

**FEBRUARY 2023** 

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# A NOTE FROM BWI

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### Dear Friend of BWI,

2023 is already proving to be a momentous year for us at BWI and we are happy to share some things we are excited about!

As we prepare for our annual fundraising event in June, we continue taking steps toward creating an equitable future for all New Yorkers. "Working for the Future", held on June 8th, will be a celebration of those who make these advances possible.

Described further below, we are energized by the rollout of a new five year strategic plan that will guide BWI's organizational growth and development in the near future. Additionally, our newsletter shares insights from a recent KindWork report and the story of a graduate who is diving into a new career after completing one of BWI's customized training programs.

We hope this message finds you well and that you enjoy this season's update!

Sincerely,

**Aaron Shiffman** Executive Director

#### **GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT**

#### **Celebrating Gabriel**

Gabriel immigrated from Venezuela in 2017 looking for a better future. Though he had some work experience, gaining entry into professional jobs in the U.S. was



difficult.

After being selected for NYC's affordable housing lottery, he began following the HUD (U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development) social media accounts and that was where he saw the post for BWI's Housing Career Pathways program.

While his English skills made him nervous about his abilities, the program proved to be as supportive as it was rigorous. Gabriel is now a Community Engagement Coordinator, enabling him to continue helping other New Yorkers connect with affordable housing. He says he is now in a much better place since graduating. "The evolution happened fast - now I have more confidence and I feel able to take a leap at the things I want."

#### **MUST-READS**

#### **KindWork's Arbor Rising Report**

BWI's newest program, KindWork, recently participated in an evaluation project led by Arbor Rising and we are pleased to share some of the results. The intensive evaluation project focused on quantifying the program's impact through a Return-on-Investment (ROI) calculation and comparing KindWork's outcomes to that of comparable organizations. Here are a few key takeaways:

- KindWork has the second-highest job placement rate of its workforce development peers in the study.
- It is estimated that KindWork's ROI for donors is 2.7x in the first year and 5.2x after two years, the second-highest in the study.
- On average, KindWork participants increased their wages by \$33,198, after graduation and job placement.

This report highlights the breadth of impact of this programming and BWI is proud to have KindWork as a part of its skills training portfolio. You can view the full report here.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



Please join us for delicious food, cocktails, and live music, and help us celebrate those who make our work possible!

### **BREAKING IT DOWN**

#### **BWI Strategic Plan**

BWI is excited to begin implementation of a new five year strategic plan that was developed with the help of our friends at the Monitor Institute by Deloitte. The robust planning process involved BWI staff, board members, program graduates, and industry leaders.

The resulting plan defines equity, investments in staff, and sustainable growth as key areas of focus for BWI.



Maintaining alignment with emerging industries and job trends is also a core objective in our growth model.

While many of these actions will be internal, we know the positive impact will be felt by the community at large. Ultimately, we are hopeful that this plan will create a stronger, more impactful and more innovative workforce development organization in the years to come.

## EXTRA, EXTRA



#### Leave a Review!

Are you BWI grad or someone who has partnered with our organization? Consider leaving us a Google Review!

We are always trying to improve and your insights will help others seeking our services.



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