

CAMBA OPENS THE ANNA GONZALEZ APARTMENTS

CAMBA's first supportive housing project is ready for occupancy. Apartments are now available at the Anna Gonzalez Apartments, located at 880 Willoughby Street in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn.

According to Sharon Browne, CAMBA's deputy executive director responsible for health-related and housing programs, "Opening the Anna Gonzalez Apartments is a major landmark for CAMBA. Through the years, we have instituted a full spectrum of programs to address homelessness, ranging from our Eviction Prevention Unit to HomeBase, and temporary shelters. However, the Anna Gonzalez Apartments represents our first step toward helping to increase the number of affordable housing units available to New York City's low income individuals with special needs. Creating affordable housing allows CAMBA to help stabilize and improve not only people's lives, but also neighborhoods. Affordable housing prevents homelessness and brings jobs to our communities." ▶ 2



The 99-unit Anna Gonzalez Apartments in Bushwick is CAMBA's first supportive housing project. CAMBA hopes to have 1,000 units of affordable housing available citywide by 2015.

From the Executive Director



Joanne M. Oplustil

Our fall newsletter is about building—building partnerships, building relationships, and, yes, even building homes.

I am happy to report the opening of CAMBA's 99-unit Anna Gonzalez Apartments, which increases the number of affordable housing units for New Yorkers with low-income and special needs.

CAMBA's successful HomeBase program for at-risk families has expanded and continues to build connections between people at risk of becoming homeless and the many services that can help them become stable.

Driven by the strong bonds they have built with the people we serve, our fantastic staff helped us go well beyond our goals for the food pantry drive earlier this year.

Our Annual Sale and Exhibition of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe in June was a great success. Many people purchased these original works, ranging in price from \$74 to \$10,000. On November 30, December 1 and December 2, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, you will be able to purchase more exceptional sculptures at CAMBA's Holiday Sale, which will take place at our gallery at 19 Winthrop Street in Brooklyn. Please call Lorelie Lombardo at 718.287.2600 x228 if you need directions.

And finally, I want to remind you that *A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*, which generates much needed support for CAMBA, will take place on November 6 at the Sheraton New York Hotel in Manhattan. The evening features a gala reception and a private performance by Jennifer Holliday, the original Dream Girl. If you would like to join us or learn more about it, please call Bonnie Osinski at 718.287.2600 x265.

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1, 2 Residents at CAMBA's Anna Gonzalez Apartments enjoy studios with new kitchens, hardwood floors and high ceilings, a beautiful private garden and an attentive staff.

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ANNA GONZALEZ APARTMENTS

Named after a Bushwick community activist, the Anna Gonzalez Apartments is a 99-unit, elevator building that combines a rehabilitated four-story structure with a five-story newly constructed wing. All apartments are fully furnished and feature hardwood floors, ceiling fans and kitchenettes with microwaves. In addition to studio apartments, the building boasts office, commercial and community/recreation space. There is also 24-hour security and an outdoor garden. Conveniently located, the building is located near many amenities and major public bus and train lines.

But what really makes the Anna Gonzalez Apartments special is the diversity of services available to residents. Tenants are eligible for a wide range of individualized, supportive programs and resources. CAMBA case management staff is on-site to ensure that tenants receive appropriate assistance, including health care, job training, financial advice and any other information or service that helps to stabilize their lives and make them more self-sufficient. CAMBA deputy executive director Sharon Browne explains, "CAMBA not only offers a comprehensive network of services, but can also connect people to a variety of outside agencies. Consistent with CAMBA's mission, we will connect our tenants with the services they need to build successful, independent lives."

With projects like the Anna Gonzalez Apartments and Morris Manor (a 46-unit building in Flatbush opening in early 2008), CAMBA is moving steadily toward our goal of having 1,000 units of affordable housing by 2015, bringing with them stability, services and economic development to neighborhoods in Brooklyn and beyond.

We continue to offer many other opportunities to prevent homelessness. CAMBA currently provides emergency and transitional housing, permanent scattered site housing, three homeless shelters and a drop-in center, as well as housing relocation programs for families.

For applications for the Anna Gonzalez Apartments, please contact Rebecca Hochman at 718.919.2623. For information about CAMBA's services, please visit www.camba.org. ♦



OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT
CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services which connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.



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CAMBA
where you can

7, 8 Jennifer Holliday, the original Dreamgirl, will give a private performance at the gala Celebration to Benefit New York Kids.

Join Us for "A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids"



All of us at CAMBA are delighted to participate, for the third year in a row, in *A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*, which will take place on Tuesday, November 6 at the Sheraton New York. CAMBA is partnering with Youth, I.N.C. and twenty other youth-serving non-profits to bring together thousands of supporters for a grand-scale reception and private performance by Jennifer Holliday, the Tony Award winner from the original Broadway musical *Dreamgirls*, accompanied by a twelve-piece band.

Through *A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*, CAMBA has the opportunity to be part of a gala event, produced and paid for entirely by Youth, I.N.C. *Celebration* allows us to raise substantial funds for and increase the visibility of our programs without having to manage or pay for the event. The result is almost 100% of every donation goes directly to CAMBA. This year our goal is higher than ever—\$70,000—and if we reach it, Youth I.N.C. will match 15% of the total amount we raise.

According to Bonnie Osinski, CAMBA's director of development, "CAMBA is thrilled to participate once again in this important event because we benefit by raising much-needed income, as well as from a wide range of seminars and special management programs Youth I.N.C. makes available to participating organizations." Youth I.N.C. is a non-profit organization that uses its business expertise to nourish non-profits and develop their capacity to raise private dollars. After participating in *Celebration* for a few years, non-profits are expected to be able to manage their own fundraising events. Since its founding in 1995, Youth, I.N.C. has coached more than 75 organizations, helping them collectively raise more than \$8.7 million through the *Celebration* program and serving more than 325,000 New York City youth.

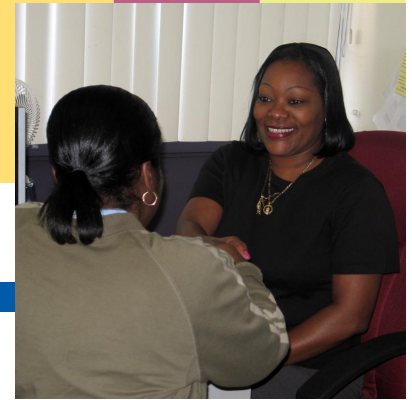
Individual tickets are \$300. There are also different levels of sponsorship available that come with additional benefits. Space is limited. If you are interested in participating in this exciting event call Bonnie Osinski at 718-287-2600 as soon as possible. ♦



3, 4 With its main office located in Bedford Stuyvesant, CAMBA's HomeBase program serves people throughout Brooklyn.



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CAMBA'S HOMEBASE PROGRAM EXPANDS

CAMBA's HomeBase program has been a model of success for the past three years. This pilot program is now ready to be replicated citywide, with CAMBA leading the way. In addition to Bushwick and Bedford Stuyvesant, CAMBA's HomeBase will expand to serve residents of Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville and East Flatbush (areas included in Community Boards 3, 8, 9 and 17).

HomeBase was implemented in 2004 as a creative, data-driven homeless prevention program, in partnership with the New York City Department of Homeless Services. CAMBA was one of only five nonprofit organizations chosen to participate in the original pilot program. Started in six targeted, high-needs neighborhoods (South Bronx and East Tremont in the Bronx; East Harlem in Manhattan; Jamaica, Queens, and Bushwick and Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn), the program was developed to help people in danger of becoming homeless.

According to data from the city, those most in danger of losing their homes are young women who have young children, no high school diploma or G.E.D. and limited work experience. Melissa Mowery, CAMBA's HomeBase program director, explains, "Our challenge from the beginning has been to find people at risk, intervene before they become homeless and help to stabilize their lives. In the past three years, we have worked hard to develop strong outreach activities." HomeBase staff members reach out to potential clients wherever they find them: in hospital waiting rooms, on street corners, check cashing establishments, other social service agencies and even their children's schools.

"CAMBA's HomeBase program is particularly suited to helping people stabilize their lives because we target our vast resources to help meet individual needs" says Mowery. "Our

clients are able to receive a full range of expert services within CAMBA. We have a lot of flexibility to resolve the underlying factors that put different types of families at risk of becoming homeless."

In addition to specific housing-related case management, the program's staff of 26 also helps clients access employment, training, advocacy, legal services, mediation, education and other services offered by CAMBA. Mowery notes, "CAMBA's HomeBase program is successful because knowledge is power. Our amazing staff is particularly well versed in benefits advocacy. If it's out there, we will get it for our clients." She adds, "Our HomeBase program is all about building partnerships, building relationships and building trust in order to help people be successful. Our staff is passionate and motivated to help clients stabilize their lives and achieve success."

CAMBA's successful HomeBase model has drawn national attention. CAMBA was invited to make presentations at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in July. Mowery has presented the program to conferences in North Carolina and will present again in Richmond Virginia. In 2006, the HomeBase model was one of seventeen finalists for the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. "We are thrilled to be at the front line in the battle against homelessness and to share our success with others also working to alleviate homelessness in communities across the country," says Mowery. ♦

CAMBA's HomeBase program is located in Bedford Stuyvesant at 1195 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call 718.622.7323.



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- 5 Honoree Lisa Hollmer talks about working with CAMBA at the opening reception for the Annual Stone Sculpture from Zimbabwe Sale and Exhibition, as CAMBA executive director Joanne M. Oplustil (center) and fellow honoree Julia Beardwood (right) look on.
- 6 "Guiding Our Children" by Lawrence Mukomberanwa is just one of the exquisite, affordable Shona sculptures available at CAMBA's gallery.

ANNUAL SHONA SALE IS A SUCCESS!

CAMBA's Annual Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe in June was a resounding success! Hundreds of people from Brooklyn and the New York metropolitan area traveled to our gallery at 19 Winthrop Street to view and purchase original pieces of art. Their purchases of the beautiful sculptures created by Zimbabwe's world-renowned Shona artists benefited CAMBA's programs and services.

The annual event got underway with a preview cocktail reception at the gallery on June 7. Attended by many of CAMBA's friends and benefactors, the opening event honored Cindy Wening of Chadbourne & Parke LLP, Hedwig O'Hara of Lawyers Alliance of New York, and the volunteer team members from the Taproot Foundation, Julia Beardwood, Lisa Hollmer and Joe Marianeck, for their support of CAMBA's work on behalf of underprivileged individuals in Brooklyn and beyond.

Cindy Wening, who recently became general counsel of Apollo Real Estate Advisors, was a partner in the real estate group at the international law firm of Chadbourne & Parke LLP. In addition to being saluted by CAMBA, she received earlier this year a Cornerstone Award from Lawyers Alliance for New York for her pro bono work with our agency. She graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University and received her J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Hedwig O'Hara is a senior staff attorney at Lawyers Alliance for New York, concentrating on affordable housing and real estate law. Born and raised in New York City, Ms. O'Hara graduated summa cum laude from Hunter College.

Julia Beardwood owns a brand strategy and design firm in Soho with clients as diverse as Bath & Body Works, Pfizer and NBA. Working with CAMBA was her first Taproot volunteer project.

Lisa Hollmer is a marketing communications account supervisor at SMP Creative Media LLC, a consulting and production agency that provides a broad range of creative and project management services for a diverse range of clients. Working with CAMBA has been her third Taproot Foundation project.

We are grateful to Ms. Wening and Ms. O'Hara for their pro bono legal work for CAMBA, and we are equally indebted to Ms. Beardwood and Ms. Hollmer for their invaluable help in developing CAMBA's new brand. ♦

GIVE AN ARTFUL GIFT

Purchase original, affordable sculptures created by Zimbabwe's renowned Shona artists at CAMBA's 2007 Holiday Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe, which takes place

Friday, November 30; Saturday, December 1, and

Sunday, December 2, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

each day. The sculptures make wonderful

gifts for family and friends. And your purchase

will help support CAMBA, a non-profit

agency that provides services which connect

people with opportunities to enhance their

quality of life. If you can't make it to the gallery,

sculptures can always be viewed and purchased

online at www.shonasculptures.com.

For more information, visit the website or call

718.284.9064 or 718.287.2600. ♦



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CAMBA Drives Away Hunger



AMBA made a concerted effort to help alleviate hunger in our community by running a food drive to coincide with a Hunger Awareness month this past April. We asked Brooklynites to bring canned goods to CAMBA locations. Our goal of receiving 1,000 cans was quickly blown away. We actually received 1,304 canned goods for the food drive. The majority of donations came from nine CAMBA locations, where high-spirited competition developed between many staff. Our high total netted CAMBA a \$1,304 matching donation from the Feinstein Foundation of Cranston, Rhode Island.

Collected food was trucked to CAMBA's Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry, which provides more than 5,000 packages each year to hungry children and adults in Brooklyn. Dawn Woods, the Food Pantry's program manager, says, "Thank you to everyone who contributed to CAMBA's Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry Food Drive. Your canned contributions directly help those in need in our community." ♦



YOU CAN HELP CAMBA MAKE AN IMPACT.

Please consider making a contribution tax deductible contribution of \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: \$ _____

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