



Alliance For Progress, Inc.

Commitment to the Community

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Home Buyers Seminar

AFP and Citibank Team Up

Alliance For Progress, Inc. (AFP) and Citibank offered residents of Highbridge the opportunity to learn about various loan instruments available to first-time home buyers in a bilingual setting. This seminar took place on Saturday, November 10, 2007 and participants learned about credit, equity, taxes, interest rates, and money management. Participants were served lunch and received a complementary gift courtesy of Citibank.

Participants were encouraged to shop around for the most affordable loan among the various banks in the market place. In addition, bankers emphasized the importance of prioritizing expenses in order to separate needs and wants. By establishing a budget, participants are able to reach their goal of owning a home in due time.

AFP is planning to host another Home Buyers Seminar in February 2008. For more information on this event, please visit our website: www.allianceprogress.org. ❖

Christmas Toy/Book Drive

AFP seeks Donations for Neighborhood Kids

Alliance For Progress, Inc. (AFP) launched its annual Christmas Toy/ Book Drive to benefit kids in the Highbridge community from 3 – 12 years of age at PS 73, PS 126, and the Doris E. Stone Daycare Center, which is part of the Highbridge Advisory Council.

Christmas is a time to share the Faith and bring the gift of peace and joy to our community especially our neighborhood kids!

AFP hopes to alleviate the burden of parents with limited resources in choosing between paying for essential expenses – rent and utilities – and purchasing a Christmas gift, if at all.

The initiative is part of AFP's mission to assist the less-fortunate and working families to climb the social, economic, and intellectual ladder in the third poorest county in NYS.

Please visit our website, www.allianceprogress.org, for information on ways to donate. All donations are tax-deductible.❖

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Check out our Website:
www.allianceprogress.org

*From all of us at AFP, we wish
you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



Personal Finance: Budgeting

Developing a Budget

Do you like to travel? Do you want to buy a new car? A new home? Or simply save for something you really want? Having a good budget would help you do just that.

Formulating a sound budget will help you to:

1. reach your goal(s)
2. organize your finances
3. develop a strategy for spending and savings

No one plan fits everyone. Every family is unique in terms of their needs and goals. By developing and following the budget you will know where you stand financially. A budget requires you to estimate your income for a particular period and decide how to prioritize your expenses.

A good budget should include the following:

- All sources of income – the amount of money you receive after taxes
- Fixed Expenses – i.e.: rent/maintenance fee, gasoline, insurance, and loan repayment on credit cards, student loans, car loans and etc...
- Variable Expenses – meals and utilities such as cable, telephone/cellular phone
- Discretionary Expenses – i.e.: entertainment, vacations, recreation, beauty care, gifts, donations, hobbies and etc...

Analyze your income and expenses by reviewing: cancelled checks, payment/debit receipts, credit card statements, and receipts for expenses paid in cash. If you are not saving all receipts for cash expenditures get into the habit of doing so as all out-of-pocket expenditures add up! Remember, if it comes out of your wallet, it must be part of your budget!

To determine your net worth, you will need to subtract your liabilities (what you owe) you're your assets (what you own). The cash available is a base to determine how much more you need to save for a particular goal, i.e.: a sufficient down payment for a new house, cooperative, or condominium.

Once you have analyzed your present financial situation, you may begin to assess whether or not your current income can cover the cost of your goal i.e.: a new home or automobile, and prioritize your goals e.g.: increase saving or investment.

Highbridge Public Jr. High

AFP joins Highbridge Residents

AFP has joined neighborhood parents, residents, houses of worship and other non-profit/community based organizations in calling for a new Highbridge public junior high school.

Neighborhood residents have longed for a new public middle school in "Highbridge proper". Nearly a decade ago, Highbridge residents clamored for a new school and received one. The Rafael Hernandez Dual Language Magnet School (PS/MS 218) was opened in 1999 at 1220 Gerard Avenue. Theoretically, this magnet school grants 50% of its available seats to neighborhood children and 50% to pupils who have been selected via an entrance exam. However, in practice a vast majority of its pupils live on or east of the Grand Concourse. In addition, it is its own feeder school, as it is a kindergarten thru eighth grade school. This excludes an overwhelming number of children who reside in "Highbridge proper".

Today, community residents demand a new public middle school in which pupils of "Highbridge proper" may receive authentic scholarship and formation, making each child aware of his/her moral, ethical, and civic commitments in light of the common good.

AFP strongly supports the development of a new public middle school where a sound and thorough education may be obtained thereby eliminating the "watered-down" education, which only leaves kids with an ill-conceived notion of personal and academic success. This of course offers nothing more than good feelings and little knowledge. This limited understanding translates to no opportunities for success and happiness.

If a child's formative years have been, but a sweet-nothing, what impact will this have on our community?

AFP is interested in shaping our neighborhood's future. If a child's formative years have been, but a sweet-nothing, what impact will this have on our community? A grave one! Our future generation of residents will be poorly informed and ill-prepared for intellectual, financial, political, and social growth.

Join us in this cause and e-mail us at inquiry@allianceprogress.org with your name, address, and telephone number. For quicker response, please include HB Middle School in the subject line. ❖

Highbridge Park

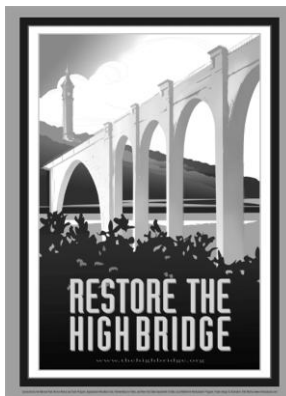
AFP joins the Highbridge Park Coalition

AFP joined the Highbridge Coalition to reopen the Highbridge Park in order to restore a hidden neighborhood gem. Highbridge Park was a path, to Manhattan, offering residents and visitors a serene and rejuvenating experience and allowing individuals to escape the burdens of everyday life.

Not only does AFP seek to reopen the eastern portion of Highbridge Park but, we want to make it, via the pedestrian bridge, a tourist attraction as it once was. AFP is greatly interested in attracting a kayak or crew facility, a city cruise line stop and/or a NYC marathon stop.

AFP hopes the reopening of the bridge will turn Highbridge proper into the second Riverdale – via an impressive park with its superior topography and geography (located 15 minutes from mid-town Manhattan, Queens, Westchester, and New Jersey).

AFP is working to develop the West Bronx to its former golden years. The reopening of the pedestrian bridge, planting flowers, and developing a wide range of recreational activities will not only benefit our community, but also make Highbridge proper the place to be! ❖



A Brief History of Highbridge Park

The Highbridge Park is NYC's oldest standing bridge connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. It is part of the Old Croton Aqueduct, which brought NYC its earliest supply of clean water. The bridge has never carried vehicular traffic – only pedestrians! The High Bridge was begun in 1839 and was completed in 1848 and is a National Historic Landmark! ❖

Budgeting does not end after you reach your goal. In fact, it becomes especially important for a successful and sustainable future. You can not afford to buy or do everything you want all at once. This is true when you incur the costs associated with owning say a home, car and etc... Establishing a budget helps you control your spending, identify where you are spending your money, indicate areas where you may be able to save, and assist you in planning for your next goal(s).

The following worksheet, will aide you in developing your very own budget:

Expenses		Income	
Rent/Mortgage	\$	Net pay	\$
Electricity	\$	Net overtime	\$
Food	\$	Pension or SSI Benefits	\$
Clothing	\$	Public Assistance	\$
Day care	\$	Alimony/child support	\$
Tuition	\$	Investment earning	\$
Car loan	\$	Other income	\$
		<i>Total Net Monthly Income</i>	
Gas and Oil	\$		\$
Telephone	\$		
<i>Total Monthly Expenses</i>	\$	Income after expenses*	\$

*- Total net monthly income minus total expense

Thus, budgeting helps you realize how much money you bring in and spend. Don't get discouraged if your budget is not working. Make adjustments to your budget and remember to save in order to reach your goal(s). Revise your budget every three or six months or as often as your financial situation changes.

Take control of your money. Don't let your money take control of you!





Alliance For Progress, Inc.

Mission Statement

Alliance For Progress is dedicated to facilitating the underprivileged working families to procure and sustain economic and social advancements by providing affordable housing through the purchase and development of real estate and the promotion of intellectual growth by administering educational programs designed to enable residents to obtain gainful employment in flourishing neighborhoods. The implementation of our programs will guide our residents to work towards independence and prosperity, foster individual responsibility and encourage the common good. ❖



A Brief History of AFP

AFP – A Commitment to the Community

Since 1975, AFP has served the West Bronx and has, since its incorporation, provided residents assistance with job development, social services and affordable housing. Mrs. Antonia Díaz, a devoted community activist, former Chairwoman and co-founder, dedicated forty years of her life to the community advocating the revitalization of the West Bronx.

For more information on AFP, visit our website at www.allianceprogress.org. ❖

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED