

The Resident Voice



Support Line (866) 503-3332

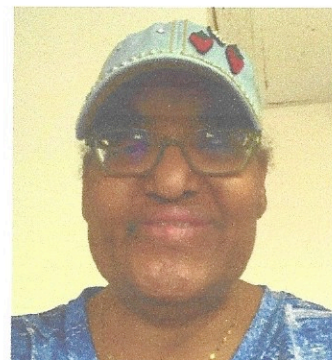
www.ciadny.org

425 East 25th Street New York, NY 10010

RESIDENT PROFILE: Marvetta Drumgold- QACC Resident Council Secretary

My name is Marvetta Drumgold. I'm 58 years old. I reside at Queens Adult Care Center where I have lived for the past two years.

I grew up in Brooklyn and was a sickly child. I was born with a cleft palate and harelip which required a lot of surgeries, which were done in stages. As I got older, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder, antiphospholipid syndrome (ALPS), which attacks the joints and some organs, and it's very painful. I also was diagnosed with vasculitis with peripheral neuropathy, which causes a lot of pain. I continued having surgeries. When I was 24, I was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Thank God the doctor caught it in time. I continued working but was mainly in the Outpatient Department.



My passion was to work in the medical field because I always wanted to give back to others, the way that people helped me. I was glad to be on both sides of the spectrum, being a patient in the hospital and being a medical technician. I did medical lab technology, phlebotomy, and pediatric dialysis technology. It was very hard to work with anyone who's sick but especially with pediatrics when they pass away. The families would want me to come to the funeral. At one point I had to say no because I got burned out, and "burnout" is a real term in the medical field. At some point you have to know your limits and say: "I'm sorry, I cannot, but you have my condolences." I had to take myself out of my body and my emotions and recover from this kind of work.

The way that I dealt with all my illnesses was my love of God, ever since my grandmother used to take me to church when I was young. I have a lot of support from my family and my church family so the way that I find peace and healing is through God and now I really love to help people and I think I do a good job.

I am currently the Resident Council Secretary at Queens Adult Care Center, and I am a Resident Leader with CIAD. I went to the Adult Home Speak Out in Albany on 2/28/24 and I had the opportunity to talk with Assemblymember Steven Raga. The outcome was astonishing – he wants to visit us in the home and see what we're all about.

EQUAL Grant season will be starting soon.

Be sure to see the new brochure: **Get EQUAL!** from CIAD as your Resident Council begins the process of determining your residents' needs and priorities. Contact our Support Line or one of our staff to get a copy or view it on line at: <https://ciadny.org/equal-grant-information/> or under our Resources page: <https://ciadny.org/resources//>. If your Resident Council wants a training in the EQUAL Grant process, call our Support Line – 866-503-3332 and leave a message if a Peer Advocate is not available when you call.

CIAD is a nonprofit advocacy organization run with and by persons with disabilities to support resident rights in Adult Care Homes. CIAD provides: Resident Council training and organizing, Independence Training, and individual advocacy. In partnership with Mobilization for Justice we support advocacy efforts with the NYS Department of Health, Adult Care Home operators and state and local elected officials.

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NY State Assembly Speaker Visits Bronxwood ALP Resident Council



NY State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie joined residents at their April 29th Resident Council meeting to tell the good news that the EQUAL Grant to Adult Home residents was restored by the NYS Assembly under his leadership. Residents expressed their gratitude and celebrated his visit with a cake in honor of the Speaker.

CIAD Prepares for Change of Leadership

It may be hard to imagine, but CIAD is preparing to welcome a new Executive Director in August 2024. After more than forty years of service and visionary leadership, Executive Director Geoff Lieberman is preparing to retire. Geoff first joined CIAD in 1983 as its Nursing Home Organizer, after previously serving as a Borough Supervisor for the NYC Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. In 1986, he assumed the role of Executive Director and has been a sustaining and effective presence in advocacy and empowerment for residents of Adult Care Facilities, not only in the five boroughs of New York City, but across the state of New York. In his amazing tenure, Geoff has worked tirelessly on behalf of residents supporting their rights, autonomy, and independence in living their best lives possible.

CIAD has been preparing internally for this transition over the past year. In the fall of 2023, the Board of Directors established a Search Committee to manage the process of finding a new Executive Director. After a six-month process to identify the best possible successor, the Search Committee recommended a person with a strong history in empowerment, advocacy and services for New Yorkers trying to manage in difficult personal circumstances. We are pleased to announce that our incoming Executive Director is Theresa Young. Ms. Young holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College and an Executive Master's in Public Administration from Baruch College. Ms. Young will begin her tenure in mid-August of this year. Geoff will work with Ms. Young and CIAD during the transition period. Both a tribute for Geoff and a full welcome for Ms. Young will appear in our fall edition of The Resident Voice.