

CAMBA FUNDRAISER NETS \$100,000 FOR PROGRAMS

CAMBA attracted its largest number of attendees ever for the 2007 Youth I.N.C. *Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*, which took place at the New York Sheraton Hotel on November 6. Featuring a thrilling performance by “Dreamgirl” Jennifer Holliday, the gala event enabled CAMBA to raise \$100,000. Because CAMBA exceeded its \$70,000 goal, Youth, I.N.C. matched 12.5% of the total, effectively eliminating our administrative share so that 100% of the proceeds will go to support our programs. In all, CAMBA almost doubled the amount we raised at the 2006 event.

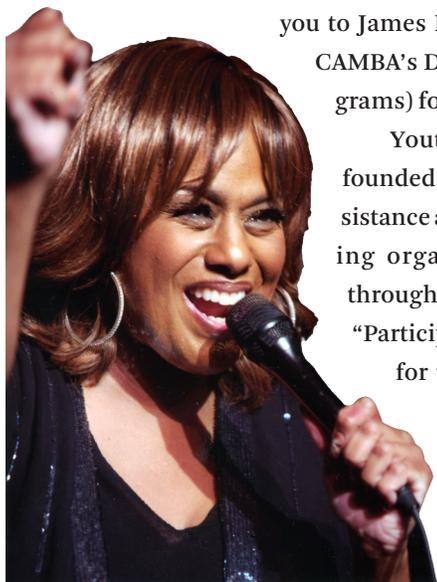
“We are grateful that so many of our CAMBA individual and corporate friends supported this gala event,” says Bonnie Osinski, CAMBA’s Director of Development. She adds, “We are especially grateful to our event co-chairs for their dedication and hard work.” The 2007 co-chairs were Julia Beardwood, Emily Campbell, Terence Kelleher, David Lage, Patrick McMurray, Katherine O’Neill, James Palazza, and Christopher and Leslie Zarra.

In addition to fabulous entertainment, guests received stylish gift bags that included Lindt chocolates, a gift certificate for a manicure at Cornelia (a luxury Fifth Avenue spa) and—to everyone’s delight—a 10% discount on the rental of a corporate jet from Blue Star Jets. We offer a special thank

you to James Palazza (brother of Francine Palazza, CAMBA’s Director of Neighborhood Cluster Programs) for arranging these wonderful gifts.

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 Osinski, “Participating in the Youth, I.N.C. *Celebration* for the past three years is definitely putting us on the road to undertaking a major event of our own.” ♦

Songstress Jennifer Holliday thrilled guests at the 2007 *Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*.



From the Executive Director



Joanne M. Oplustil

We said goodbye to 2007 with a real sense of accomplishment.

We expanded our efforts to provide affordable housing. We were awarded the New York State’s first contract for the important New York/New York III Housing Agreement, a \$1 billion city-state initiative to provide housing for families who are chronically homeless or in danger of becoming so. Through that contract, we moved eleven families out of the shelter system and placed them in newly-developed Myrtle Avenue Apartments. We also received two new contracts from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide scattered site housing for eligible individuals with substance abuse issues. I’m also pleased to report that we fully leased the Ana Gonzalez Apartments, which we highlighted in our previous newsletter.

Finally, we ended the year with two successful fundraisers. We raised more than \$100,000 for our programs through our participation in Youth Inc.’s *Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*. Proceeds from CAMBA’s Annual Holiday Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe also benefited CAMBA programs.

We look forward to sharing more good news with you in 2008, the 30th anniversary of CAMBA’s incorporation in 1978. In coming issues, we’ll highlight the many ways we have evolved since then to meet the ever-growing needs of our diverse communities. ♦

In This Issue

- Bennett Lawrence Management LLC Brings Holiday Cheer to CAMBA Families
- CAMBA’s Park Slope Women’s Shelter Lights Up the Holidays
- CAMBA Holiday Sale Attracts Hundreds



1 + 2 Wide-eyed gazes and smiling faces greeted Santa and the gifts that Bennett Lawrence employees brought with them to the firm's *Welcome Home for the Holidays* party for CAMBA families residing in the Myrtle Avenue Apartments in Bedford Stuyvesant.

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BENNETT LAWRENCE MANAGEMENT, LLC BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO CAMBA FAMILIES

Bennett Lawrence Management, LLC (BLM), a New York-based investment management firm, made the holiday season bright for eleven formerly homeless families that CAMBA recently placed in newly-developed housing in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Jane Fisher, a BLM Principal, explains, “For this holiday season, Bennett Lawrence reviewed several different charities and non-profit organizations in an effort to find one where we would truly make a difference, preferably locally. We chose CAMBA because we believe that they can help the families pursue goals of education, employment and independent living.”

Each BLM employee took great care in selecting and providing gifts from lists compiled by the families housed in CAMBA's Myrtle Avenue Apartments Supportive Housing Program. BLM delivered pre-

sents in time for Christmas Day. The presents were purchased by BLM staff based on the wish lists of the families and included toys, clothing and household items. CAMBA had some help from the program's Case Manager, Nicola Wills, and Santa Claus in distributing the BLM presents at the Welcome Home for the Holidays Breakfast that was held in the Myrtle Avenue Apartments community room.

In addition to the employees contributions, BLM gave a generous monetary donation which enabled CAMBA to participate in the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) Give One Get One Program. CAMBA purchased eight laptops for the families with children up to 12 years of age. In turn, for each laptop CAMBA purchased, a laptop was sent to a child in a developing nation, such as Haiti, Cambodia, Mongolia, Afghanistan or Rwanda. OLPC operates on the conviction that

poor children lack the opportunity, not the capacity, for learning. CAMBA shares in the OLPC belief that every nation's most precious and natural resource is its children. BLM's donation has allowed CAMBA to network these children to the world and to learning.

The Myrtle Avenue Apartments Supportive Housing Program is a result of a contract awarded to CAMBA in July 2007. It was the first contract in New York State for New York/New York III-eligible families. New York/New York III is a \$1 billion city and state pact to finance and develop 9,000 units of supportive housing. As a result of this funding, in October 2007 CAMBA placed eleven families in the Myrtle Avenue Apartments, which feature a live-in superintendent, a community room, a landscaped backyard and playground equipment. The two- and three-bedroom apartments have full kitchens and

bathrooms, and built-in study areas—perfect places for the new laptops. CAMBA provides on-site case management for the resident families, and referrals are available for other services offered by CAMBA, with the goal of helping the families live independently.

CAMBA is grateful to have corporate benefactors such as BLM and its employees to help us further our mission. “We thank Bennett Lawrence for their wonderful generosity,” says Sharon Browne, CAMBA's Deputy Executive Director responsible for the organization's housing programs. “The firm and its staff made this holiday season a memorable occasion for these CAMBA families. Thanks to Bennett Lawrence, we also were able to participate in the One Laptop Per Child Program to invest in the education of the children in our program and around the world.” ♦



CAMBA
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3 CAMBA's Park Slope Women's Shelter was a picture of cheer during the winter holidays.

4 *Teacher* by Edward Chiwala is among the many beautiful sculptures by Zimbabwe's best emerging and established Shona sculptors that are available at CAMBA's gallery (19 Winthrop Street, Brooklyn) or online at www.shonasculptures.com.

CAMBA'S PARK SLOPE WOMEN'S SHELTER LIGHTS UP THE HOLIDAYS!

The holidays were welcomed in festive style at CAMBA's Park Slope Women's Shelter on December 4 with our 11th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Shelter residents and staff were joined by our Park Slope neighbors, community leaders, elected officials, members of Community Boards 5 and 6, representatives from our hospital partners (including New York Methodist, Long Island College Hospital and Kings County Hospital, among others), staff from the New York City Department of Sanitation, officers from the 78th Police Precinct and representatives from the Institute for Community Living. In all, some 125 people braved the bitterly cold weather to help ring in the holiday season at the Shelter.

Led by Shelter Director Shawn Young, the festivities included a special dedication to three special people with long affiliations to the facility.

LeDeana Gourdine, a dedicated residential aide at the shelter who recently passed away, was recognized for her many years of service. Sydelle Ganz was honored for her work benefiting the shelter; for years, she has donated to the shelter all the proceeds from the sale of her beautiful jewelry. Finally, Roger Meltzer, a Park Slope resident on the shelter's advisory board, was saluted for his tireless work beautifying the gardens around the building.

The ceremony also featured wonderful holiday carols sung by staff, visitors and choristers from the many churches whose members volunteer regularly at the shelter, including Brooklyn Tabernacle, Greater Bibleway Temple, Brooklyn Cathedral of Praise and Greater Baptist Church. The highlight of the event was, of course, the lighting of the shelter's holiday tree, decorations and the building's facade, to the

delight of those attending.

"We were thrilled to have so many of our friends in the community turn out for our Tree Lighting," says Young. "While we work with them throughout the year, it was nice to share season's greetings and hot cider with them

during the holidays."

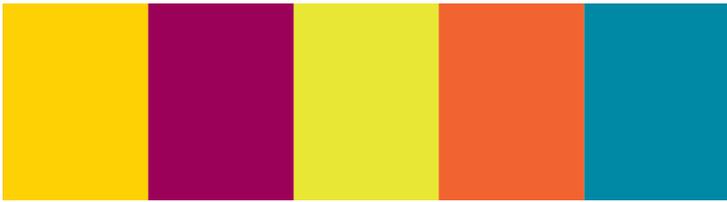
CAMBA's Park Slope Women's Shelter has been a part of the community since 1996, providing temporary shelter and stabilizing services, case management and outpatient treatment for homeless women. ♦

HOLIDAY SALE ATTRACTS HUNDREDS!

CAMBA's 2007 Holiday Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe attracted hundreds of art enthusiasts seeking special gifts for families, friends—and themselves. Held November 30 through December 2, the sale featured many beautiful sculptures by some of Zimbabwe's most renowned emerging and established artists. The winter Holiday Sale and the annual Benefit Sale in June are much anticipated and popular CAMBA fundraising events. If you missed our Holiday Sale and can't wait until our sale in June, you can always go online to www.shonasculptures.com to view and purchase sculptures. For information, call 718.284.9064 or 718.287.2600.



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JUNE 19–JUNE 22: SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendar. CAMBA will host a summer **Sale and Exhibition of Shona Sculptures from Zimbabwe** from Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22. You will be able to purchase wonderful works of art from a wide selection of sculptures created by some of the best of Zimbabwe’s renowned Shona artists. The sale will take place at the CAMBA Gallery, 19 Winthrop Street (near Flatbush Avenue) in Brooklyn. Look for details of this upcoming event in our next issue.

THANK YOU!

Michael and Laura Harstein for their generous gift of a universal gym for the residents of CAMBA’s Park Slope Women’s Shelter. They also arranged for the manufacturer to install it onsite.

Bennett Lawrence Management LLC for its Christmas generosity to the CAMBA families residing at the new Myrtle Avenue Apartments in Brooklyn. *(See story on page 2)*



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