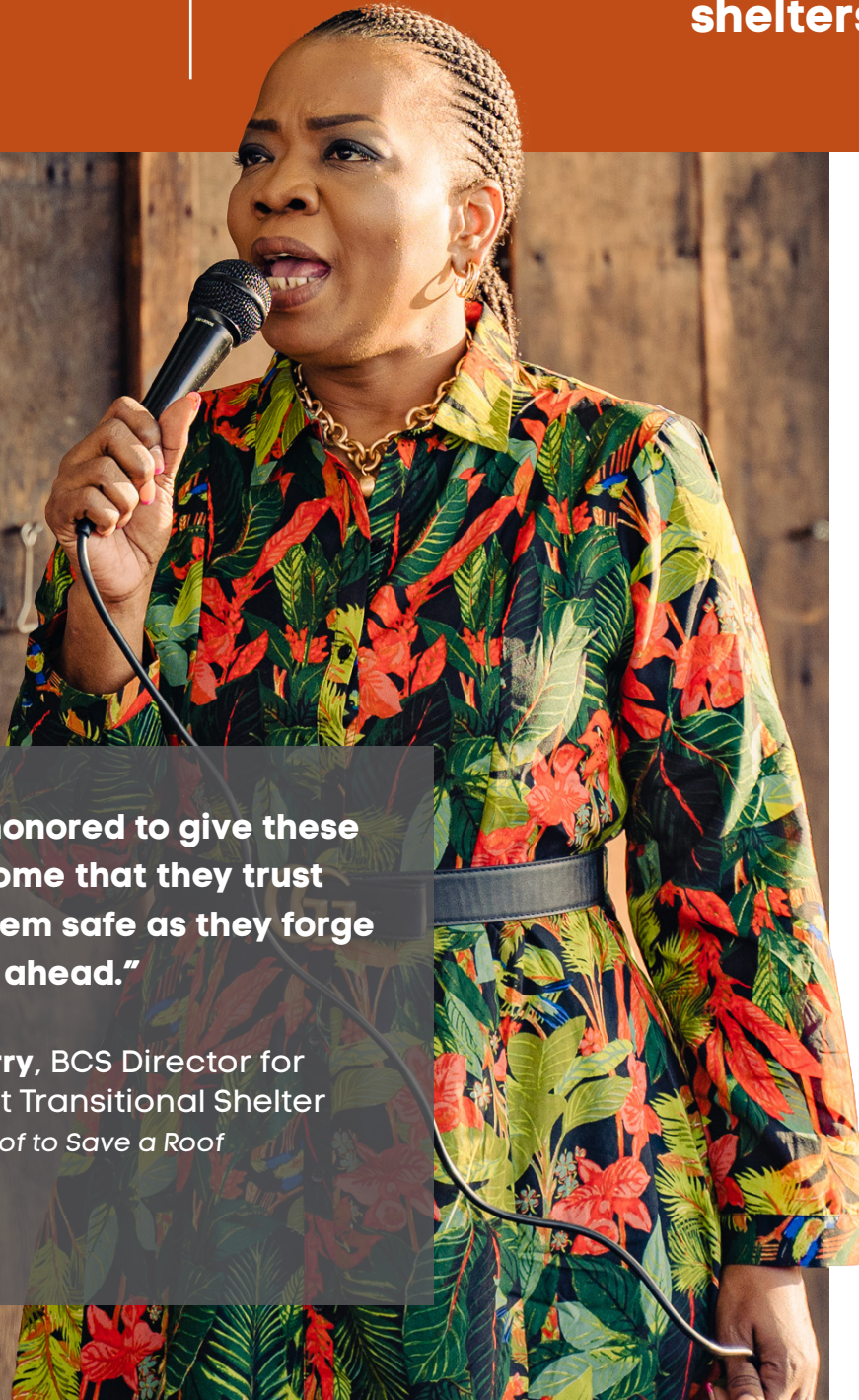


BCS opened **Cortelyou Supportive Housing Development** in Flatbush, Brooklyn, providing **46 affordable housing units with on-site support services for the most vulnerable New Yorkers**. The site serves individuals who aged out of the foster care system, the formerly homeless, and individuals with severe mental illness. Services at Cortelyou are now in full swing, with support groups for residents, one-on-one therapy sessions, and support for building community and life-skills beyond living at the development.



# Summer 2021

## BCS safely operated homeless shelters **24/7** throughout COVID-19.



**“We are so honored to give these women a home that they trust will keep them safe as they forge a new path ahead.”**

**Adrienne Terry**, BCS Director for Turning Point Transitional Shelter  
*At Raise the Roof to Save a Roof*

When COVID-19 first hit Brooklyn, the BCS staff who run our shelters prioritized the needs of the homeless community over the fear of the unknown. These human services employees at BCS are essential to combating COVID-19. Their work did not stop during the pandemic, and continues to be vital to our community as we equip residents for recovery.

**One of these shelters, The Turning Point Women’s Shelter, is the only shelter of its kind in New York City that serves women ages 18 to 21.** The shelter empowers women to obtain permanent housing and develop independent living skills, partnering with other BCS Programs to give residents the resources they need: from connecting residents to our Education Center to earn their High School Equivalency Diplomas, to directing them to our Mental Health Clubhouse to address chronic mental illness.

**Throughout the pandemic, BCS saw that the Turning Point Women’s Shelter roof needed serious repair.** Funding allocated by New York City to repair the roof covered less than ¼ of the cost, so BCS turned to the Board of Directors for support.

In response, BCS Board Member Dana Simmons-Greco hosted a fundraising event at the Brooklyn Grange. Board Members, staff members, and friends of BCS gathered to raise critical funds for the shelter. They learned about the resilience of the Brooklyn women residing there from the shelter’s program director, Adrienne Terry. **“Raise the Roof to Save a Roof” supported the shelter with over \$30,000, successfully aiding in the repair of our women’s shelter home.**



# BCS Supporters

## \$100,000 & Above

Sally R. Brody  
Steven B. Klinsky  
The New York Times  
Neediest Cases Fund

## \$10,000-99,999

C-III Capital Partners LLC  
Citigroup  
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Fiduciary Trust Charitable  
Ernst & Young  
Green Lewis Charitable Fund  
Hyde and Watson Foundation  
Kohlberg Kravis Roberts  
Morgan Stanley Foundation  
RXR Residential  
The Leibowitz and Greenway  
Family Charitable Foundation  
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Nike, Inc.  
PwC LLP  
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Lorraine DiPaolo  
Alan Gallo  
Irene Van Slyke  
Steve Williamson

## \$5,000-9,999

2622 LLC  
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The New York Jets Foundation, Inc.  
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Richard W. Moore, Esq.  
Michael E. Rosenberg  
Terri Seligman  
Dana Simmons-Greco  
Claude Stern  
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# BCS Supporters continued

## \$1,000-4,999

American Endowment Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable  
Gift Fund  
Broadway Stages  
Company SSB  
Baumrind & Baumrind  
Management  
Credit Suisse  
CRH Foundation  
Elefterakis & Elefterakis P.C.  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
In Brooklyn  
Federation of Protestant  
Welfare Agencies  
Jewish Community Federation and  
Endowment Fund  
Kunin Family Foundation

M.C. O'Brien, Inc.  
Metzger-Price Fund, Inc.  
Moses L. Parshelsky Foundation  
S&P Global  
Schroder Investment  
Management North America  
The Cowles Charitable Trust  
The Generous Lemon Charitable  
Fund at Schwab Charitable  
The Laura B. Vogler  
Foundation Inc.  
U.S. Bank Foundation  
Urban Projects Collaborative, LLC  
WowToyz  
Kristin Becker  
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Howard S. Kelberg  
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Nancy Locker  
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Conor McCaskey  
Gerald McGinley  
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Marla G. Simpson  
Dennis Sullivan  
Joseph V. Taranto  
Urban Projects Collaborative, LLC  
Lindsay Weiman  
Rose Weisbecker  
Neal Zephyrin



# BCS Supporters continued

## \$500-999

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B.A.M.B.O.O Inc. - The Black & Brown  
Podcast Collective  
Boston Foundation  
Crown Janitorial Products  
DTCC Cares  
Consolidated Edison  
Fidelity Charitable  
Google  
Houghton Mifflin harcourt  
Law Firm of Candace C. Carponter  
Oaktree Capital Management L.P.  
Oath Inc.  
PVH Corporation  
The Commonwealth Fund  
Viacom  
John Angiolillo, M.D.  
Nancy C. Berlinger  
Karen Blake  
Harry Bolick  
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Marcia Del Rios  
Mary B. Early  
Antonio Gagliardi  
Mark Germann  
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William P. O'Brien  
Karen A. Phillips  
Jerry Rivera  
Sara Rodriguez  
Tiana Rounds  
Andrea Schmitz  
Mary Shuford  
Tupper Thomas  
Ashlee Virtue  
Susan M. Yohn

## \$250-499

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The Guardian Life Insurance  
Company of America  
Two Sigma  
Maria Badali  
Sybil K. Baldwin  
Jennifer J. Austin  
Angela Banks  
Astrid Baumgardner  
Christian Bergeron  
Jon Bonné  
Jen Bryson  
Nick Canfield  
Steve Chase  
Alexander Christensen  
Julie Chudow  
Alice A. Clifton  
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Sonya Conway  
Najee Coverson  
Carolyn E. Demarest  
Kenneth Diamond  
Saul Ehrlich  
Connie Fishman  
Pam Flynn  
Mary Gallo  
Judith Hatch  
Tom M. Hayes  
Rashidi Hendrix  
Sharland Hendrix  
Tamika Joseph  
Syed Kareemullah

Liam Kemmerley  
Amenan Kouadio  
Joan Kronick  
Juliet Lewis  
Samuel Longair  
Cynthia Maloney  
Maureen McCarthy  
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James Raimes  
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Jonathan Reiss  
Jerry Rivera  
Robert H. Rodgers, Jr.  
David M. Sherman  
Mary Shuford  
Patricia J. Simpson  
Robert Sorge  
Michael Torres  
Ben West  
Patti Wu



# Financial Highlights

## OPERATING REVENUES

Public Support	\$	3,724,789
Governmental Support	\$	24,425,942
Other Revenue	\$	996,376
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,147,107</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Childhood and Family Services	\$	4,452,858
After-School Education	\$	2,282,144
Education Center	\$	554,115
Youth Development	\$	4,924,140
Health and Housing	\$	6,440,668
Workforce Development	\$	1,188,467
Developmental Disabilities	\$	1,924,575
<b>Total Program Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,766,967</b>
Management and Administration	\$	6,723,684
Fundraising	\$	775,956
<b>Total Support Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,499,640</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,266,607</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>54,194,975</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,886,625</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,308,350</b>



# Board of Directors

**Shawn V. Austin, *Chair***

Head of Accident & Health, North America  
AIG

**Elizabeth Christensen, *Vice Chair***

Private Sector

**Andrew L. Hamm, *Treasurer***

Prime Finance  
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**Peter Cahill, *Secretary***

Associate General Counsel  
Ernst & Young, LLP

**Akash Agrawal**

Director  
Head of USD Interest Rate Swaps Trading  
Credit Suisse

**Eric Ceresnie**

Partner  
Hawthorn Equity Partners

**Najee Coverson**

Vice President  
Rockwood Capital

**Dave R. Frederick**

Senior Compliance Manager  
Schroders

**Alan Gallo**

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Partner, Global Assurance Quality-Risk  
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**Aaron Radin**

Director, Global Investment Programs  
Meta

**Sara Rodriguez**

Senior Vice President  
Documentary Programming  
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**Wendy Scarlett**

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Business Development  
Popular Bank

**Dana Simmons-Greco**

Owner  
wino(t)

**Stephen Z. Williamson**

Law Office of Stephen Z. Williamson, P.L.L.C.

**Neal A. Zephyrin**

First Vice President &  
Head of Treasury Risk Management  
Credit Industriel et Commercial

**Emeritus:**

David O'Connell  
Aaron Dean



## Contact Information

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**WeAreBCS.org**