

## STIMULUS FUNDS FUEL CAMBA'S JOB PLACEMENT SUCCESS

In the midst of recession, CAMBA has placed 650 people in full-time, higher-paying, in-demand jobs since September 2008, including a record 75 individuals in June and 66 in July.

In addition, federal stimulus money received from local agencies is helping fuel CAMBA's unprecedented job placement success. Through this funding, CAMBA's Workforce Development department will place 200 unemployed individuals in full-time jobs paying more than \$10 an hour. We are also training 60 people for "green" jobs, primarily as certified building analysts and energy efficiency auditors in the increasingly vital areas of energy conservation and weatherization.

Eileen Reilly, CAMBA's Director of Workforce Development and Refugee Services, explains, "Increased need and increased funding have allowed us to turn the economic downturn into an opportunity. Green trainings will help put people in a place where they are well positioned for career pathways as the economy improves. We see ourselves as part of the solution and our dedicated staff is inspired by this. We are not only helping to employ individuals, we are also helping to make our communities more energy efficient and stimulate the local economy." ♦



CAMBA staff, board members and family joined CAMBA Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Brooklyn Building Awards, where she and CAMBA Housing Ventures were honored. Read more on page 2.

## JOIN THE CELEBRATION

For the fifth consecutive year, CAMBA will participate in *A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*, a gala event sponsored by Youth, I.N.C. (Improving Nonprofits for Children). The gala will be held on November 16 at the famed Waldorf=Astoria Hotel. Seventeen other nonprofits will join us for an inspirational evening, bringing together almost 3,000 supporters of New York City's most effective social service organizations.

We invite all our supporters to participate in the *Celebration*. Sponsorship levels range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Individual tickets are \$300.

This year, we offer attractive new benefits. Every company contributing a minimum of \$1,500 will have its logo featured on CAMBA's *Celebration* web page, with a link to its own

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### From the Executive Director



Joanne M. Oplustil

CAMBA has achieved new heights on behalf of the thousands of

people we serve.

We have helped a record number of people find living wage jobs, in spite of the current poor economic climate.

Our staffers have received many new accolades and recognition for the extraordinary work they do for our clients.

And we are gearing up for what we hope will be another successful *Celebration to Benefit New York Kids*. Thus far, our partnership with this Youth, I.N.C. program has helped us raise \$400,000 for our vital programs and services.

We are enjoying greater successes, but our challenges are also growing. CAMBA can only help those who need help most through your continued support. ♦

### In This Issue

- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Salutes CAMBA's Supportive Housing Efforts
- CAMBA Staffers Awarded Amy Watkins Scholarships
- Brooklyn Borough President Honors CAMBA Staffer at 6th Annual Iftar Dinner



## BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SALUTES CAMBA'S SUPPORTIVE HOUSING EFFORTS

**T**he Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce saluted both CAMBA Housing Ventures (CHV) and CAMBA Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil on July 15 at its Brooklyn Building Awards. The Chamber's Real Estate & Development Committee presented an award to CHV for Morris Manor, a 46-unit supportive and affordable development in Flatbush. Ms. Oplustil was recognized for her significant nonprofit contributions to the economic climate of Brooklyn.

Chamber President and CEO Carl Hum said she "portrays another side of Brooklyn's best, in which we care for those less fortunate by providing affordable, well-designed supportive housing where it is needed most." Ms. Oplustil thanked all CAMBA staff for their hard work over the years and noted, "without them CAMBA/CHV would not receive these great awards." ♦

### JOIN THE CELEBRATION From Cover

corporate website. The link will stay active from the time Youth, I.N.C. notifies us of your gift until December 31. For a gift of \$5,000 you will receive a quarter-page journal ad. Once we reach our initial goal of \$150,000, we will be eligible to receive matching funds equal to approximately 10% of the total amount we raise, enabling CAMBA to stretch every dollar you contribute and ensure that

almost all the money we raise goes to supporting our work.

To date, our participation in Youth, I.N.C.'s *Celebration to Benefit New York Kids* has netted more than \$400,000 for CAMBA programs and services to 35,000 individuals and families.

For more information, contact CAMBA Director of Development Bonnie Osinski at 718.287.2600. ♦

## USE OUTPACES FUNDS AT CAMBA FOOD PANTRY

**A**ccording to the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, 1.3 million New Yorkers live in food insecure households, and 1 in 5 of the city's children go hungry.

CAMBA has definitely seen many of the faces behind these troubling numbers. Since September 2007, use of CAMBA's Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry has increased astronomically—600%, while our funding has increased only slightly. Since March 2009, the pantry has served more than 2,000 people each month, many of whom became unemployed or underemployed recently.

Financial and in-kind donations from our corporate partners, community members and CAMBA staffers help us keep our pantry doors open. But we need more help. If you are interested in conducting a food drive, hosting a fundraiser or volunteering at the pantry, please contact Anne Christian at 718.282.3082. ♦



**CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services that connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.**



CAMBA staffers Erica Linton, Gabrielle McCollins and Keisha Peterson (l-r) have been recognized for their exemplary work with CAMBA clients. CAMBA's knowledgeable and caring staff work hard to deliver comprehensive services to more than 35,000 individuals and families each year.

## BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT HONORS CAMBA STAFFER AT 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IFTAR DINNER

**A**t the 6th Annual Iftar dinner on August 25, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz honored CAMBA's Dzemal Hamzic as "one who exemplifies compassion, cooperation and partnership through interfaith dialogue and conversation."

The dinner brought together people of various faiths and professions for the "break-the-fast" meal taken by Muslims observing Ramadan, a month-long holiday marked by prayer, charity and fasting from sunrise to sundown.

Hamzic is Program Manager for Workforce Development and Refugee Services. He has been with CAMBA for 15 years, during which he has helped those directly affected by September 11, Hurricane Katrina, Kosovo, a pioneer HIV program and the current recession.

At the dinner, Hamzic thanked CAMBA's upper management for helping those in need by creating many opportunities and programs. He also thanked his colleagues for not forgetting that those affected by these events are all human beings.

He notes, "I had problems being honored. Why be honored for something that I already receive a paycheck for? I accepted the honor on behalf of CAMBA, not myself." He added, "This award is one of many signs that we at CAMBA are on the right road and going in the right direction."

The dinner was sponsored by the Arab American Federation, Council of People's Organizations and United American Muslim Association of New York.

We congratulate Hamzic for this honor and for his many years of service to CAMBA. ♦

## CAMBA STAFFER SALUTED AS AN "UNSUNG HERO"

**T**he New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) through its Family Support Services/Children's Services Division recently honored five preventive agency staffers with Commissioner John Mattingly's Child Advocacy Award, including CAMBA's Gabrielle McCollins. The quarterly award salutes frontline staffers who are the "unsung heroes in working with families." A case planner for CAMBA's Foster Care Prevention program, Gabrielle has long and excellent experience in dealing with complicated family situations. ♦

## AMY WATKINS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO CAMBA STAFFERS

**K**eisha Peterson and Erica Linton, case planners in the foster care prevention program of CAMBA's Family Center, have received scholarships from the Amy Watkins Scholarship Fund, which helps those committed to working professionally in the field of child welfare attain a bachelor or master's degree in social work. Grants of up to \$3,000 tuition per semester are awarded annually by the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, in conjunction with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Consortium of Social Work Education.

CAMBA's Family Center helps families eliminate or reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. We are delighted that the exemplary work of our staff members has been recognized through this scholarship program. Yet it is really CAMBA clients who are the real beneficiaries, as our knowledgeable and caring staff continues to provide comprehensive support to strengthen families. ♦



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Please consider making a tax deductible contribution of:

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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CAMBA  
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Edited & Designed by Gayle Louison ▶ Public Relations

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The Celebration to Benefit New York Kids • November 16 • The Waldorf=Astoria Hotel  
Join the Celebration! Details inside.

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