

BCS

Brooklyn Community Services



Here for Brooklyn



Here for 20,408 Brooklynites in 2023

- **14,000+ residents of all ages** supported through services geared toward Families, Community Building, and Workforce Development, including community center programming, family therapy, public health outreach, and more.
- **2,000+ young people** participated in our Education and Youth Development programs, where we provide high-quality in-school and after-school enrichment.
- **1,100+ youth and adults** served at our Street Outreach mobile units with health and hygiene support, HIV testing for high-risk populations, and addiction and intervention resources.
- **900+ people living with mental illness** and developmental disabilities received help through individualized occupational therapy, case management services, and volunteer and creative expression opportunities.
- **750+ immigrants, asylum seekers,** served through English as a second language and digital literacy classes, and family and community resources and events
- **217 units of shelter** and supportive housing operated, for people living with disabilities, homeless residents, and people in need of safe spaces.



LAVELLE, PHILLIP, AND BILL

Lavelle, Phillip, and Bill each found a home at BCS' Greater Heights Clubhouse (GHC), a program that supports people with severe mental health illness with recovery, housing, and career resources. The Clubhouse's model offers a collaborative approach where members and staff work side-by-side.

Long-time GHC staff member Bill is confident that the program's model provides sustainable support to individuals looking to invest in their own recovery. He is inspired daily by Clubhouse members like Lavelle and Phillip.

"As staff, our job is to recognize the strengths and talents of the members and to try to help bring them out. Whenever any of our members succeed, it inspires all of us to do better. I can't think of two guys who do more to help make our community prosper," Bill said.

For members like Lavelle and Phillip, the GHC is a place where they can work to achieve their goals. Both of them lead tours for new members, write articles for the GHC's monthly newsletter, and volunteer to clean the space.

"You do so much here that you can put on your resume," Lavelle explained. Phillip, who commutes two hours from Staten Island to the Clubhouse in Bushwick each day, agreed.

No matter what the future has in store, Lavelle, Phillip, and Bill shared that they will always remain part of the GHC community. "Membership is for life," Phillip said. "No one is left out."



Lavelle, Phillip, and Bill each found a home at the Clubhouse.

NATHANIEL

Nathaniel used to be a part-time dad. He says he was there, but he really wasn't there. Now, after working with BCS' Fatherhood Initiative, he is a 24/7 dad.

The Fatherhood Initiative helps non-custodial fathers reconnect with their children and develop essential parenting skills through services like conflict resolution training, father-to-father mentoring, child support and visitation assistance, and counseling.

"Parenthood is day-to-day," Nathaniel said. "I'm learning that fatherhood is not just about financial support—it's about always being there for your kid."

Nathaniel joined the Fatherhood Initiative a year ago with the goal of reconnecting with his 9-year-old son, Jeremiah. Today, they are successfully rebuilding their relationship. Jeremiah says his dad is "funny" and that he enjoyed celebrating Father's Day with him this year.

On what he has learned so far, Nathaniel said, **"I've learned to be more patient with myself. Because the more patient you are with yourself, the more patient you'll be with your kids."**

In the future, Nathaniel looks forward to continuing this growth as a father and spending more time with his son.



Nathaniel is now a full-time, fully engaged dad.

PAM

Meet Pam, Director of BCS' Public Health Disparities Program. Pam joined the program in 2021, bringing with her a Master's Degree in Public Health and an expansive background working in the field—from AIDS epidemiology research to healthcare planning.

The Public Health Disparities Program provides health support to Brooklyn neighborhoods disproportionately affected by common health issues. While the program's work initially centered on providing COVID education and resources to the East New York and Brownsville neighborhoods, it has since evolved to bring other critical health support to these communities.

"This past spring, our work shifted to address the "social determinants" of health—whether people have healthcare, housing, food, economic stability, education," Pam said. **"Now, we're doing screens and finding out what people in the community desperately need."**

For Pam, the impact of public health work is amplified by community partnerships. The program recently partnered with BCS' CHAMP (Community Health and Mindfulness Program) for an anti-bullying event, where staff joined forces to address the community's holistic needs.

"We can do a lot more when we work together," Pam said. "We still have a lot of work to do, but it's worth the effort."



"We can do a lot more when we work together."



MISSION

Brooklyn Community Services (BCS) partners with people to help them 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.

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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