



Unanimous Support for Webster Ave Project



We're thrilled to announce that The Bronx Community Board 4's Housing & Land Use Committee unanimously approved to issue a letter of support for our new supportive housing project on Webster Avenue. The project will convert an old mechanic shop to a brand new 72-unit apartment complex with 43 units designated for survivors of domestic violence.

As our **Executive Director, Nicole Branca** stated at the meeting: "New Destiny exists to find homes for DV survivors who have lost everything and are trying to rebuild their lives and their community again." To learn more about the project, check out [Camille Botero's feature in the BronxTimes](#).

Celebrating Mother's Day

This month, Family Support Program staff went above and beyond to make Mother's Day extra special for the families in our buildings. From craft-making to brunch and candle-making, these activities provided memorable experiences for our families.



NYSAFAH Conference

On May 18, our Executive Director, Nicole Branca, was invited to sit on the Lease-up and Homeless Placements in New York City panel at the 24th Annual New York State Affordable Housing Conference in New York City. Alongside Alex Merchant, NYC Housing Development Corporation; Emily Osgood, NYC HPD; Howard Slatkin, Citizens Housing and Planning Council; and Liza Taveras, Reliant Realty Services, LLC, Nicole made concrete suggestions on how to significantly increase the speed of lease-up of affordable housing.



AAPI Heritage Month Spotlight: Brenda Tong

Brenda Tong, Deputy Executive Director, was featured by The Supportive Housing Network of New York for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: [view the post here.](#)

Brenda stated: "Visibility is also what motivates me to serve the supportive housing community. The crisis of homelessness and the leasing causes of it, such as domestic

violence, thrives when it's allowed to remain in the shadows. I'm proud to be a part of a collective effort to bring sunlight and solutions to this undoubtedly complex issue."

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

BRENDA TONG
Deputy Executive Director

NEW DESTINY HOUSING

Brenda serves as New Destiny's Deputy Executive Director with the primary responsibility of overseeing all of its social service programs including the provision of on-site services to tenants in New Destiny's supportive housing portfolio and a citywide rapid rehousing program collocated in the Family Justice Centers. Prior to New Destiny, she was the Director of Community Programs for New York and New Jersey at Single Stop. Her experience with supportive housing began as Program Director for Lantern Community Services, where she managed a New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene funded supportive housing program for formerly homeless families. Ms. Tong has a B.A. from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Masters of Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work.

What does this month mean to you and what motivates you to serve those in the supportive housing community?

AAPI Heritage Month, like other annual heritage celebrations, is a step towards the inclusion of BIPOC history in the American experience. It brings attention to a rapidly growing, broad pan-ethnic diaspora that, as of the 2020 Census, accounts for over 7% of the total US population. I think the month strives to illustrate the experience of AAPI folks including our contributions and our solidarity with other communities. I hope this focus is leveraged to confront the invisibility of anti-AAPI hate, yield a greater understanding of the many peoples identifying as AAPI and acknowledgment that we are Americans.

Advocacy Updates

New Destiny joined Urban Resource Institute, Safe Horizon, and other domestic violence service providers in calling on the city to invest in two critical areas of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. We also urged the administration to implement two major budget neutral solutions that would expand housing resources to domestic violence survivors, which are desperately needed.

Read the full testimony to the City Council Committee on Finance for the Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget Hearing on [our website](#).

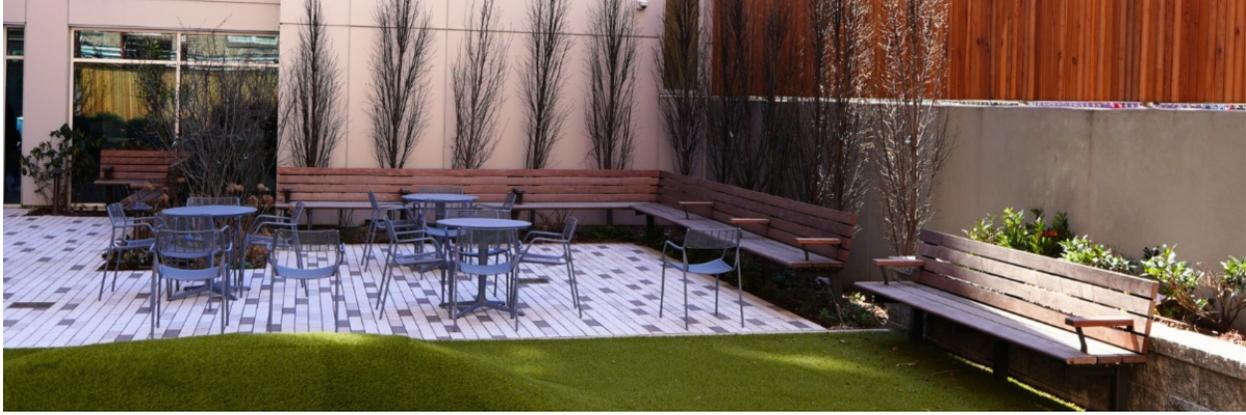
Our testimony elevates two critical areas of the FY24 Executive Budget, as well as two major budget neutral opportunities to expand housing resources to domestic violence survivors, who desperately need them:

- **Fund the ENDGBV Microgrant Program at \$6M**
- **Increase DoVE Initiative Funding**
- **Expand Access to Homeless Set-Asides to Survivors in Domestic Violence Shelter**
- **Open NYC 15/15 Supportive Housing to Domestic Violence Survivors**

HUD Features The Corden as Case Study

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Policy Development & Research published a case study on The Corden, our supportive housing building in the Bronx. The profile is part of a series of online case studies based on federal, state, and local strategies that increase affordable housing opportunities and apply sustainable features and practices.

The Corden was selected by HUD because of its demonstrated innovation in helping domestic violence survivors and their children thrive. Read the report [here](#).



Closing Out New Destiny's Inaugural Annual DEI Training



Earlier this month, we held the final session of our first all-staff Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training series at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center in The Bronx. Our thanks to Mind Open Learning Strategies for their expertise and guidance as we navigate these important discussions. Additional thanks to Enterprise Community Services and Phipps Neighborhoods for their support.

Celebrating Staff Achievements

With the start of a new season comes exciting changes for staff members at New Destiny!

- **Marcus Galloway**, former Program Director of Raven Hall, has been promoted to New Destiny's inaugural Director of Mental Health Services
- **Louise Mcknie**, former Tenant Support Coordinator at Bainbridge Manor, has been promoted to the Program Director of Raven Hall.
- **Dominique Tyson**, former Staff Accountant, has been promoted to Senior Staff Accountant.
- **Janine DiLorenzo**, former Case Manager, has been promoted to Tenant Support Coordinator at Bainbridge Manor.

Welcome To:

As we continue to expand, we're elated to extend a warm welcome to our new staff:

- **Barbara Aybar**, Program Director – Marcello Manor and The Morris
- **Sarah Dini**, Housing Coordinator
- **Dulce Medina**, Financial Coach

We're Hiring!

Join our team! Four of our newest postings are:

- [Controller](#)
- [Health and Wellness Coach](#)
- [Resource Coordinator](#)

To see the complete list of job opportunities, [click here](#).

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