

The fiscal Year 2021 Report from our Executive Director, Mr. William Ruiz

Dear Friends,

What a year! In the past year, since we were required to confront the global impact of COVID-19 with sudden and complex public health and economic challenges, we are pleased to report: We're back. Highland Park Community Development Corporation had to adapt to a new way of conducting business while at the same time making sure that staff and residents were safe.

But this moment also allowed HPCDC to reaffirm our fundamental purpose, recommit to our core values, and build a long-term vision upon the foundation of tradition and core agency strength. In this context, clarifying strategy becomes critical to optimizing current operations and planning for an uncertain future. More specifically, creating a safety plan and following the CDC guidelines were essential to all.

Highland Park Community Development Corporation has provided services as a Tier II shelter in East Flatbush Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Highland Park Community Development Corporation's mission is to assist homeless families with children within the five boroughs of NYC. During the last few years, HPCDC has provided permanent housing, social services, childcare, and effective after-school programming.

Through the years of hard work, the Highland Park Community Development Corporation employees have helped hundreds of families become self-sufficient through workshops designed to develop Life Skills, Housing Readiness, Vocational Services, Resume Preparation, and Financial Literacy.

Highland Park Community Development Corporation has created several linkages within the surrounding community within its years of operation. These linkages have resulted in donations of food (prepared and uncooked) items for families with children residing in our facility. Highland Park Community Development Corporation has partnered with community entities, including local churches and other not-for-profit organizations that donate health and hygiene care packages to our shelter families. We continue to receive blessings from local churches that provide and serve food during the week and weekends and at times during the major holidays, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Sunday.

One of the most critical partnerships Highland Park Community Development Corporation has developed is the excellent relationship with its local police precincts. The Community Affairs Brooklyn and Bronx Youth Strategies Division is assisted by our caseworkers to ensure that every child at our family shelter has an ID card in case of emergencies. The Community Affairs Brooklyn Youth Strategies Division has also donated Personal Protective Equipment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic for our families and staff. They have donated Easter baskets and Holiday gifts to every child and young adult at our family shelter during the holiday season.

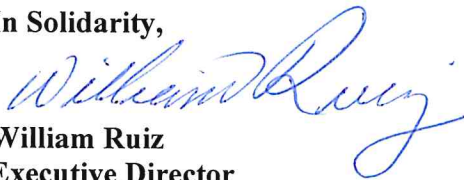
Highland Park Community Development Corporation was privileged to host different events throughout the year to ensure that the families at our facility feel cared for and acknowledged. Highland Park Community Development Corporation's "Back to School" event takes place every year in August. Highland Park Community Development Corporation provides food, beverages, live music, entertainment, and a bouncy house during this event. Book bags, donated by Volunteers of America, with school supplies, are given to every school child.

During the Holiday season, Highland Park Community Development Corporation hosts a very nice Holiday event for all our families with children at our facility. This holiday event includes a Santa Claus that gives out gifts to the children, giving children an intimate family experience. At this event, some of the children also put on a dance show; most are excited and proud to show off their dancing skills. It's an amazing experience to see the talent we have at our family shelter.

Our main goal at our family shelters is to give each family the best possible experience during their temporary stay until they are placed into permanent housing. Part of this experience is celebrating all holidays with our children at our facilities.

As a result of the great job our agency and facility staff has done during this past, most challenging year, HPCDC has been provided with an opportunity to operate two additional Tier II family shelters. One of these family shelters is scheduled to open in September 2021, located in the Bronx, and will provide services to 101 families with children. The second location is scheduled to open in 2023, located in Brooklyn, and will provide services to an additional 91 families with children. We have much to look forward to for the fiscal year 2022, where we will grow from providing 117 families with children services to 309 families with children (representing a 164% increase).

In Solidarity,



William Ruiz
Executive Director