

**BROWNSVILLE/EAST NEW YORK CHILD WELFARE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK  
ACT WEBSITE**

**Name of Network:** Brownsville/East New York Child Welfare Neighborhood Network

**General Neighborhood Network Overview**

The Neighborhood Network is a collaboration among the community-based agencies, ACS/NBS, and ACS contracted agencies assigned to specific community districts, other local providers and stakeholders committed to providing a culturally sensitive and family centered approach. The Network is a forum where agencies can share resources, ideas, information, referrals, as well as engage in joint planning.

**The Brownsville/East New York Child Welfare Neighborhood Network**

The Network, which is composed of Community Boards 16 and 5 is a collaborative body of approximately fifty agencies that came together to better provide services and resources to these communities. Our mission is to facilitate the provision of services to consumers in their community; increasing their awareness of these services for the betterment of their families. The Network has been active for two and half years.

**Leadership/Key Contacts:**

**Chairperson:** Helen Jordan  
Program Director, Service to Families  
New York Urban League  
718-385-7474

**Co-Chair:** Brenda Jackson  
Program Director  
Women Prison Association  
718-385-2600

**Co-Chair:** Tricia Johnson  
Director  
Hegeman Transitional Center (ACS)  
718-257-7312

**Brooklyn Borough Coordinator:** Patricia Bassy  
ACS Neighborhood Services  
212-227-6379

**Network Liaison:** Osman Boakye  
718-385-7474

**Network Stats**

**Geographic Boundaries/Neighborhoods covered:** Brownsville and East New York

Community Districts: 16 and 5

SPA: 2,3

Total Membership: 120

Average # of Members that actively Participate: 65

Frequency of Meetings: 1/month

List of Subcommittees: Substance Abuse, Child Abuse Prevention, After School Tutorial

Total Number of Consumer Participation: (i.e. youth, parent, etc.): 9

Top 3 Areas of Focus: Coordination of every effort in Brownsville and East New York communities, after school activities, mass education on drug abuse.

Number of children in foster care: 2,428 (as of July 2001)

Number of protective reports: 3,068 (as of July 2001)

**Network Members**

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Builders for Families and Youth  
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service  
Concord Family Services  
Family Consultation Services  
Little Flower  
Miracle Makers  
New York Urban League  
Puerto Rican Family Institute  
Seaman's Society  
St Christopher Otilie  
St. Vincent's  
VIP  
Richmond Home Need Services  
Safe Horizon  
Women' Prison Association  
ACS/DCCS  
ACS/HS  
ACS/DCP  
ACS/DFC  
Brooklyn Heritage House  
Genesis Homes

Brooklyn Children Center  
William Chisholm HDFC  
Liberty Management Group  
NY Psychotherapy and Counseling  
Cumberland Family Health Support Center  
Brooklyn Children's Museum  
Institute for Community Living  
ALPHA School  
Realization Center  
Uth Turn  
Family Pathways  
Therapeutic JCCA  
Support Systems to Promote Higher Esteem  
NYC Housing Authority  
GBYC Youth Connection  
CHLDC Beacon Family Place  
HELP 1/Genesis Day Care  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Department of Education Reach Out  
Angel Guardian  
Oceanhill/Brownsville Tenant Association  
SVC/M/St. Mary's Hospital  
Probation Department  
NYPD 73<sup>rd</sup> and 75<sup>h</sup> Precincts.  
ACS Hegemen Center.

**Network Accomplishment to date:**

- Mission statement was completed
- Completed a resource directory
- The Network completed Matching Needs and Services in the Spring of 2001, which marked the beginning of the Network.
- Through its participating organizations, in the Fall 2001, the Network developed a tutoring program in five after-school sites, serving approximately 110 children, with tutors from Medgar Evers College, NYU and Paul Robeson High School.
- Conducted toy drive in 2001. Third annual toy drive is underway with the toys being donated to Genesis Homes.
- Held second annual breakfast anniversary to highlight the success of the Network. Eric Brettschneider moderated the event
- Awarded grant from New Yorkers for Children
- A matrix was created and implemented
- Held "Family Empowerment" workshop in March 11, 2003
- Formed a subcommittee to plan events for Child Abuse Awareness Month in April
- Consumer participation in Network meetings has increased to nine.
- Free Spanish speaking parenting classes for clients from Network agencies.
- Membership enrollment has increased substantially

- Created membership list
- Launched a new program for the after school tutorial program: “Attacking Literacy with Technology: Accelerated Reader Program.
- Substance Abuse conference is planned for November 4, 2003
- The Network is creating a new project called “ *Attacking Literacy with Technology: Accelerated Reader Program*”. The objective is to provide aggressive, hands-on computer training and other educational programs such as multicultural education in Brownsville and East New York communities. It will be highly effective academic enrichment program for inner-city junior high school students, as a partnership between the Network, local colleges and community districts 16 and 5.
- On April 1, 2003 the Network held the second annual breakfast meeting, which was a huge success. Over 160 people attended. The meeting highlighted the achievements of the Network. Many professionals and dignitaries attended. Eric Brettschneider moderated.

#### **The Network’s Future Projects**

- The Liaison is working with community districts 16 and 5 to compile a directory of all social and business services offered in Brownsville and East New York.
- Plans are underway to hold joint meetings and trainings with SPA 3, July 2003.
- There is a big drive to recruit more volunteers for the after school tutorial program, because of the increase of the number of sites of the program.
- The Child Abuse Prevention Subcommittee in conjunction with Institute for Community Living, a member of the Network, will organize poster contests and family day at PS13 and PS19 every two weeks. The program will be extended to others schools in the near future.
- In conjunction with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Network is offering a mentoring program for children who are getting out from the foster care system.
- A conference is planned for November 4, 2003 on substance abuse issues.

#### **The Network’s Co- Chair Bios:**

**Helen Jordan** has worked for the New York Urban League for 16 years .She began as a case planner and is presently the Program Director of a preventive program in the Brownsville community. She has a Masters in Social Work from Adelphi University. She received a Seminar in Field Instruction certificate in 1991 and has been a field instructor for all of the local schools of Social Work except the State University at Stony Brook. She has also been a faculty advisor at Adelphi University. Her AAFILIATIONS ARE Black Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, African-American Task Force on Violence Towards Women, Coalition of Brooklyn PRRS Directors, Council of Family and Child Care, Inc., Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, National Association of Black Social Workers, and National Association of Social Workers.

**Brenda Jackson** is the Program Director of the family Rehabilitation Program at Women's Prison Association and Home Inc. Throughout her career, she has committed to improving the well being of children and families. Ms. Jackson worked with the welfare system for over thirteen years. Ms Jackson received her Bachelor's Degree from Hunter College and her Masters Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University.

Letricia Johnson is the Director of Hegeman Transitional Center, an ACS run 24-bed residential facility that houses girls 15-21. Prior to joining ACS, Ms. Johnson was in the private sector. Ms. Johnson is graduate of Columbia University's Teacher's College with a M.A. in Organizational Psychology and an Ed. In M. in Counseling Psychology. Ms Johnson is a board member of the Single Resource Center.