

COMMUNITY NEWS

East New York Development Newsletter



Transforming ENY Youth with 'Rebound'

By Ashley Govan

Good Shepherd Services' basketball work readiness program, Rebound, has been preparing East New York youth for college and careers with the support of Barclays for 8 years and counting.

Participants, ranging from 17-24 in age, develop interview and time management skills, proper work communication and professionalism, in addition to basketball drills to build focus on teamwork, conflict resolution, and commitment.

"I see myself tapping into the tech industry." says Andrew when I asked where he sees himself in 5 years. "I want to create an app for discovering music." At 21 years old, Andrew sees a bright future ahead of him since his participation in Rebound. He's been introduced to opportunities such as volunteer work at middle schools, an internship at a radio station, even an interview with Delta Airlines in which he is now employed.

Rebound's primary goal is to help young people get prepared for and find work. Since opening in June 2014, the Rebound program has helped over 400 young men and women find employment and gain access to education.

20 year old, Leyda, was a former participant of Rebound, and after her time away she decided to return, saying "I needed the emotional support to get motivated again. I was welcomed back with such open arms!" Leyda has interests in being an inspirational speaker and a leader in her community as her mentors have been to her.



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Highlighting Our Tenant Leaders

Tenant Leader: Carol Barnes

Development: Linden Houses

Interview by David Amon

- How long have you been living in your development?

My parents raised me and my siblings in Linden Houses starting in 1967 where we attended the public school system here in East New York. We were one of two black families residing in our building. After graduating from BMCC, I worked 10 years on Wall Street until accepting a position with formerly known NYC Board of Ethics from which I retired. I eventually obtained my own housing within Linden Houses where I'm currently living my daughter and granddaughter. My granddaughter is on a full-scholarship at Spellman College.

- How did you first get involved with the Tenant Association?

I began to witness drastic changes in the development; conditions worsened and response to repairs were being neglected. I knew I could either keep complaining or get involved. I joined the tenant board and eventually ran for tenant leader, which I won in the last election and have been committed to making a difference.

- What makes you most proud of your development?

I am most proud of the families and residents that are still here, "Fighting the Fight". To witness the improvement in our development and see our residents and children striving to become successful in their careers. Also, to see Linden become the great development it once was.

- What's your first memory of something good that happened to your community?

My first memory will always be the bus outings to Bear Mountain and movie nights we had every summer. The community was safe and we took care of each other. We were our brothers and sisters keeper. I miss those times we had "The Unity In Our Community".

- What would you like to see improved in your community?

I want to see the community get back to working together as one, creating a positive movement in Linden Houses to enhance wellness and economics. I'd like to see improved quality of food and resources to obtain healthy foods in our community.



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