



ENY Community

Newsletter



DEFINING INDEPENDENCE

By Ashley Govan

This month, America is celebrating one of its most promoted holidays with the red, white, and blue decorations and party favors, barbecues, and showdowns for the best fireworks display in town. Although Independence Day is a time for family, friends, and fun, it's also a great time to reflect on what independence means as a national and individual subject matter.

This country achieved its independence from Great Britain on July 4th, 1776 gaining the system of democracy (the world's first democratic republic) and worldwide trade. The United States of America became freest country of earth. But, what does this freedom mean on an individual level and how do we define personal independence?

Independence can be defined as having full autonomy over one's own life. Types of personal independence include mental (self-thinking), emotional (self-reliant), and financial (self-supporting) aspects; all unique to each individual. Some steps toward gaining independence can look like taking yourself out on a date to enjoy your own company and become your own best friend, practicing self-reflection (ie: journaling) to recognize your true thoughts and feelings, or seeking guidance to gain the independence that you feel is difficult to achieve alone.

Tenant Support Directory

Boulevard Together

- Belmont Sutter Area
- Boulevard Houses
- Fiorentino Houses

Property Manager - Barbara Clark
 P: (646)276-2196
 E: bclark@boulevardtogether.com

Stanley Avenue Preservation

- Linden Houses
- Penn Wortman Houses

Property Manager - Asti Rosario
 P: (347)707-0461
 E: arosario@clintonmanagement.com

East New York City Line

Tenant Leader - Dwayne Faison
 P: (718)791-1402
 E: dwaynefaison@aol.com

Tenant Leader - Wandy Delarosa

P: (347)322-2682
 E: wdelarosa90@hotmail.com

Long Island Baptist

Tenant Leader - Arthur Warren
 P: (917)749-6988
 E: beepabarber@yahoo.com

Cypress Houses

Tenant Leader - Dwayne Faison
 P: (718)791-1402
 E: dwaynefaison@aol.com

Pink Houses

Tenant Leader - Karen Caldwell
 P: (917)575-4285
 E: kcaldwell929@gmail.com

Unity Plaza Houses

Tenant Leader - Cynthia Whitaker
 P: (718)485-0578
 E: c.whitaker580@gmail.com



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM KICKOFF

By Ashley Govan & David Amon

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer.

Participants receive the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help to develop their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future.

Tara is a nineteen year old East New York resident and graduate of Spring Creek Community High School, class of 2020. Due to the Pandemic, Tara began her college experience taking online courses. However, she later decided to take a break from school due to the COVID-19 impact of quality of life.

This year, Tara has been granted the opportunity to be a working member of the Rise Up ENY team and has shared her thoughts on her experience thus far.

-How does this summer experience compare to your last summer?

"Last summer, I didn't work. I traveled with my family on vacation. I spent time on social media, watching movies, and gaming. Also, I was hanging out with my friends and enjoying outdoor activities."

-How did you learn about the SYEP program, and what inspired you to become involved?

"I learned about the Summer Youth Employment Program through my high school. I was accepted as an applicant the first year I applied. However, I was only admitted into a position when I reapplied in 2022 where I am now working at Rise Up ENY."

-What do you want to gain from the program, and how is your experience so far?

"I'm looking to gain experience from the job tasks assigned to me. Learning how to manage time has been a growth factor for me. I enjoy my job, and its flexibility. It is a friendly work environment; everyone is there to help each other."

-What do you see in your future?

"My goals are to return to school to pursue an education to become a Certified Massage Therapist and Acupuncturist."

