The presentation included an overview of our Family Support Program, the health and well-being outcomes from a recent independent study of the program, and program enhancements that will enable us to better track and respond to the health and wellness needs of our families. It also included an overview of New Destiny’s housing navigation and aftercare work through our HUD Continuum of Care Rapid-Rehousing program and new Emergency Housing Voucher Housing Navigator Program.

We were thrilled to celebrate the ribbon cutting for The Kira, our first building in Queens. Developed with BFC Partners and SMJ Development, The Kira has 139 affordable apartments with 69 supportive units reserved for families coming directly from domestic violence shelters. Event speakers included New Destiny’s Executive Director, Nicole Branca and Board Chair, Nora Levinson; Celines Sevilla, a tenant at The Kira; Donald Capoccia, Managing Principal, and Brandon Baron, Principal, BFC Partners; Juan Barahona, Principal, SMJ Development; Commissioner Daniel Tietz, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Thehbia Hiwot, Senior Vice President of Multifamily Finance, New York State Homes and Community Renewal; Cecile Noel, Commissioner, Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; State Senator Leroy Comrie; and representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Councilmember James Gennaro, Queens Borough President, Donovan Richards; and Katelyn Meehan, Vice President, Relationships Manager, Wells Fargo.

Designed by GF55, the Kira includes a multi-purpose residents’ lounge, a children’s room, a library/ computer room, a secure outdoor space including a play area for younger children, and offices for our on-site Family Support Program. Funding was provided by NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, Wells Fargo, and Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits 4%.

Visit our Facebook Page to view the ribbon-cutting photo album.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference

Nicole Branca, Executive Director, and Gabriela Sandoval Requena, Senior Policy Analyst, led the Housing as Healthcare Workshop at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s (NCADV) 2022 National Conference on Domestic Violence. They discussed the health disparities affecting domestic violence survivors and the positive impact that our supportive, affordable permanent housing has on tenants’ health.

The presentation included an overview of our Family Support Program, the health and well-being outcomes from a recent independent study of the program, and program enhancements that will enable us to better track and respond to the health and wellness needs of our families. It also included an overview of New Destiny’s housing navigation and aftercare work through our HUD Continuum of Care Rapid-Rehousing program and new Emergency Housing Voucher Housing Navigator Program.
Advocacy Victory!

Months of tireless advocacy by New Destiny and partner organizations, plus increased attention by local press, produced a seismic shift in homelessness policy this past month. The City Council passed Intro 212-B which requires the city to report a comprehensive monthly census count of all five shelter systems and exits to permanent housing. Creating a one homeless shelter census has been a top legislative priority for New Destiny for many years. For decades, limited public disclosure of the numbers of individuals in the city’s specialized shelters including thousands of survivors living in domestic violence shelters, youth in the DYCD shelter system, and others in specialized shelters had obscured the full scale of homelessness. This not only prevented a true understanding of who is homeless, but resulted in these population being excluded from critical housing resources. This will now change.

We are grateful to Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala for introducing the bill and to the General Welfare Committee members and staff for moving it forward.

The Corden – Editor’s Choice Winner, Affordable Housing Finance

We’re proud to announce that The Corden was selected as the Editor’s Choice Winner in Affordable Housing Finance (AHF) Magazine’s 2022 Readers’ Choice Awards. Designed by Magnusson Architecture and Planning PC, The Corden has 62 apartments with 37 units reserved for households headed by homeless domestic violence survivors. In describing The Corden, AHF wrote: “The design of the amenity-rich building emphasizes mental & physical well-being for the residents.”

Safe Housing Symposium

At the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Safe Housing Symposium, we participated in the Empire State Supportive Housing’s (ESSHI) Recipients: Program Perspectives panel. Nicole Branca, Executive Director, and Brenda Tong, Deputy Executive Director, discussed the trauma-informed services that we offer on-site at our buildings to previously homeless domestic violence survivors and their children. ESSHI provides critical operating and program support at our new buildings.

Back to School

Family Support Program staff held back-to-school events in preparation for the start of the new school year.