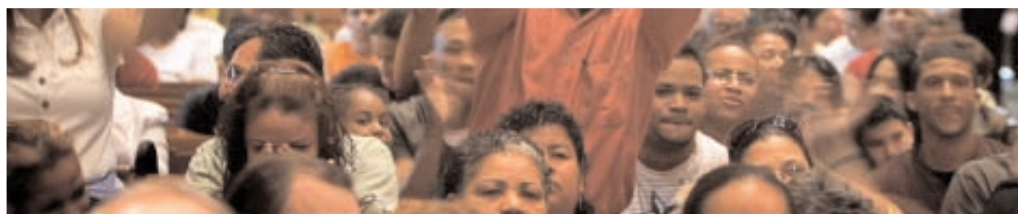


NORTHWEST BRONX COMMUNITY & CLERGY COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



A NEW DAY

Building Leaders *in the* Northwest Bronx
for a Time of Change



PRESIDENT'S REPORT | TREASURER'S REPORT | EDUCATION
SISTAS AND BROTHAS UNITED | COMMUNITY/CLERGY
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I wish to thank all of the members, supporters and allies of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition and Sistas and Brothas United (SBU) for a tremendous year!

We really put community values into action, from the neighborhood to the national level!

After several years away from national work, we used 2008 to reclaim our place at the national table. In January, we became affiliates of the National Training and Information Center (NTIC) and in August we became affiliates of the Gamaliel Foundation. The mission of NTIC is to build the leadership and power of organizations throughout the country that are fighting for economic and racial justice. Already we have put education and school construction back on the national table through our work with NTIC. One of our Board Members, Heidi Hynes, met with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on May 9 to demand bold action to halt the foreclosure crisis. We had a great time bringing more than fifty youth and adult leaders to the National People's Action Conference in D.C. last April and we are headed back there in March 2009.

The Gamaliel Foundation's mission focuses on empowering faith based organizations and communities, so that people can have an impact on the economic, political and environmental policies that affect their lives. Gamaliel's Executive Director, Greg Galluzzo, is working directly with us to build a strong Clergy Caucus and institutional organizing program that will result in a meeting of 1,500 community leaders in the Northwest Bronx in the fall of 2009. Through both NTIC and the Gamaliel Foundation, we are leading the way on relationships that build a broader and more effective national social justice movement.

We are also a core member of the Campaign for Community Values at the Center for Community Change. On Dec. 4, 2008, we brought one hundred community leaders to "Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community, Faith, and Democracy" in Washington D.C. In recognition of our growing national power, I was asked to co-chair the forum and Rev. Brenda Berry (NWBCCC Board Member and Pastor of University Heights Presbyterian Church) gave the closing prayer. In front of a crowd of 2,500 community leaders from across the country I moderated a fascinating series of conversations between community leaders and officials in President Barack Obama's Administration.

Moderating the forum was an important moment for the organization and myself personally this year, but I am



TERESA ANDERSEN
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

equally proud of the disciplined and smart base-building that we are doing right here in the Bronx. We are deliberate in expanding our membership base by recruiting institutional members; we are improving our fundraising database so that we can track individual and institutional membership dues; and we are working to dramatically increase donations and dues in order to diversify our funding base.

We also made some major decisions about our leadership development structure and advanced with a winning strategy that will thrust the NWBCCC into the forefront of local organizing in the Bronx and in NYC. At our Leadership Retreat in Sept of 2008, over 40 members decided that we would put leaders back into the center of the organization. We unanimously decided to build a Leadership Council, where decisions and commitments would be made, and a new culture of energy and accountability would emerge. We would face 2009 with a rejuvenated sense of passion and determination and we would face this under the new direction of two new Co-Executive Directors, Ms. Laura Vazquez and Ms. Alecia Anthony. Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Anthony have grown with the NWBCCC for a combined total of 19 years and we expect them to continue to do great things!

It is imperative that the NWBCCC continues to bring our relational spirit and firm belief that grassroots leaders must be at the decision making table for all our campaigns, to plan the organizing agenda for 2009 and to execute the strategies and actions that will bring about progressive change. We want to win big in 2009 and we believe that grassroots leaders must be at the heart of any successful plans for next year.

Of course, we cannot forget the important victories that we have won this year. We helped Individual Pathways organize and save their school, we initiated negotiations with the Related Companies about a Community Benefits Agreement at the Kingsbridge Armory, we helped dozens of buildings form tenant associations and win major repairs, we made more than 400 apartments and homes more energy efficient, SBU won the funds to open a Student Success Center at the Leadership Institute, and SBU ran a successful pilot program for the BronXchanges art and technology program.

It's been a great year
& next year
will be even better!

OK, folks.

Let's get out there
and **organize!**

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Affiliated Organizations | Organizaciones Afiliadas

Church of the Mediator
Creston Avenue Baptist Church
Crotona Community Coalition
Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fordham Manor Reformed Church
Gambian Association

King of Glory Tabernacle Church
Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood
Improvement Association
Mary Mitchell Center
Masjid Hefaz
Masjid Makky

Mt. Hope Mosque
Mt. Hope Organization
New Day United Methodist
Our Lady of Angels Church
Our Lady of Mercy Church
St. James Church

St. Martin of Tours Church
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church
St. Simon Stock
United Comm. of University Heights

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NORTHWEST BRONX COMMUNITY AND CLERGY COALITION, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
Revenue and other support				
Grants				
Government grants	\$ 1,961,817	\$	\$ 1,961,817	\$ 2,382,648
Contributions	237,786	829,024	1,066,810	1,152,838
Other revenue	215		215	2,599
Fund raising	35,955		35,955	41,810
Less: direct expenses	(6,019)		(6,019)	(21,087)
Program revenue	1,655		1,655	2,051
In-kind contribution	-		-	-
Interest and dividends	4,744		4,744	4,171
	2,236,153	829,024	3,065,177	3,565,030
Total	2,236,153	829,024	3,065,177	3,565,030
Net assets released from restrictions	892,148	(892,148)	-	-
	3,128,301	(63,124)	3,065,177	3,565,030
Total revenue and other support	3,128,301	(63,124)	3,065,177	3,565,030
Expenses				
Program services				
Community outreach and education	515,216		515,216	563,470
Weatherization	1,646,893		1,646,893	2,072,752
YOUTH	287,048		287,048	335,565
Leadership Institute	98,184		98,184	119,123
	2,547,341		2,547,341	3,090,910
Total program services	2,547,341		2,547,341	3,090,910
Supporting services				
Management and general	477,204		477,204	416,098
Fund raising	120,966		120,966	117,863
	598,170		598,170	533,961
Total supporting services	598,170		598,170	533,961
Total expenses	3,145,511		3,145,511	3,624,871
Change in net assets before capitalization	(17,210)	(63,124)	(80,334)	(59,841)
Adjustments for capitalization				
Change in net assets after capitalization	(17,210)	(63,124)	(80,334)	(59,841)
Net assets at beginning of year	162,764	795,177	957,941	1,017,782
Net assets at end of year	\$ 145,554	\$ 732,053	\$ 877,607	\$ 957,941

EDUCATION REPORT

“We are parents, students, school staff and concerned community members working together to improve the public education for all children in the Northwest Bronx Community.”

SEATS (Schools Exploding at the Seams) is a coalition of parents, students, school staff and concerned community members working together to improve the public education for all children in the Northwest Bronx Community. Our Community Campaign, worked to increase the graduation rate and end school overcrowding!

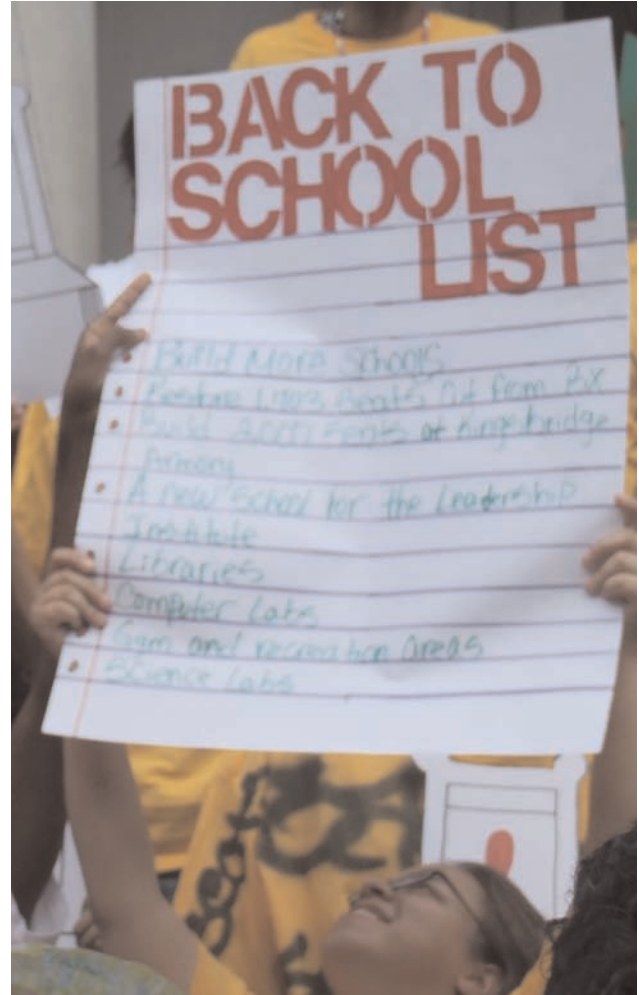
Back To School Shopping List

1. Building More Schools in the Bronx
2. Building 2,000 new seats at the Kingsbridge Armory
3. Creating a permanent home for the Leadership Institute

January 2008 started out with a bang when youth leaders from SBU (Sistas and Brothas United) and the SEATS campaign organized a “Sit Out” at the Dept. of Education and School Construction Authority. In response to this action, we held a meeting with Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott. Immediately following our meeting, Mr. Walcott paid a surprise visit to the Leadership Institute in order to witness our need for space due to overcrowding of the school. Walcott confirmed what we have been saying- the Leadership Institute needs a new home.

In the Spring of 2008, the Borough President and Comptroller came out with reports pointing to severe overcrowding in the Bronx and in District 10 in particular and called for school construction. At our May 31st Shared Fate Action Forum, Borough President Adolfo Carrion committed to inviting all the Bronx Elected Officials to create the Bronx’s priorities for the next capital plan. This resulted in schools at the Kingsbridge Armory and a new home for the Leadership Institute rising as the top two priorities.

In August, along with elected officials, we held a press conference releasing our “Back to School Shopping List” to the DoE (see the list above). The new Capital Plan was released the first week in November. It was underwhelming. While the DoE now says there is a need for more



seats in Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bedford Park and Riverdale, they only cite 1154 seats for District 10 and 800 of those are left over from the last plan. In addition, there are no new High Schools for the Bronx at all, and only two in the whole city! The Department of Education continues to plan for failure.

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Luz Milanes, CAPS Pfoject Coordinator at LI
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ON OUR OWN:

Individual Pathways Campaign

We won a major victory in 2008 when we were able to keep Individual Pathways, a second chance school for over age and under credited students, open an additional year as promised to students, families, and staff. Pathways had been a program at the comprehensive Walton High School. Walton was phased out in June 2008, therefore Individual Pathways was in danger of closing. Students were promised that Pathways would stay open one year beyond Walton's closing and fifty or more students needed the additional year in order to be able to complete their program and graduate. Many schools do not serve the type of students challenged and recruited at Individual Pathways- English Language Learners and students with very few credits, for example. If Individual Pathways had closed, it would have forced almost all of the remaining students, who could not get into or were not eligible for other programs, to drop out. By standing together, Individual Pathways and the Northwest Bronx Community ensured that we would graduate more high school students and keep this important program open in the Bronx.

Leadership Institute

While the Leadership Institute has a campaign to get a new site, they have been organizing on site for improvements. Their philosophy is that they want the best school while they are in the current site, and a good school for whomever moves into that building after the LI moves out. In 2008 students, parents and staff at the Leadership Institute:

- WON \$66,000 from the Bronx Borough President for new computers (the LI has not had computer labs and has not yet been able to install new computers since the building has problems with electricity and internet)
- COMPLETED a social justice themed mural to beautify the outdoor area
- ENACTED a comprehensive social justice curriculum that is integrated into traditional courses like science, math and social studies.



In 2009

- We will continue our strategic campaign on school construction in order to win new schools at the Kingsbridge Armory and a new school for the Leadership Institute High School.
- We will work with "The Creston Campus" to create a Play Street for them as an important unifying goal for the school community.

SISTAS AND BROTHAS UNITED REPORT

SBU's mission is to develop the leadership of youth in the Northwest Bronx community who are concerned with the conditions in their neighborhood, interested in developing creative ways to address these problems in concrete ways, and believe in their own ability to build people power to hold all public officials accountable for the decisions they make. SBU's leaders fight for educational justice, more jobs for youth and community residents, and more community-based resources.

"SBU has taught me to see how flawed our educational system is. With the government spending money on things like the war, tax breaks for the rich, and bailing out corporations there is a lack of money for us students to get basic resources that we need such as; textbooks, computers and class seats! My school recently lost its' after school music class to save our school money! Now that ain't right! SBU taught me that I have to be a leader if I care about anything in my life."

Manny De La Cruz,
SBU Leader from Urban Assembly
for Applied Math & Science

Student Success Centers

For three years, SBU and the Urban Youth Collaborative have been negotiating with the DOE to open a program called Student Success Centers. Student Success Centers is a program inside a school where students can get college counseling, help from a social worker, tutoring, conflict mediation, and a place where they can use computers. In 2007 and 2008, our student leaders negotiated with Deputy Chancellor Christopher Cerf to provide funding for Student Success Centers in the Bronx and throughout the city. As a result, the DOE released a RFP for schools to apply to open their own SSC program. One of the schools chosen was our very own, the Leadership Institute, where we are a community partner.

BronXchanges

In March 2008, Bronxchanges, an Arts and Technology pilot program of SBU was launched. This program trained a group of twenty youth in the art of filmmaking and spoken word; visual and verbal literacy; and political education and the history of social justice movements. In July 2008, the students held their first graduation ceremony. Graduates had produced a trailer to a fictionalized film based on experiences of young people in the educational system, a 20 minute documentary about the history of the pilot and three short 2 minute PSA's dramatizing the real challenges of high school students including overcrowded schools, lack of guidance counselors and a surge in the presence of officers on site. We are currently working more closely with Global Action Project to prepare for our next semester of Bronxchanges.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- SECURED funding for Student Success Centers at 4 schools throughout the city including the Leadership Institute High School
- OPENED two student led clubs at Dewitt Clinton High School and the Community School for Social Justice
- SECURED partnerships with several neighborhood churches and Community Board 7 to develop the Old Fordham Library into a mix use community center
- COLLECTED 10,000 petition signatures to turn the Old Fordham Library into a community center and held a meeting with over 100 community members
- ORGANIZED the Choose to Change Conference with over 350 youth across the Bronx

MAJOR ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES FOR 2009:

- OPEN Student Success Centers in ten high schools throughout the city and support their ongoing growth and development with central funding from the DOE
- TURN the Old Fordham Library into a community youth center
- OPEN AND MAINTAIN 6 student lead clubs at local high schools
- SECURE funding for more conflict mediation, peer juries, and other programs sponsored by the Choose to Change Coalition
- CONDUCT youth lead trainings with school safety agents and school police officers through the Bronx Borough Command
- CONTINUE BronXchanges program with four tracks: Acting, Spoken Word, Documentary Filmmaking, and Photography

CONGREGATIONS & COMMUNITY REPORT



Organizing with Faith and Vision

Our organizing with religious and secular communities in the northwest Bronx has three goals: (1) to develop relationships and unity, (2) to strengthen leadership, and (3) to take action on social justice issues. The first two goals mainly strengthen the organization internally, while the third gives the group a path to addressing the social issues affecting their members and improving our broader community.

Gamaliel Affiliation

Our organizing in this area has been significantly strengthened this year by joining the Gamaliel Foundation. Gamaliel is a national network of 60 organizations like ours across the country specializing in organizing congregations. For several years, our leaders and staff have benefited from Gamaliel week-long training and this year several top Gamaliel staff – Greg Galluzzo, Mary Gonzalez, and Ana Garcia Ashley – have come here to the Bronx to facilitate NWBCCC retreats. They challenge us to be the brilliant individuals and the powerful community that we can be!

Clergy Caucus

With Mr. Galluzzo's support, this fall we have been building a Clergy Caucus. This body of twenty affiliated institutions, brings together clergy from the many denominations in our area to share in fellowship with each other and support the development of Faith in Action committees in their congregations. Our first meetings included about two dozen inspired clergy members and we will be meeting monthly, building our clergy table to a total of 40 affiliated institutions, that will live out their faith and values in the broader community.

Individual Congregations

We are pleased to welcome congregations that joined the NWBCCC this year: Norwood's **Epiphany Lutheran Church** and **New Day United Methodist Church**, which connects people with God; crosses boundaries of race, class, sexual orientation and age; and confronts social injustice. Our organizing continues in **St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church**, where core team members have been actively organizing around housing justice issues and organized a one day "Come and See" training, an introductory training to the world of relational organizing; and **Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church** in University



Heights, where members of the Parish Council are working with Father Lynch to identify who they want to reach out to in a church listening process this spring.

We are also engaging clergy and lay leaders at congregations that are not yet affiliated with NWBCCC. In **Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church** in Fordham-Bedford, parishioners are working with NWBCCC and Fordham-Bedford Children's Services to confront severe crime issues through holding a public meeting at the church; and at both the **St. Brendan's Catholic Church** in Norwood, and **Our Lady of Mercy Church**, in the Fordham area, more than 150 parishioners combined, benefited from a free legal clinic on immigration, housing, and workers' rights.

Community-Based Organizations

After over a year of organizing around the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood, we are thrilled to welcome **Friends of the Oval** to NWBCCC as a full dues-paying member for 2009. After a powerful public meeting this spring, Friends of the Oval won \$150,000 from Council member Koppell for renovations to the park! We continue to push the Department of Transportation to make safe entrances to the park, and look forward to growing our membership ranks in the coming year!

For more, contact Abby Bellows at (718) 584-0515

ARMORY REPORT

The Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) is a partnership of community groups, unions, and churches united for a vision of development at this historic landmark which will meet the community's needs, not just a developer's bottom line.

We want to see our fellow community residents put to work in jobs that pay a decent wage and allow us a voice at work.

We want community space with constructive programs for youth and a mix of businesses which complement and don't harm local businesses on Kingsbridge Rd.

We want to negotiate a legally binding agreement, known as a "Community Benefits Agreement" (CBA), with the Related Companies which will guarantee that these needs are met in exchange for community support for the project.

In 2008

At the beginning of the year the process for choosing a developer appeared to be stalled. KARA was instrumental in clearing the hurdles and the city finally selected the Related Companies as the proposed developer on April 21.

KARA jumped into action, mobilizing over 200 people for a press conference April 24th on the steps of city hall to invite Related's CEO Stephen M. Ross to begin negotiations with KARA for a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). KARA was joined at the press conference by supporters Assemblyman Jose Rivera, Councilman Joel Rivera, and Councilman G. Oliver Koppell.

The campaign began to receive considerable media coverage including an article by Terri Pristin of the *New York Times* on June 25th.

Related agreed to meet with our negotiation team. In the meeting, held July 31st, KARA made the case to Related's lawyer that the company should negotiate a CBA with us.

KARA was invited to participate in the NYC Economic Development Advisory Group which was set up to allow the community and elected officials to have a voice in the development plans and program.

On October 2nd KARA mobilized over 100 people to



participate in the scoping hearing for the Environmental Impact Statement – a study which will document all of the potentially negative impacts the proposed project will have on the surrounding community. Over 30 KARA leaders testified about the need for Related to study the impacts on traffic, rents and gentrification and jobs. City representatives were impressed by the number of people we brought to the hearing.

In 2009

KARA's goal is to negotiate a landmark community benefits agreement with the Related Companies before the project is officially approved in the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure tentatively set to begin in late spring 2009.

For information, contact Ava Farkas at (718) 584-0515 x311

MUSLIM HOLIDAY REPORT

The goal of the Muslim Holiday Campaign is to get the Dept. of Education to recognize the two major Muslim holidays of Eid-Al-Fitr and Eid-Al Adha in the New York City public school calendar. Currently, Muslim students are forced to choose between their faith and their education when their holidays fall on school days.

“The Campaign for Muslim school holidays isn’t about getting days off from school. It is about recognizing the full potential of our public school system by acknowledging it’s diversity.”

Bakary Camara
NWBCCC Board Member

In 2008

The NWBCCC played an active role in the Muslim Holiday Campaign in 2008. In an effort to build city-wide support for the campaign we helped to draft City Council Resolution 1281 which was introduced by Manhattan City Councilman Robert Jackson. If passed, the Resolution would clearly express the city government’s support for the addition of two Muslim holidays into the public school calendar. The City Council’s support would be a major bargaining chip with the Mayor and the Department of Education, who told us they do not want to extend the school year for two days to accommodate the holidays. In 2008, Muslim leaders in the Northwest Bronx met with and helped to secure the co-sponsorship of the Resolution from Council members Rivera, Seabrook, Foster, Arroyo and Palma in the Bronx. Leaders also helped organize a Ramadan Awareness event in the Bronx County Courthouse on September 24th with over 500 people in attendance. Board member Bakary Camara and community leaders Imam Abdul Muhaimin Ladan and Sadiq Abdul Malik were highlighted speakers at this event. Two days later on the 26th of September, Camara and Abdul Malik were again invited to speak in front of the City Council at the first Education Committee hearing on the holiday Resolution. The Northwest Bronx recently met with the staff of James Vacca’s office and is trying to schedule a meeting with Councilwoman Maria Baez.



In 2009

The primary goal in the upcoming year is to continue to pressure our city elected officials to support Resolution 1281. In the Bronx, only Koppel, Vacca and Baez have yet to co-sponsor the resolution. The second Education Committee hearing is scheduled for early 2009 and once the resolution reaches the entire City Council it will be important to have the majority of the Council’s support. The Northwest Bronx continues to build our base in the Muslim community through grassroots organizing in Mosques and Muslim cultural institutions as well as through partnerships with other local, city and state-wide community organizations.

For more information on the Muslim Holiday Campaign, contact: Board Member Bakary Camara – (917) 568-5763 or Community Organizer Orlando Torres – (718) 584-0515 x412 or (917) 213-7529.

HOUSING REPORT

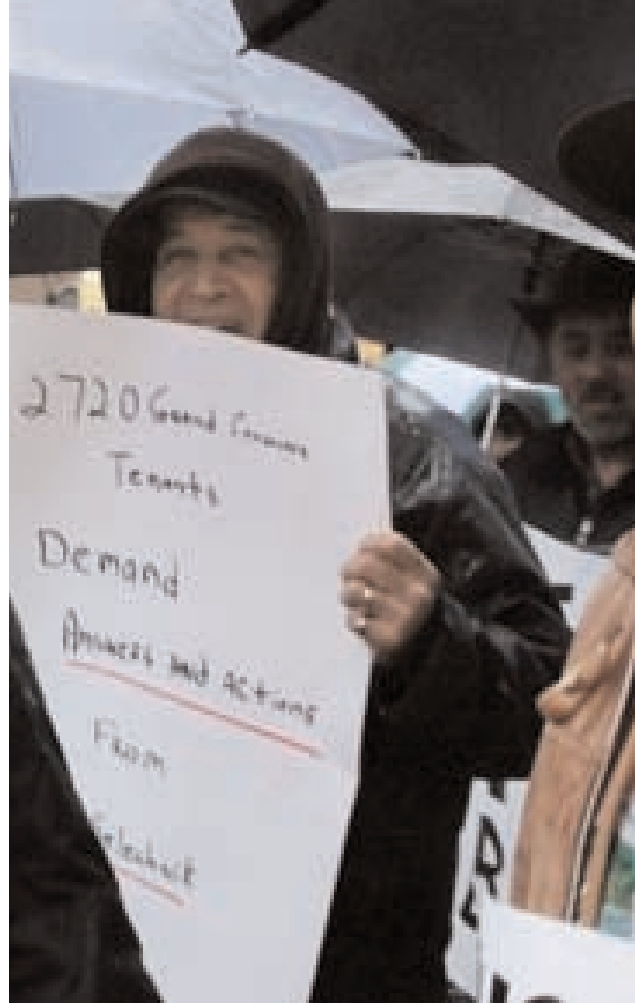
The goal of the Housing Committee is to preserve safe and decent, affordable housing for all Bronx residents.

2008 proved to be a remarkable year for members of the Housing Committee as we took on the Division of Housing & Community Renewal (DHCR), Private Equity Firms, Wall Street, and the NYS Senate and Assembly to repeal Vacancy Decontrol.

This past year, predators came in many different forms as they threatened to destroy our housing market, favoring profit over people. First, tenants from 2720 Grand Concourse organized against a Major Capital Improvement increase that DHCR undeservedly granted to their landlord, driving rents up by a few hundred dollars. They mobilized and organized an action outside their landlord's office on Valentine's Day and outside the Bronx state office of DHCR, protesting the increase and demanding that it be reversed. They developed a media strategy resulting in coverage from the *New York Times*, *Daily News*, and *Norwood News*. They will continue to work with lawyers at the Urban Justice Center to develop a winning legal strategy.

Second, private equity firms such as Urban America and SG2 appeared on the scene. For over a year they quietly bought up buildings in our neighborhoods and did everything they could to force tenants out in order to raise rents and profits. Through a campaign organized by Housing Here and Now and assisted by Urban Justice Center, the NWBCCC successfully organized tenants in 15 buildings, securing hundreds of dollars in repairs and preventing unnecessary evictions.

Third, the home foreclosure rate in the Northwest Bronx skyrocketed as a result of predatory lending in neighborhoods comprised of mostly low-income people of color. Many of these people were first time homeowners who thought they were finally living the "American Dream" only to have it swept away from under their feet. Adding insult to injury, the financial powerbrokers saw fit to bail out Wall Street and not Main Street, leaving many with nowhere to turn. Housing Committee members of the NWBCCC wanted answers. We wanted resources and assistance for our neighborhoods, filled with many hard-



working Bronxites already struggling to survive. We took our passion for housing justice all the way to the national level, and worked with National People's Action (NPA), comprised of community based organizations all around the country, to let the federal government know that no successful bail-out package could exclude the victims of irresponsible government. In 2009, we will return to NPA, to continue to let the federal government know that we cannot be forgotten!

Finally, no housing strategy to preserve affordable housing would be complete if it did not include a major campaign to address a legislative mishap that created years of unnecessary hardship for rent-regulated tenants throughout New York City, while favoring landlords eager to raise



rents and profits. In collaboration with the city-wide coalition of Housing Here and Now, the NWBCCC has strategically placed itself in the center of the fight for real tenant protection and concrete rent reforms across the city. Our campaign to Repeal Vacancy Decontrol demands that new legislation stop the deregulation of rent regulated apartments, stop the loss of tenant protection and stop the gentrification of our neighborhoods. We were successful in passing the legislation through the NYS Assembly and are now working on a strategy to get the NYS Senate to vote YES! to the Repeal of Vacancy Decontrol.

For more, contact Alecia Anthony (718) 584-0515 x411

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- NWBCCC Board member Heidi Hynes met with Federal Reserve Chairperson Ben Bernanke to demand a bail-out for homeowners
- Tenants from 230 Maples Terrace organized an action against their landlord in midtown
- 75 housing committee members attended the Shared Fate Action forum and publicly asked elected officials, including Senator Charles Schumer, to support the Repeal of Vacancy Decontrol and to stop home foreclosures
- Organized a Know Your Rights Training at Our Savior Church with 80 tenants
- Met with the 48th Precinct about tenants' right to organize in their buildings
- Housing Steering Committee members Ramona Santana and Ana Lugo gave testimony at a Rally to Repeal Vacancy Decontrol with over 500 participants
- Investment Bankers from Merrill Lynch came to visit foreclosed properties with members of the NWBCCC, including board member Rev. Berry of University Heights Presbyterian Church

OK, folks.

Let's get **Out** there
and **organize!**

