



### Preserving Affordable Housing

New Destiny is renovating four of our oldest buildings in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, to ensure their future as viable affordable rental projects. Building-wide renovations will include new roofs and windows, new/improved lighting in public areas, masonry repairs and new heating systems. Apartment upgrades include new bath and kitchen fixtures, appliances and floors; and tiling and painting as needed.

Repairs will be completed over the next 18 months. Funding for this project is provided by the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, and Low Income Housing Tax Credits awarded by HPD and NYS Housing Trust Fund Corp.



### Health and Well-Being

Once a month at one of our buildings in the Bronx, Anjali Kumar can be seen teaching residents how to do downward dog, warrior and mountain poses in a one-hour yoga class.

Anjali was inspired to volunteer with New Destiny after helping a colleague who was in an emotionally abusive relationship. She was looking for an organization where she could connect and add value.

A financial trader by day, Anjali also teaches yoga and felt that the rewards of yoga—increased focus, improved physical health and emphasis on good nutrition—would positively impact New Destiny’s residents, most of whom are domestic violence survivors.

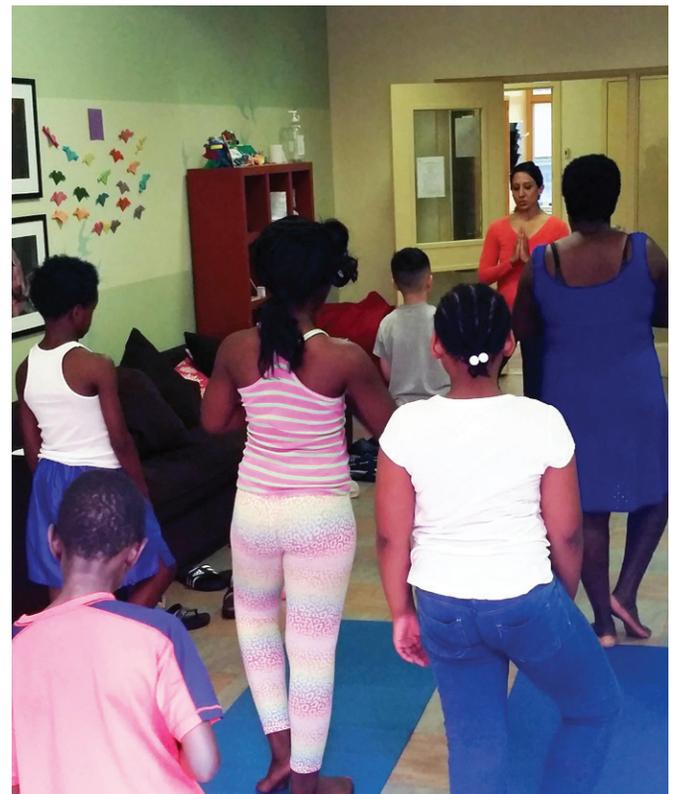
In addition to creating a calming space, Anjali has become an informal support to some of the mothers who participate in the class with their children, as the challenges that our clients face can at times be overwhelming. Anjali explains that “sometimes a reminder to ‘sit and do the breathing’ can help a person through a crisis.”

### Finding a HOME

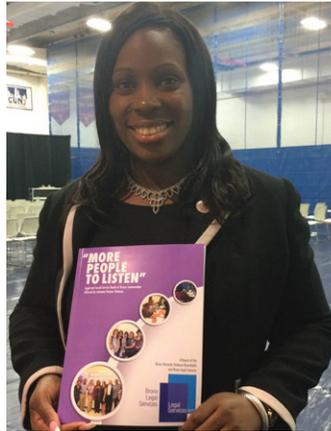
Project HOME has connected 29 domestic violence survivors to affordable private sector housing, and 100% have remained stable in housing, some for almost two years. A collaboration with New York City Family Justice Centers (FJC), Project HOME links eligible clients at the FJCs to apartments in privately-owned, safe, affordable, permanent housing. Project HOME also offers clients at the FJCs training and technical assistance in applying for privately-owned housing. Critical to the ongoing stability of the households we place in apartments is the availability of supports from the FJCs post-placement.



A grant from the U.S. Dept. of Justice Office on Violence Against Women enables us to offer clients, many of whom are at risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, subsidies for first month’s rent, security deposit and short-term rental assistance.



## Domestic Violence in the Bronx



Left: Isa Martinez (New Destiny), Mildred Perez (Nazareth Housing), Jack Newton (Legal Aid Society); Center: NYC Council Member Vanessa Gibson; Right: Terry Lawon (Legal Services–NYC), Fabian Wander (Hostos Community College), Trinh Trann (Legal Services–NYC)

In 2015 and 2016, the Bronx Domestic Violence Roundtable, of which we are a major participant, and Bronx Legal Services conducted a needs assessment of community residents in the Bronx—Legal and Social Services Needs Assessment of Bronx Communities Affected by Intimate Partner Violence. The resulting report—“More People to Listen”—offers a comprehensive analysis of the surveys and was presented at a symposium held at Hostos Community College.

The Roundtable’s primary goal is to give voice to Bronx residents who are not always heard when legal and social services programs are designed. By taking the time to listen to residents about what they need before designing and deploying additional

resources, the Roundtable hopes to improve the paradigm of service provision in the borough.

Some of the report’s major findings are:

**64% reported incomes below the federal poverty level**

**55% cannot afford their rent**

**26% are living in shelter**

**42% would like help finding housing**

Download the full report at [www.newdestinyhousing.org/what-we-do/policy-reports-a-press](http://www.newdestinyhousing.org/what-we-do/policy-reports-a-press)

## Building Community

For families fleeing domestic violence, New Destiny’s safe, affordable, permanent housing with services is the platform for healing and rebuilding lives. Our on-site services include family and children’s activities that are designed to increase tenant engagement; promote tenant stability and family unity; foster self-sufficiency; and build community, which is particularly

important to adults and children who have cut ties with their previous community to remain safe. Our Junior Council helps to build community by holding holiday events for children and adults in our buildings. The events—Halloween, Valentine’s Day and a spring celebration—have become highlights of the year for New Destiny’s families.



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