Another Year of Wonderful accomplishments—Because of you!

It is hard to believe that the end of the year has arrived! The wonderful thing is that, the year's end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Our accomplishments are rooted in helping those we serve thrive.

In 2018, we opened several new residential properties starting with our very first affordable housing project, Lynn's Place. We opened UPS 121st Street Residence in Queens, which houses six women with development disabilities and our Brooklyn Day Hab Program which will provide independent living services and programs to special needs individuals in Brooklyn and lastly, we are proud to announce that UPS has found a new home on the historic Grand Concourse, with an anticipated grand opening in the year 2020.

During our successful school backpack give away, where we gave away 100 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need. The event was a success and we are grateful to our sponsors. The UPS Food Pantry, which serves 800 families annually, was given a boost with new funding from the New York Yankees Community Benefit Fund and funding from the NYC Council Bronx Delegation. We also held one of our most successful annual Galas to date—raising $250,000.00 to support our programs and services.

It has truly been an exceptional year of accomplishments and as 2018 comes to a close we want to say thank you, we simply couldn't do it without you. Your support makes a real, lasting impact in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship. Wishing you the best the coming year has to offer!

Onward and Forward!

Yvette Brissett-Andre

Yvette Brissett-Andre
You Have Helped to Restore Hope and Transform Lives: A Special Request

Thanks to you, nearly 1000 individuals, have a place to call home and have received programs and services that support their unique needs. On behalf of them, thank you for supporting their lives and their dignity.

Your support has helped the individuals we serve in numerous ways. Take Sam for example....

We recently helped Sam a move into a new apartment. He lived under an awning at Chelsea Piers for years. Since working with UPS he has found a job and is on a path to success. Without your help, Sam would still be out on the street. Today, he is safe, warm, and self-sufficient.

Another proud accomplishment is the success of Rosa. Rosa was homeless and suffering from major health issues and as a result was experiencing high levels of stress. After working with UPS staff, she was provided the tools to manage her health and received assistance finding a home. This holiday season Rosa is no longer surviving---but thriving! These stories are made possible because of your support.

Please consider us in your year-end giving. The impact of your gift will touch not only Sam and Rosa but, every client across our programs and services as they have fulling fuller lives.

Make a difference and demonstrate your compassion for those we serve and make a special year-end contribution of $25, $50, or $100 to make a difference or consider purchasing a bench plate for $250, to be placed in our Lynn’s Place memorial gardens. No amount is too small and every gift is appreciated.

There are also other ways you can make a difference. DONATE. HIRE THE DISABLED. PROVIDE INTERNSHIPS.
The 2018 Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway: Distributing Smiles

In August 2018, UPS began a new tradition! The new tradition is all about distributing smiles to children as they head back to school! The UPS Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway was established as a part of our community efforts, to engage, unite, and give back to community members.

Through the generosity of the Honorable Senator Gustavo Rivera, Ponce Bank, Health First, TD Bank and Ace Office Supply, we were able to provide backpacks filled with essential school supplies to students in the community who might have otherwise gone without.

The in-kind donations allowed nearly 100 youth from Pre-k to High school a wonderful start to the school year will provide students who would go without an opportunity to have needed school supplies. Students received pencil cases, hand sanitizers, pens, No.2 pencils, markers, erasers, spiral and composition notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, loose leaf paper, folders, backpacks, and 3-ring binders and scientific calculators.

The event was an enormous success!
A night filled with Excellence: The 2018 Unique People Services Gala!

On Thursday, October 25, 2018 Unique People Services (UPS) held its 27th Anniversary Gala! Over 250 supporters, community members, and friends joined us to celebrate and help us to raise over $250,000.00!

The theme for this year’s event was A Celebration of Unique People and during the evening, we highlighted five successful honorees, who’s uniqueness embody the mission of UPS—, Ms. Barbara Lehrer, President and founder of the Beacon Group, Inc. received the Lynn Wonsang Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the former President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Nunzio Del Greco. The 2018 Individual of the Year, Jaombay Wells, was selected from an array of UPS program participants that have overcome insurmountable challenges to lead fulfilling productive lives. Ms. Melissa Salguero, PS 48 Music teacher and Grammy award winner, was the recipient of the UPS Community Award and Interior Resources was presented with this year’s Business Award.

WABC-TV News entertainment reporter Sandy Kenyon hosted the celebration and an opening performance by the signing group RaiseNY and dance music by Bronx Hip-Hop Icon DJ Hollywood helped to create an unforgettable evening.

The Gala featured an elegant VIP cocktail reception, with a performance by the YAZ Band and a highly coveted selection of auction items. Auction experiences included autographed photographs and items from singing star Fantasia and last year's honoree, actor Sheryl Lee Ralph. Sports memorabilia, spa certificates, luxury designer fashion items, dinner and hotel packages, beautiful diamond jewelry, and a fabulous array of live entertainment experiences, such as tickets to a NY Yankees game and tickets to the Broadway play, “Waitress.

This event attracts a diverse and aware audience that helps UPS demonstrate the power of collaboration. All proceeds raised from the event and auction allows UPS to further broaden services to help more individuals have access to programs and services which transform more lives, deepening their mission of Understanding People, Providing Homes, and Serving Communities.

The event was a great success and could not have been achieved without the support of all of our sponsors. Our 2018 sponsors included, the Beacon Group, Lamb Finical Group, Atlantic Tomorrow’s Office, Interior Resources, and Bruno Frustasci Contracting Group Inc.

It was a great evening!

Click here for Photos of a Night to Remember! Check out the evenings Gala Video.

PS: If you did not have an opportunity to attend, you can still donate by purchasing one our bench plates to be displayed at Lynn’s Place in our memorial garden.
UPS Recognizes Star Employees!

Unique People Services (UPS) held its 2nd Employee Recognition Luncheon for 2018. The event recognizes employees nominated by their supervisor for going above and beyond in their work performance. Board member John Zeltin, provides a generous and thoughtful donation that makes this the quarterly event possible.

The winner from this quarter was Hector Vega, from our Scattered Site program. Jospeh Telfer, Hector’s supervisor, who submitted the nomination, wrote, “Hector is an outstanding employee who brings devotion and a high degree of energy as well as flexibility, knowledge and professional conduct to the agency. Hector never complains about extra workloads given to him; he takes everything in stride and treats all clients with a high degree of respect. “Upon receiving the award and $250 check as an expression of thanks for a job well done, Hector was overcome with emotion. He shared, “I’ve never won anything, I’m extremely grateful for this acknowledgement of my hard work.”

This quarter’s nominees also included Dalbert Watson, Andrea Porter, Confesora Castoire, Daniel Stone, Diamond Gruillon, Eunice Gooding, Jin Xu, Madeline Nunez, Yovanna Figueroa, and Kendra Williams. Nominees received a copy of their nomination, certificate of appreciation and a symbolic “You Make a Difference” gold coin. All nominees were also invited and treated to a photo shoot on the UPS red carpet.

The luncheon was held in the conference room at the main headquarters. UPS executive leadership, board members, and the supervisors of the nominees, were in attendance. Once again the room was beautifully transformed with decorations by Fillerene Taylor-DelMohammed, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Flowers, gorgeous table settings, and gift bags filled with UPS branded items adorned the room. A delicious lunch was served and attendees gave a toast in celebration of each other’s achievements.

During the luncheon, Mr. Zeltin addressed the attendees and expressed appreciation of their contributions to the organization. The event is always a wonderful day filled with inspiration.

UPS would like to congratulate all of the nominees for their wonderful work and dedication to excellence!

To view photos of the event visit: UPS Employee Recognition Event.
It's been a busy few months.--- Here are some highlights of our additional activities!

We ARE UNIQUE!

UPS Halloween Highlights
Our residential programs celebrated Halloween in style with great costumes, carved pumpkins and a rocking DJ to make their Halloween one to remember!

Pretty In Pink
On Sunday, October 21, 2018, some of our staff and individuals participated in the 2018 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, at Orchard Beach in the Bronx.
**UPS Leadership Spreading the Word That... “We Are All Unique!”**

Our Chief of Staff, Aziza Anderson and Corporate Relations Manager, Constance Brown-Bellamy attended a Bronx Community Town Hall meeting at Bronx Community College hosted by US Senator Gillibrand.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to voice concerns to Senator Gillibrand and our team also had the opportunity to meet and speak with the Senator and present her with information about UPS and a #WeAreUnique t-shirt.

Thank you Senator Gillibrand, for your willingness to hear directly from the people!

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**Support for the UPS Food Pantry**

Support for the UPS Food Pantry has been tremendous. In the last few months we received a generous new grant from the New York Yankees Community Benefit Fund Inc. and support from the NYC Council Bronx Delegation and continuing support from the New York City Food Bank.

The funding comes at an important time, as the Bronx remains the hungriest NYC borough, according to a 2017 report by New York City-based Hunger Free America.

Established in 2009, the UPS Food Pantry helps to fulfill local community residents’ nutritional needs through healthy affordable food options. We help to distribute almost 200 bags of food per month to residents, feeding more than 2400 people per year.

The UPS Food Pantry promotes health education regarding nutrition; and it also helps those individuals who are not eligible for food stamps, but are in need. Most importantly, it supports UPS participants and families living with homelessness, mental health challenges, developmental disabilities and HIV/AIDS to ensure they have food throughout the month.

The funding to support the UPS Food Pantry will allow us to expand the pantry’s reach and ensure that more people have access to healthier nutritional choices.
UPS receives the Community Care RX Customer Appreciation Award

On October 16, 2018, we were honored to receive the Customer Appreciation award from Community Care Rx at their 25th Anniversary Reception. We are truly humbled by this acknowledgement and extremely grateful for their partnership.
UPS Featured in the Autism Spectrum News!

In the Fall 2018 issue of the “AUTISM SPECTRUM NEWS”, Unique People Services was a featured contributor (pg. 16). The issue focused on the importance of safety for those with Autism.

Autism Spectrum News is a news publication from the award-winning Mental Health News and Education, Inc.

Please enjoy this informative article, by clicking on the link below.

Won’t You Be My Neighbor? Unique People Services Creating Community Connections

*UPS Executive Director and CEO, Yvette Brissett-André, serves as the Secretary on the Mental Health News and Education, Inc. Board of Directors, which publishes Autism Spectrum News and Behavioral Health News.*
Giving Thanks! The Unique People Services Annual Thanksgiving Drive

Families this Thanksgiving did not go hungry thanks to the generosity of the Honorable Senator Gustavo Rivera, the Honorable Assemblyman Michael Blake, Ponce Bank, Magnusson Architecture and Planning (MAP), Atlantic Tomorrow’s Office and Enterprise Fleet Management. Because of the support of these generous partners, UPS was able to distribute over 100 turkeys and all the fixings for those in need as part of our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. The UPS team distributed bags filled with gravy, cranberry sauce, cornbread, green beans, turkey stuffing, mashed potatoes, and of course turkeys weighing up to 20 pounds!

Most of the individuals that benefited from the turkey and fixings giveaway are struggling to survive and the shared goal for all involved was to provide the basics for a Thanksgiving meal to those who might have gone without. “Everyone should have the opportunity to have a warm and delicious meal during the holiday season, yet many of the individuals we serve don’t have the means to do so,” said Yvette Brissett Andre, Executive Director of Unique People Services. “Through the support of our valued partners, we are able to help individuals that sometimes suffer from food scarcity and giving this valuable support is a wonderful way to start the holiday season off right, Brissett Andre further stated.

Wanda Matos, Vice President of Ponce Bank said, “Ponce Bank is proud to partner once again with UPS and enjoys supporting the invaluable programs and services this organization provides to the New York City area. We are happy to provide contributions that help families in need during the holiday season through this important annual turkey drive.”

UPS is dedicated to reaching deeply into communities in which we work to bring holiday cheer and help improve the lives of those in need. The annual turkey drive is just one way UPS is able to provide meals for food insecure families and connect with the community. The organization also provide meals through our food pantry to clients and community residents. Through these efforts, we are able to connect and strengthen the bonds of community, allowing us to provide the highest level of support services, programs, and resources to people we serve.
Welcome to the UPS Family

Victor Genao
UPS Program Director: Haven Apartments

Join us in welcoming Victor Genoa back to Unique People Services as the new Program Director at Haven Apartments.

Victor possesses an enhanced set of skills from his experience with the HASA Housing, OMH licensed and non-licensed programs, OASAS programs, and DOHMH programs.

His holds a Bachelor Degree in Human Services and Masters of Science in Human Services with a concentration in Nonprofit Executive Management from Boricua College.

He is a Human Service Board Certified Practitioner as well as a Certified Substance Abuse and Alcoholism Counselor (CASAC).

His greatest passion is being the changing agent for people who have been through traumatic life altering experiences. During his previous tenure at Unique People Services, he held a position in our Supported Housing Program.

Please join us in welcoming back Victor to the Unique People Services team!

Betsy Pelsuo
UPS Human Resources Director

Betsy holds a Master’s degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Baruch College, CUNY. She has solid knowledge of employment and labor laws, and is well versed in various Human Resources and office technologies.

She has worked for various types of organizations, including for-profit, non-profit, public, private, non-union and unionized organizations. Industries include professional services, such as advertising, marketing, accounting, university, technology, sports, manufacturing, and health and human services.

Her interests outside of work are various. She is a singer and classically trained clarinetist and she enjoys reading classical literature, business, law, and labor history.
Aziza E. Anderson serves as Chief of Staff at Unique People Services. Aziza brings experience leading and implementing strategic initiatives, managing programs and performing organizational oversight in the private, federal and nonprofit sectors. In her new role, she joins Unique People Services Executive Leadership Team as it expands its housing development and health services portfolio. She has direct responsibilities for 250+ staff, 800+ individuals as well as organizational and project management ensuring the execution of the Agency’s strategic plan. Aziza collaborates closely with the Executive Director and key stakeholders in support of greater impact and positive change making for our most vulnerable individuals and families.

Before joining Unique People Services, Aziza served at National Urban Fellows (NUF), where annually she cultivated and managed 25+ Executive Leadership Mentorships across the nation at leading public sector organizations while facilitating NUF’s Educational Provider transition to Georgetown University. Prior to her role at NUF, she served in various capacities within operations, compliance, criminal justice, immigration, higher education, private K-12 and international educational services.

Aziza is a proud Bronxite and global citizen that has lived, worked and served in five continents. She values reflective life-long learning, quality health and education access, the arts, travel, humor and enjoys spending time with her family.

Aziza is a William J. Clinton Scholar and National Urban Fellow, one of the country’s top leadership development programs. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and International Studies with honors from SUNY Fredonia and Master of Public Administration from the Marxe School of Public Affairs, CUNY Baruch.
Deborah A. Downing-Ogbolu, MS

Deborah A. Downing is an educator that believes in making a difference.

For over 25 years, she has lent her talent to the NYC Department of Education. As a master educator with a passion for special education and serving those with developmental disabilities, Deborah approaches everything she teaches—with a profound passion. Students find her knowledge and spirit infectious; she turns her classroom into a place where imagination, critical inquiry, and laughter thrive.

Deborah is a seasoned special education educator that is known to bring out the best in students who are mentally, physically, socially, and/or emotionally delayed. Deborah understands that the needs of developmentally disabled students cannot be met within the traditional classroom environment, so she currently provides consulting services as an Early Intervention Provider Specialist, working with developmentally delayed children in their homes. She focuses on their cognitive, communication and social-emotional skills. She adapts the content, teaching methodology, and delivery instruction to meet the appropriate needs of each child.

The strides she has made have been acknowledged through her numerous awards and growing responsibilities at the schools in which she taught. Ms. Downing has held a number of professional positions throughout her career. She has served as a School-Based Coach, coaching and mentoring new teachers and teachers endangered of getting an unsatisfactory rating, as well as a Family Specialist, supporting, and empowering parents to be the best advocates for their children.

Deborah is also a passionate civic leader, who to helps foster innovation and lasting organizational change, with organization such as the Metropolitan Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., where she has served as a Teen Advisor and Co-Chair of their very successful Annual Gala.

Ms. Downing holds a Master of Science, Special Education from the City College of New York and a Bachelor’s of Science in Elementary Education, Lesley College. Deborah also holds a New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education.

UPS Welcomes New Board Members

UPS has been so fortunate to welcome four new board members that each bring an insurmountable amount of insight and talent. Let us introduce them...
Polina Bakhteiarov

Polina is a dedicated public servant with a deep interest in leveraging the market potential of NYC's assets through public-private partnerships. Polina currently serves as the Director for Real Estate Development with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) where she leads the Preservation Team in repositioning 20,000 distressed public housing units via subsidy conversion to Section 8.

Prior to her work in New York City, her previous professional experience includes leading redevelopment and community asset building and organizing projects in Lawrence, MA and New Orleans.

Polina has also served on the economic development team for the Mayor of the District of Columbia. During her four-year tenure with the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Polina held a myriad of roles. Her roles included, serving as the Executive Director of Great Streets. This program was the District's commercial revitalization initiative to transform emerging corridors into thriving and inviting neighborhood centers and as Project Manager over a portfolio of urban redevelopment and corporate attraction/retention initiatives, which spanned public land transactions for mixed-use new construction development; healthy food access policy; business incentives creation; community benefits negotiation; and public housing revitalization into mixed-income communities.

Polina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in urban planning and civil engineering, as well as a Masters degree in city planning, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Currently a resident of Spanish Harlem, Polina's civic involvement centers on community mental health and increasing diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.

Nathaniel Montgomery

Mr. Montgomery has an extensive background in real estate and community development. To date he has secured over $100 million dollars in financing for both residential and commercial development projects. Nathaniel Montgomery currently serves as Chief Operating Officer at the Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation (NEBHDCo). As Chief Operating Officer at NEBHDCo, he is responsible for Fiscal, Economic Development, Community Programs, Human Resources, Asset & Property Management and Real Estate Development.

Mr. Montgomery has held a number of professional positions throughout his real estate development career. He has served as Senior Vice President for the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SOBRO); Director of Real Estate Development for Brand New Day, Inc.; Director of Real Estate Development for VOCM; and Senior Project Manager for Isles, Inc. He holds certifications in Real Estate Development Finance and Economic Development Finance from the National Development Corporation (NDC). Mr. Montgomery holds a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (MA) and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration (MPA). Mr. Montgomery is also a graduate of the National Urban Fellows leadership program.
Joana Ryan Bekerman

Joana is an accomplished executive with over 20 years in banking and financial services. Her broad areas of expertise include investment banking and private equity, including mergers, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, restructuring, equity and debt financing, and business development/deal origination.

A founding member of the SMBC Nikko Investment Banking team, Joana leads coverage of middle market financial sponsors, focusing on originating M&A advisory assignments, equity capital market transactions and acquisition financing, high yield securities and bridge financings for portfolio companies across a broad array of sectors. Prior to joining SMBC Nikko, she co-founded and led SMBC’s middle market leveraged finance group in North America. Joana developed and implemented the growth strategy for the group and drove key business activities that resulted in a portfolio of $1.5B.

As a leader of SMBC’s Women’s Inclusion Network (WIN) and a Co-Chair of the Mentoring Committee, Joana created and implemented the firm’s first formal mentoring program. She also serves on the Women of Leadership Committee for Association of Corporate Growth (ACG), the premier association in New York for middle market financing and advisory professionals. In 2018, Joana was named one of 27 Women in Power Fellows by the 92nd Street Y’s Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact, a program focused on advancing women in diverse sectors to the highest levels of leadership.

Joana received undergraduate degrees from Boston College (History & Political Science, cum laude) and an MBA in International Finance from Thunderbird, The American Graduate School of International Management. She holds Series 24, 63 and 79 FINRA licenses.

Outside of work, Joana is active in her community and various non-profits, serving as a Girl Scout troop leader and as a volunteer editor and Portuguese translator for Kiva, the microfinance lender. Joana is passionate about health and fitness, and has completed four Ironmans and multiple marathons. Born in Brazil, she is a native speaker of Portuguese and fluent in German. Joana resides on Long Island, NY and enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.
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### We Welcome Our New Hires to the UPS Family!

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### Congratulations and welcome to the UPS Family!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **28th Anniversary Gala: Dancing with the UPS Stars!**
  - Marina Del Rey Caters
  - Wednesday, October 23, 2019

- **2019 is going to be full of exciting and informational events!**
  - Be on the Lookout for these 2019 Events:
    - The 2nd Annual Trauma and Informed Care Conference
    - UPS Night with the New York Liberty Basketball Team
    - The 10th Annual UPS Community Health Fair
    - The UPS Special Olympics
    - UPS Back to School Backpack Giveaway
    - UPS Turkey Drive
    - UPS Annual “Angel Wishes” Toy Drive