



JULY 2022

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## A NOTE FROM BWI

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### Dear Friend of BWI,

Right now, we are collectively at a moment in New York City's history when we are tasked with the opportunity to rebuild, rethink, and reinforce the strength of our communities. Over the past 2+ years we have seen what New Yorkers are capable of. At BWI, we are especially heartened to see how our jobseekers and alumni have risen to the occasion and overcome new and evolving challenges. Through it all, BWI has also learned new ways to support those that come to us for help, and we are carrying these new tools into this next phase of pandemic recovery. In the coming months, we will continue to scale up our programs while working closely with employers to ensure graduates have the most relevant skills and stay alert to shifts that might impact our work or the lives of the people BWI seeks to serve.

In this summer newsletter, we get to share results from our recent graduate survey, news on our burgeoning relationship with a partner training program, and a story about a graduate whose career has led him to hire another BWI graduate. I hope this reaches you and your loved ones in good health and high spirits. Thank you for being a part of our mission.

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

**Aaron Shiffman**  
Executive Director

### GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

#### Celebrating Robert Brown

Robert Brown enrolled in Brooklyn Woods at a difficult time in his life; he



had recently been released from jail and had three children to care for. But he had a passion for working with his hands and a drive to find stable employment.

Once he started the training program, he found he looked forward to each day, enjoying the trade he was learning and building confidence. Upon graduating in 2014, he got a job as a cabinet maker at Urban Architectural Engineering.

Since then, Robert has gained experience and advanced in his careers. Today he is a woodshop manager for Griffin Editions, a custom frame builder, and recently hired a 2022 Brooklyn Woods graduate to join his team.

Robert's long-term success and sustained connection with the program is why **we honored him at our 2022 Gala this past June**. Thank you Robert, for representing BWI and supporting our organization as you forge ahead!

## BREAKING IT DOWN

### BWI Hears From Graduates



Very concerned about the rising cost of food, gas, housing and other essentials.

In order to keep up with our students once they've joined the workforce, and stay aligned on their successes as well as needs, BWI sent out a comprehensive survey and heard responses from nearly 400 graduates this month. **From this survey, BWI learned that 2/3 of respondents are very concerned about the rising cost of food, gas, housing and other essentials.**

While over 70% of respondents are employed, a third cited job security as a concern. Overall, results from our survey indicate respondents are struggling through this period of inflation, however, nearly one in four selected BWI as one of their top two resources. BWI will use this data to ensure our programs and services are meeting the needs of our jobseekers and alumni.

## EXTRA, EXTRA



## Partnership with KindWork

BWI is thrilled to announce it is deepening its partnership with nonprofit, KindWork. We have worked with the young adult tech-training provider since its founding in 2019, and **KindWork is slated to become BWI's eighth program within the next year.**

KindWork runs a six-week training program that prepares low-income New Yorkers for careers in Customer Experience and Customer Success in the tech sector. BWI is excited to branch out into the tech sector and increase training program options for New York's young adults. KindWork has upcoming training starting in September 2022. You can learn more about the organization [here](#), or for details about attending an info session [click here](#).



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