



OCTOBER 2022

[bwiny.org](http://bwiny.org) ▶

## A NOTE FROM BWI

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### Dear Friend of BWI,

As the new year approaches and we reimagine a future for all New Yorkers, BWI is emphasizing an equitable one, where everyone has a fair chance at creating the life they want to lead, with opportunities for long-term careers and financial success.

In our Fall newsletter, we are happy to share some highlights of our work, including our 2021 - 2022 Annual Report, which outlines how BWI has been able to show up for low-income New Yorkers over the past two years. We're also excited to highlight the success of a recent graduate, a meaningful new initiative, and some humbling recognition for our work.

We hope this message reaches you in good health and high spirits. There is a lot to celebrate and also a lot of work to be done and we are grateful to have your support behind our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shiffman".

**Aaron Shiffman**  
Executive Director

### GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

#### Celebrating Naor

Naor immigrated to the U.S. from the Ukraine in his early twenties. His transition to the US was difficult, but eventually he landed at a prominent photo retailer. While he lacked any opportunities for advancement in his



role, he did develop a passion for video editing.

As his interest grew, he connected with people in the post-production industry who encouraged him to apply to "Made in NY" Post Production Training Program.

He says that what stood out to him the most during training was the emotional support from staff. "It was Covid lockdown so everything was over zoom. It was hard to connect with classmates, but the instructors made sure we were cared for."

Naor graduated in March and one week later he was working for Magilla Entertainment as a video editor. He loves his job and has recently been promoted to Assistant Editor, with more room for growth in his future.

## MUST-READS



### Pride At Work

On Oct. 7th at City Hall, BWI joined NYC City Council Members Julie Won, Crystal Hudson, and Amanda Farias; the founders of Pride at Work; and the DC 37 Pride Diversity Interest Group to celebrate the new Pride at Work initiative, which creates pathways to union jobs for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors.

BWI is excited to be a part of this ground-breaking initiative and help address what are long-standing inequities for this community. [Learn more](#)

## BREAKING IT DOWN

### 2022 Annual Report

BWI recently published its 2021 - 2022 annual report, providing an opportunity to reflect on our impact



over the past two years and look ahead to new goals and initiatives.

Read more about how the BWI community was able to continue the mission of empowering low-income New Yorkers, while facing the challenges of the pandemic.

## EXTRA, EXTRA



### Whole Health Hero!

BWI's Executive Director, Aaron Shiffman, was recently recognized as an Empire Whole Health Hero and honored at a Mets game.

Empire BlueCross BlueShield's Whole Health Heroes are leaders throughout the area who are committed to innovations that improve their community's medical, financial or social health. Aaron and BWI are humbled by this designation and grateful for the honor.



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