

#### **BELL ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

# 2020 SHOOK THE WORLD TO ITS CORE IN UNPRECEDENTED WAYS NEVER BEFORE SEEN.

BELL Organization responded to the pandemic with innovative ways to assist families and keep youths engaged through virtual means and creative building skills.

During the height of the pandemic, underrepresented communities around the Bronx were heavily affected. The Bronx is the poorest borough in New York City where families go through food insecurity on a daily basis. With the pandemic decimating families through death, job loss, and more, families have experienced an unprecedented amount of strain resulting in them spiraling even deeper into food insecurity.

BELL Organization has partnered with Bronx elected officials from, Councilmember Vanessa Gibson, Assemblymember Chantel Jackson, Senator Luis Sepulveda to Borough President Ruben Diaz to host various events such as food, PPE, and educational drives to help alleviate the pressures of the communities not having enough to provide for their families. There is a turnout of over 500 families at each of our drives.



**Raising Awareness** 

Reading is a prescription for a lifelong success for children and a dose of deep well-being for the family.



**Developing Confidence** 

Besides teaching students the skills they need for economic success, education brings national harmony and reconciliation



**Delivering experience** 

Be a student as long as you still have something to learn and this will be all your life.

#### **MESSAGE FROM CEO**

When I think back to the year 2020, what stands out are the months leading up to the summer. At that point, the world was four months into a global pandemic, and we were in the midst of expanding our goals to address the growing multitude of conditions affecting youths and families of low socioeconomic backgrounds in the Bronx and around New York City.

During our regular community engagement around the Bronx, we would hear from the families that they didn't have enough food to feed their children and didn't have access to PPE due to financial losses. We collected our thoughts and started to approach companies requesting food items and PPE to help those families and address the growth of the infection rates. We were able to host educational, food, and PPE drives around the Bronx to help the families who are in need.

"I am proud of what we as an organization have achieved, and each day we become more confident, determined and focused.". When I look ahead, I am excited about our plans to widen and deepen our impact on the lives of youths from low socioeconomic backgrounds not only in New York City but across the country and the world.

#### **OUR MISSION**

BELL Organization was founded under the intent that proper educational opportunities should be provided to every all youth no matter their socio-economic status. BELL Organization's mission is to develop and provide quality educational opportunities for youths and young adults from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

To motivate youths of color to overcome the hurdles that will come their way in college or post-secondary careers, we must provide a community of like-minded individuals to support them every step of the way. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2018, 7.31 million Americans employed STEM careers, an increase of 7.48% over 2016, when there were 6.80 million STEM workers. BLS expects an uptick in most STEM occupations over the next decade, which may provide additional opportunities for people interested in entering this growing field. By 2028, the BLS predicts 8.05 million STEM workers.

Black and Hispanic workers remain underrepresented in STEM fields. Blacks represent 11% of the U.S. workforce overall, but only 9% of STEM workers. Hispanics represent 16% of the U.S. workforce, but only 7% of STEM workers.

#### FEATURED PROJECTS



### RECYCLING AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

BELL launched this program to increase knowledge of gardening, recycling and becoming more sustainable amongst the youth in the Bronx.

#### FOOD AND PPE DRIVES

BELL went out into communities struck hardest by Covid-19 related burdens and provided needed resources such as groceries, PPE, soaps, hand sanitizer and more.



### **PROGRAMS OVERVIEW**

BELL has developed some programs to address the hardships youth and families are experiencing.

# community engagement activities: food, PPE, face coverings & other drives to help families who are financially

burdened

# Workshops: Robotics, Computer programming, Sustainability, Math. Science

# Foster Care development programs: help foster care youths develop skills needed in the developing world

Research shows the primary factors keeping youths from low socioeconomic backgrounds out of STEM fields are lack of solid STEM skills, exposure, and confidence. Our workshops and foster care programs were developed with the intent to address the needs of those youths.

## **OUR IMPACT**



#### **SOME NUMBERS**

200

350

25

300

**FOOD DRIVES** 

MASK DISTRIBUTION FOR COVID

STEM WORKSHOPS

BOOKS DONATED TO COMMUNITY

## **OUR GOALS**

In response to COVID-19 and the opportunity presented through virtual programming, we now aim to reach youths from low socioeconomic backgrounds throughout all five boroughs in NYC over the next two years.

With 2021 fastly approaching we are planning on continuing to host more drives in various areas around the Bronx, engage with more community members on their needs, run STEM, robotics, Climate Change and sustainability workshops to name a few, partner with more elected officials such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez including working with Fortune 500 companies to make them aware of our works and how we are able to partner as well as create established relationship with youths of low socioeconomic backgrounds.

