MORRIS MANOR OPENS WITH FANFARE

Community leaders, officials, honorees and staff attended Morris Manor’s dedication ceremony on October 2. Located at 1247 Flatbush Avenue, Morris Manor is a 46-unit, four story elevator building that provides permanent, affordable housing to low-income community residents and individuals leaving the shelter system. Morris Manor offers its residents 24-hour front desk coverage, case management, community rooms, laundry and a private garden. The building was named in honor of Beverly and Charles Morris. Longtime CAMBA supporters, Beverly served on the CAMBA board of directors for many years and is now president of CAMBA Housing Ventures board of trustees. Charles is the board’s treasurer. Morris Manor is the first project of CAMBA and CAMBA Housing Ventures, which intends to develop 1,000 units of affordable housing in New York City by 2015.

Guest speakers at the dedication ceremony included Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, who acknowledged CAMBA’s “vision in creating CAMBA Housing Ventures,” and Tim O’Hanlon, Assistant Commissioner of New York City Housing & Preservation Department’s Special Needs Division. O’Hanlon noted, “CAMBA has kept up the pace to solve the homeless problem.”

Other speakers included Deborah DeSantis, President and CEO of Corporation for Supportive Housing; Scott Edwards, President of New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation; Abby Jo Sigal, Vice President and New York Director of Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.; Dr. David Rosin, Executive Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Frances Lockhart, Assistant Commissioner for Adult Services, New York City Department of Homeless Services.

CAMBA Board President Katherine O’Neill’s remarks were followed by CAMBA Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil, who spoke about honorees Beverly and Charles R. Morris’s “commitment to giving back to the community” and thanked everyone’s efforts.
1 The new Morris Manor Apartments in Flatbush offers residents 24-hour front desk coverage, case management services, community rooms, a laundry and a private patio and garden.

2 Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs (center) was saluted when CAMBA reopened its Beyond Hunger Food Pantry as a supermarket-style Client Choice facility in August, with CAMBA’s Joanne M. Oplustil (right) and Janet Miller looking on.

CAMBA REOPENS BEYOND HUNGER FOOD PANTRY

In August, CAMBA reopened its Beyond Hunger Food Pantry as a Client Choice facility. The ceremony honored Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, whose efforts secured much needed legislative funding. “The pantry is now even more client-focused,” says Janet Miller, Director of Homelessness Prevention Programs/Legal Services. “It allows people to decide what food items are best suited for themselves and their families. By also offering meal planning and health tips, we provide a shopping experience that is holistic, healthy and dignified.”

CAMBA’s new model is the fourth Client Choice facility in New York City. Modeled after a grocery store, people choose their food instead of receiving prepackaged bags of groceries.

Since its August opening, there has been a 300% increase in use. We now need more volunteers, food donations and increased funding to serve the 1700 individuals and 350 households who use the pantry. New York City emergency food programs helped 1.3 million New Yorkers in 2007, a 24% increase since 2004. Our food pantry provides over 5,000 food packages annually to adults and children.

CAMBA’s Beyond Hunger Food Pantry is located at 2241 Church Avenue in Flatbush. It is open on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 718.282.3082.

NEW PROGRAM HELPS PREVENT FORECLOSURES

Our new Foreclosure Prevention Program is designed to help individuals who are falling behind in mortgage payments, confronting an interest rate reset, in danger of foreclosure or otherwise having trouble with their mortgage. In these hard economic times, many people find themselves at risk of losing their homes. Through this free program, CAMBA counselors contact mortgage lenders and help clients explore available options.

CAMBA helps clients take charge of their circumstances by offering tips on how to prevent foreclosure. We also provide in-depth financial counseling, offering access to community resources and financial assistance, working with mortgage companies and offering information about the foreclosure process. For program details, call 718.282.2500.

CAMBA STUDENTS REGISTER NEW VOTERS

Students and staff of The Learning to Work (LTW) Program at Liberation Diploma Plus High School in Coney Island participated in a voter drive on September 17. LTW students accompanied by staff ventured out into the neighborhood to sign up new voters. They registered 72 people.

According to Cara Kenien, Director of CAMBA’s Learning to Work Program at the school, “The voter drive went extremely well, and as the students stated it only takes one person to make a difference, so please vote!”
Students and staff from CAMBA programs at Brooklyn Academy H.S. and I.S. 68 participated in the first LIVE UNITED Brooklyn Bridge Walk and Volunteer Festival sponsored by United Way.

Wade Preston of the acclaimed Billy Joel/Twyla Tharp Broadway musical Movin’ On will perform at the Celebration to Benefit New York Kids on November 20. CAMBA is co-hosting the gala event, with the goal of raising $115,000 for our youth programs.

CAMBA PARTNERS WITH HEARTSHARE

We are partnering with HeartShare Human Services of New York, a nonprofit human services agency, to provide free 20-minute workshops to low income Flatbush households faced with higher energy costs and those meeting HEAP income guidelines.

Clients learn about subsidized low-cost/no-cost energy-efficient improvements and loans. Participants receive energy saving supplies, such as caulking and refrigerator thermometers, and those eligible may receive appliance replacements, efficiency lighting, insulation and other items. Emphasis is also placed on purchasing produce at local green markets and coops versus food transported long distance. A Community Supported Agriculture program in Red Hook is training kids on how to be organic farmers.

CAMBA STUDENTS WALK FOR LIVE UNITED

Students and staff from CAMBA’s Learning to Work (LTW) Center at Brooklyn Academy High School and CAPS Program at I.S. 68 joined 3,000 New Yorkers walking from Manhattan’s City Hall to Brooklyn’s Cadman Plaza Park in the first LIVE UNITED Brooklyn Bridge Walk and Volunteer Festival.

Sponsored by the United Way, the walk supported education, income and health. Dedicated to bringing together the community to solve large scale problems, the event connected participants with meaningful volunteer opportunities.

CAMBA TO CO-HOST GALA “CELEBRATION TO BENEFIT NEW YORK KIDS”

For the fourth consecutive year, CAMBA is co-hosting A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids. On November 20, CAMBA will join Youth, I.N.C. and twenty other nonprofit organizations to present a gala evening at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers to celebrate New York City’s youth and the many types of support that help them to play, learn, grow, succeed, hope and thrive. We are hoping to exceed our 2007 goal and raise $115,000 in support of CAMBA youth programs through this gala Celebration.

The Celebration to Benefit New York Kids will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception. The music of Broadway will be the centerpiece of the event. Performances will include hit songs from Movin’ Out, performed by Wade Preston, the original pianist from the Tony Award-winning Billy Joel/Twyla Tharp Broadway musical. Guests will also be entertained by The Best of Broadway, a dazzling song and dance revue of the Great White Way’s most memorable and exciting numbers from yesterday and today.

Youth, I.N.C. is a nonprofit organization founded by corporate executives. It provides assistance and underwriting to enable youth-serving organizations to begin raising funds through special events. According to Bonnie Osinski, CAMBA’s Director of Development, “Participating in the Youth, I.N.C. Celebration has helped CAMBA develop new fundraising skills that ultimately benefit the programs we provide to help people improve their lives.”

For more information and tickets to A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids, contact Bonnie Osinski at 718.287.2600.

CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services which connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.
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