



WE ARE Brooklyn



SUPPORTIVE CONNECTED

DYNAMIC

RESILIENT



DEPENDABLE



COMPASSIONATE
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

WE ARE
BCS

Brooklyn Community Services

In 2025, BCS served more than 14,000 Brooklynites through over 50 programs at 25 sites across the borough.



4,000 people accessed care through our health, housing, and homelessness programs. These programs provide access to shelters, stable housing, and essential health and wellness services for people who are homeless and underhoused, including nearly 2,000 people served through our Shower Bus/Outreach program.

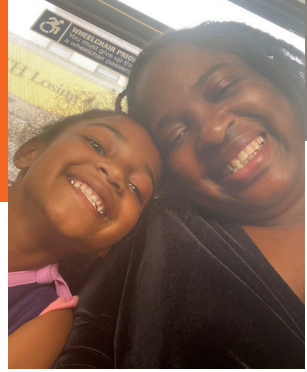
2,200 individuals and families participated in a range of art and education activities, workforce development programs, counseling services, and community events offered through our family and community building programs at community centers across Brooklyn.

1,800 young people engaged in high-quality STEM, reading, and extracurricular activities through after-school programs in public elementary and middle schools and in community centers throughout the borough.

900 people living with mental illness and developmental disabilities found support through job readiness training, social skills development, and mental health services. This includes nearly 300 members of the BCS Greater Heights Clubhouse, who not only participate in programs and receive services but are also trained to advocate for people with mental illness at the city and state levels.

VERNESSA

Clubhouse Member



When Vernessa first stepped into the BCS Greater Heights Clubhouse in 2013, she was searching for a way forward – and found much more. Recovering from the trauma of gun violence, she says, “This program allowed me to turn my life around – to see things from a different aspect.”

Through the Clubhouse, Vernessa focused on her goals, addressing her mental health, preparing to return to work, and finding purpose in everyday life. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, she also navigated life in a new country. With BCS’ support, she joined work programs, gained employment, and became a U.S. citizen.



The support went beyond employment. While in the program, she had a daughter, and the Clubhouse community provided love, clothes, diapers, and essentials. “It gave me a place to heal,” she recalls.

Now a wife and mother, Vernessa applies what she learned daily – from cooking and budgeting to patience and parenting.

“Teaching my daughter to budget, supporting my husband, and learning to be patient – that’s why we’ve been together six years.”

When asked what “We Are Brooklyn” means to her, she says, **“We are a community. We help one another. We are non-judgmental. We are a team.”**



JODI

Interim Co-Executive Director



For more than two decades, Jodi Querbach has been part of the heartbeat of Brooklyn Community Services. Since joining BCS in 2004, she's worn many hats – from frontline roles to Interim Co-Executive Director – but one thing has never changed: her deep commitment to Brooklyn.

“I live in Brooklyn. I raised my family here. My kids have gone to BCS programs,” Jodi shared. “I see the impact of BCS every day – in my neighbors and in the thousands of clients I’ve met. When you see that up close, it keeps you going.”

That personal connection grounds her leadership. Over 20 years, Jodi has watched BCS evolve while staying true to its mission of compassion, integrity, and innovation. “Even though we’re one of the oldest human services organizations in New York City, we’re incredibly adaptable,” she said. “Whether it’s Superstorm Sandy, COVID-19, or other crises, BCS always meets the moment.”

Jodi’s early work in preventive programs showed her the power of multigenerational impact. “Families I met as children returned years later with kids of their own because they trusted us,” she recalled.

That legacy of trust and resilience inspires this year’s theme: We Are Brooklyn. “Our clients are tough and resilient – and so are we,” Jodi said. “We can only do this together – staff, community, and donors alike.”



For Jodi, BCS isn’t just where she works – it’s home. “BCS is part of Brooklyn’s story – past, present, and future.”

JOMARI

Ed Center Participant



Seventeen-year-old Jomari, a proud Brooklynite from Sunset Park, carries her Ecuadorian family's hopes and dreams every day. "My parents came from

Ecuador," she says. "What I want is to find my purpose – what I really like to do in life." For her, that purpose is rooted in love, family, and gratitude.

Her mother's sacrifices fuel her drive. "She's done so much for my brother and me. I want to take care of her when she can't take care of herself, and help my little brother figure out his life too," she explains.

Through BCS, Jomari has found more than a program – she's found a space to grow, connect, and dream. "Being here is an opportunity to open up and meet new people," she says. Surrounded by mentors and peers who see her potential, she's learning to believe in herself and the life she envisions.

Jomari's journey reflects this year's theme, We Are Brooklyn – celebrating resilience, connection, and possibility across generations. **"I want to make my family proud," she says. "I want to be someone who makes a difference."** In Jomari, we see the next generation of Brooklyn – bold, hopeful, and determined.



BCS

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ABOUT BCS

Since 1866, BCS has stood alongside our Brooklyn neighbors, working to dismantle systemic poverty and strengthen the communities we call home. Through education, workforce development, housing, and a wide range of human services, we help create safe, supported, and resilient neighborhoods where every Brooklynite has the opportunity to thrive.

As we approach our 160th year, BCS remains deeply committed to expanding opportunity and equity—fostering the educational success of children, the leadership of youth, the stability of adults, the inclusion of people with disabilities, and the empowerment of seniors and families across our borough.



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TODAY!**