

Great Baby Beginnings

April 2018



Message from CEO LuAnne Brown, RN



Happy spring to all our supporters and we hope 2018 promises to be a good year for BPPN! Some new developments happening at the agency. We were recently approached by Dr. Mickey Sperlich who is a midwife and also on the Social Work faculty at UB. Dr. Sperlich submitted a grant to the Health Foundation of Western and Central NY to fund a Survivors program for moms who have experienced trauma. BPPN was asked to partner on the project and the grant was recently approved. The program will train several of our staff to serve as tutors and assist clients in either reading or listening to modules.

Our first joint session with the March of Dimes for the Health Babies are Worth the Wait Forums was held on February 9th and featured Cheryl Moore from the Erie County Department of Health who gave an update on SBIRT. Future sessions will feature Mary Travers Murphy from the Family Justice Center and Michelle Ambor NP from Kaleida who will speak on Birth Control Methods and success rates. The BPPN staff were part of a Motivational Interviewing Session offered by the Population Health Collaborative (formerly P2). 2 four 1-hour sessions were held with the staff at our agency and helped increase their knowledge in this important skill.



I was a member of a NYS Collaborative "The First 1000 Days of Medicaid" led by the DOH and the Department of Education. The large workgroup met over a 4 month period to discuss proposals and select those most impactful to the first 3 years of a child's life. 10 proposals were selected and were included in Governor Cuomo's budget. Of particular interest to BPPN is the proposal related to the expansion of home visiting-this would benefit both Healthy Families and MICHC and may provide some impetus for the initiation of a Nurse Family Partnership program at BPPN. I will keep you posted on updates.

We continue to work with our Get Set facilitators to develop our marketing message including new brochures to highlight our programs and highlight the similarities and differences of each. Annmarie Correa, Program manager of Healthy Families was accepted into the 2018 Leadership Buffalo Class Experience program. The program runs through 2018 and will provide Annmarie a great networking opportunity as well as an increased understanding of the issues facing Buffalo.



In December of 2017, I travelled to Albany with two of my Association of Perinatal Networks peers to advocate for maternal child programs. We met with staff from the DOH, the Budget Office, the Governor's office and Senator Gottfried (Chair of Assembly Health Committee) and Senator Hannnon (Chair of Senate Health Committee). The meetings were a good opportunity for us to speak to the importance of our programs and answer any questions the staff had. The budget this year has been predicted to be a difficult one with a huge deficit so our voices are important to avoid further cuts to these important programs.



We are participating in a DOH pilot project on a Centralized Referral system. The goal is to create a city wide system but we are initially working on our internal referral system at the agency before we invite other partners into the project.

Antoine Johnson, Fatherhood Coordinator held his first Fatherhood Focus Group to elicit their thoughts on what would be helpful in their parenting skills and other ways we can assist them in achieving economic self sufficiency. Antoine will receive training and become certified in the Nurturing Fathers curriculum in March which will allow him to lead groups. He has been actively networking in the community with agencies that can assist our dads with job training and other needs.



We recently enrolled to become a Crib for Kids site which will allow us to distribute pack and plays to our clients as well as community agencies to ensure all babies have a safe place to sleep. Safe sleep education will also be provided to every client that receives a crib.

Sherrell McLean, LMSW and MICHC Care Coordinator received a Changemakers 30 under 30 Award in November and spoke about her role at BPPN. Congratulations, Sherrell!





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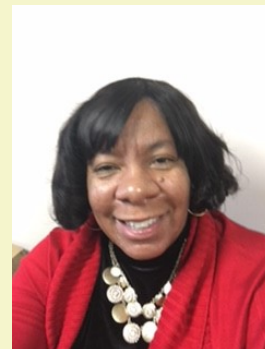
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**Family Support Worker Supervisor
Home Visiting Program**



Q: What's your background and when did you start the journey with BPPN?

A: I had a bachelor degree of social worker and had 20 years of experience working with families and youth before I started with BPPN as a family support worker on Nov. 10, 1997. Then I was promoted to senior support worker. And now I am a supervisor leading a team of support workers.

Q: In looking back, have you seen many changes in the company over the years?

A: Yes, a lot of changes including leadership and programs. I do like the current management team under the leadership of our CEO LuAnne. She had really made all programs work together better as a whole to help the families. Her involvement of the staff has changed in a very positive way. She listens to the staff and seeks their feedback.

Q: What's your personal improvements through the years of working at BPPN?

A: I have constantly learned new things through the program as we have to always adjust our focuses of the services based on our community needs. The agency conducts a lot of trainings to help us with knowledge and skills to serve the families better. My computer skills have been improved over the years too through this work.

Q: What are some of the enjoyable and rewarding memories?

A: There were a lot of fun retreats and out of town conferences I enjoyed myself attending, although we don't have that many opportunities now. The most rewarding part of this job is when the families I served reach their goals and their lives have positive changes.

Q: How many families have you served over the 20 years?

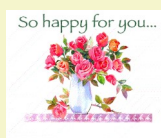
A: I have helped approximately 2000 families. It has been my blessing to help them. I have helped them change their lives in positive ways and they have helped me too to improve myself to be better.

Q: Can you use a few sentences to describe your experience at BPPN?

A: It is like going on an awesome trip not knowing what to expect. It is very exciting, rewarding but sometimes challenging. And I want to continue this trip.

Q: Do you have any suggestions or advice to the new workers onboard?

You have to have the passion and sincere desire to do the work. You have to have the respect to the people you work with and be open-minded as you can always learn from everyone.



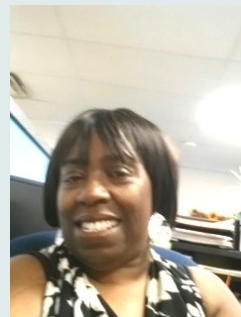
Congratulations



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

20
anniversary
years

Angie Archer
Family Support Senior Worker
Home Visiting Program



Q: What's your biggest accomplishment working at BPPN?

A: I have learned not to be judgmental and loved the people the way they are. I let people take their pace to improve. I don't try to change people's lives but enhance theirs. I have become more committed and more caring. This work helps me improve my decision making skills.

Q: Do you have any fun memories throughout the years you could share with us?

A: There are so many fun memories. I enjoy the people I have worked with. I love my team and my supervisor. I value everyone around me.

Q: In looking back, have you seen many in the company over the years?

A: I have seen a lot of positive changes over the years, especially the technology wise. We are more computer savvy now and using it more often to record our work.

Q: What else would you like to share with us about your journey with BPPN?

A: I have really enjoyed the journey. I love being around young people. I am planning to retire this year hopefully. After retirement, I will continue doing my volunteer work and enjoy my life.



Eunice Robinson
Family Support Worker
Home Visiting Program

Q: What's your biggest accomplishment working at BPPN?

A: When my previous clients keep making the referrals to us, I felt very rewarding as I know I have done good jobs for them. I have gained the pleasure that I can always learn from my client at the same time they are learning from me. It is a two-way learning process for both the teacher and the student.

Q: Do you think anything you could do better if you can go back to the old years?

A: I could have known how to use computer better and it could help me input information into the system faster. I have better time management skills over the years and I know how to adapt myself pretty well to the rapid changing working environment. But there is always room for improvement.

Q: Would you like to share any best moments throughout the years you could share with us?

A: When I saw my girls implementing the good parenting tips I taught them, loving their children and being happy to see their children's developmental progresses, those were the highlighting moments.

Q: In looking back, have you seen many changes in the company over the years?

A: We have expanded our service areas throughout the years which allows us to serve more families and make more impacts in the larger community.

Q: What else would you like to share with us about your journey at BPPN?

A: I have very positive experience in working at BPPN. I love what I do and have passion about helping people.



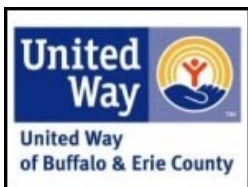


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Welcome



NEW EMPLOYEE



ANNOUNCEMENT

Antoine Johnson is a Fatherhood Coordinator at Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network. He has been working in the health and human services field since 2013. He started his career as a Direct Support Professional with Hillside Family of Agencies which was founded in 1837, and one of the oldest family and youth non-profit human services organizations in the United States. During this time he also attended Niagara County Community College in Sanborn, NY where he completed his Associates degree in Humanities and Social Sciences in 2014. After completing his Associates degree, Antoine transferred to the University at Buffalo where he completed his Bachelor's in Health and Human services in 2016, concentrating in Community and Mental Health. While attending the University, Antoine also worked at The Summit Center in Getzville, NY as a Community Direct Support Professional; providing respite relief services to parents of developmentally and behavioral challenged youth in Erie and Niagara County. Antoine has a passion for working in the community and serving at his local church. His areas of interest are mentoring, personal growth and development, reading, and physical fitness. Antoine plans on becoming a mentor with the Men of Merit program at SUNY Erie for the spring semester of 2018, to provide guidance, nurturance, and assistance to students seeking a mentor in for their academic and professional success. Antoine Johnson lives in Buffalo, NY where he spent most of his academic and professional career.

Fatherhood



Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that has been in operation for 30 years. The overall mission of the organization is to coordinate and collaborate with key stakeholders in Erie County/City of Buffalo, to increase access to and utilization of preconception, prenatal, perinatal and postpartum health care services in the community. The agency and its programs work within the community to help identify problems of adequacy, acceptability and accessibility in the delivery of these services, especially to those who are in high-need; to seek support for implementation of programs/ services that help attain the agency mission; promote coordination between service providers who serve similar consumers/clients; and to provide informational and educational activities for providers and consumers, to help enable improved birth outcomes for the targeted population.

The programs operated by Buffalo Prenatal focus on improving maternal and infant health outcomes for high need women and their families, and to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities in those outcomes. Programs operated by Buffalo Prenatal include a New York State Department of Health Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICH), a Healthy Families New York Program (also known as the Buffalo Home Visiting Program) and Fatherhood Program.



NURTURING FATHERS PROGRAM

MEETINGS HELD EVERY THURSDAY

BEGINNING: APRIL 19TH, 2018

ENDING: JULY 12TH, 2018

TIME: 5:45 – 8:00 PM

Location: Delavan Grider Community Center,
877 E. Delavan Ave., Buffalo, 14215

Event Details:

The Nurturing Father's Program is a 13-week, 2 hour program, designed to enhance and/or develop effective parenting skills for the well-being of children and families. Each session provides proven, effective skills for healthy family relationships and child development to help father and families thrive. Program activities address: Parenting, healthy relationships, discipline, conflict resolution, anger management and personal development.

To register and enroll please contact Antoine Johnson, Fatherhood Coordinator by Monday, April 16th @ 884-6711 ext. 279 or ajohnson@bppn.org.

**Calling all Fathers
& Father figures**

**Learn proven
parenting skills**

**No cost for the
course**

**Dinner will be
provided**

**\$10 gift cards are
available for first
session attendees**

BUFFALO PRENATAL- PERINATAL NETWORK

884-6711 ext. 279

ajohnson@bppn.org

www.bppn.org





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!

Friday, March 2, 2018
8am-10am
Presentation at 8:30am

625 Delaware Ave, Suite 410
Buffalo, NY 14202

Funding provided by
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO



On Friday March 2nd, 2018 we hosted our second Legislative Breakfast, generously funded by our Union partners, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #4. Despite the inclement weather, we were happy to have representatives from the offices of Senator Tim

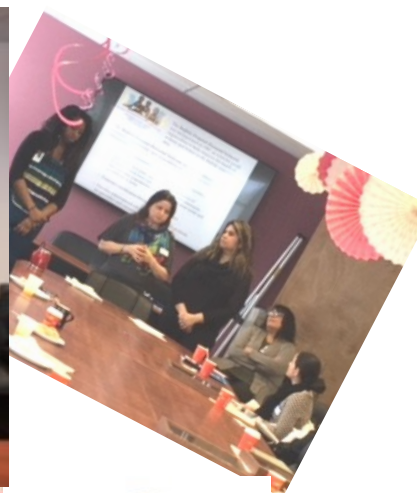
Kennedy, Chris Jacobs, Brian Higgins and Assembly Member Crystal Peoples-Stokes. The program provided overviews of the agency as well as the individual programs as presented by Annmarie

Correa, Maribel Cancel, Marisa Salgado, Sherrell McLean and Antoine Johnson. Our guests also heard from 2 of our employees who were former program participants in Healthy Families and a

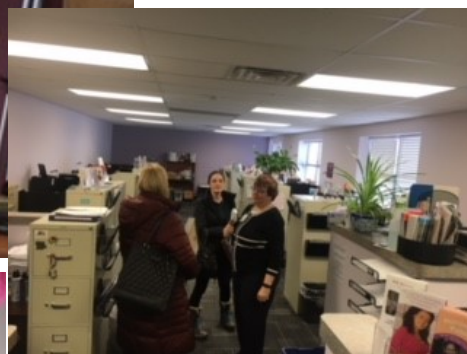
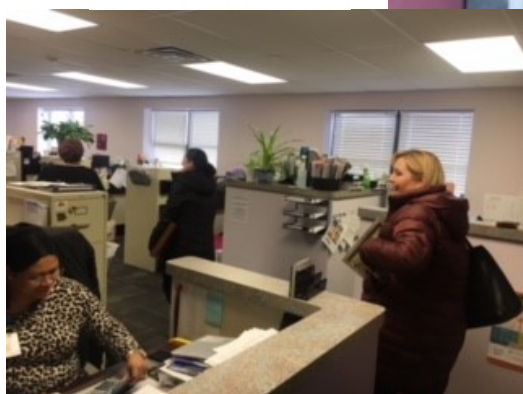
client from the Community Health Worker program who has availed herself of our Empowerment group for moms experiencing postpartum depression facilitated by Horizon Health. Their stories were impactful and truly resonated with our attendees. The representatives were all presented with picture boxes depicting our staff and program participants and provided a tour of the agency. The breakfast was deliberately planned at this time due to the NY State budget proposal to reduce the Community Health Worker program by 20%-this was enacted last year and the program would not be able to sustain another deep cut. We truly appreciate all the efforts of our legislators and their

advocacy efforts for BPPN.





thank
YOU



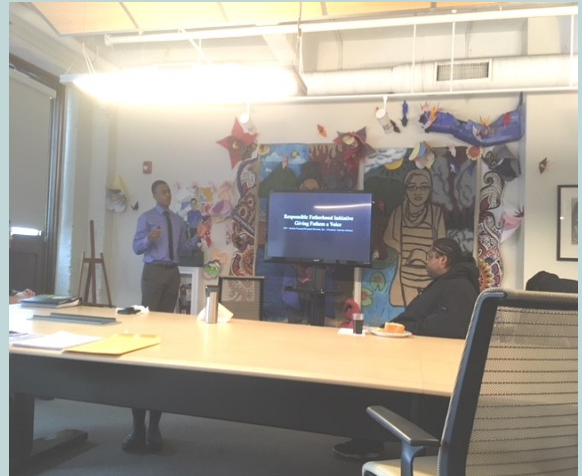
BPPN



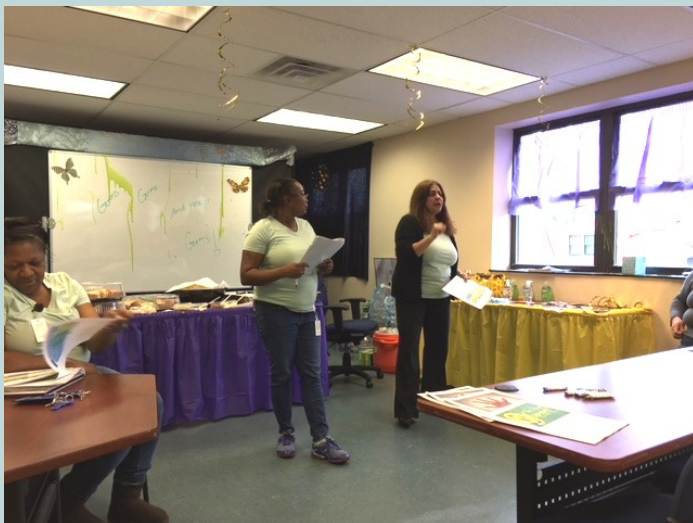
ALBUM



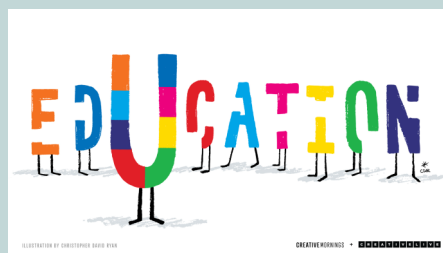
Annmarie on panel presentation at Parent Engagement conference



Antoine Johnson at Father Focus Group

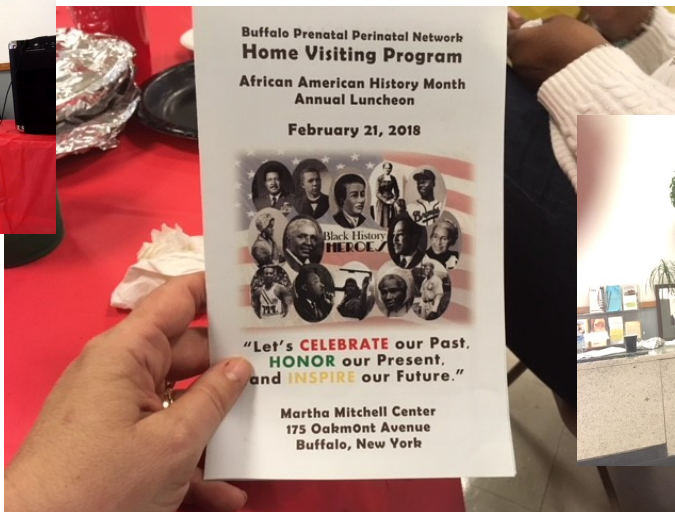
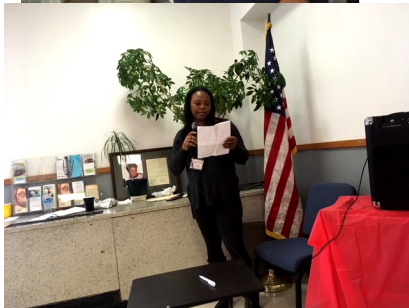


Healthy Family session on germs





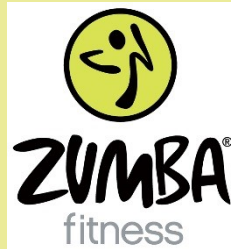
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Zumba and Yoga Schedule for BPPN Staff

April - May 2018

All classes to be held in the Activity Room



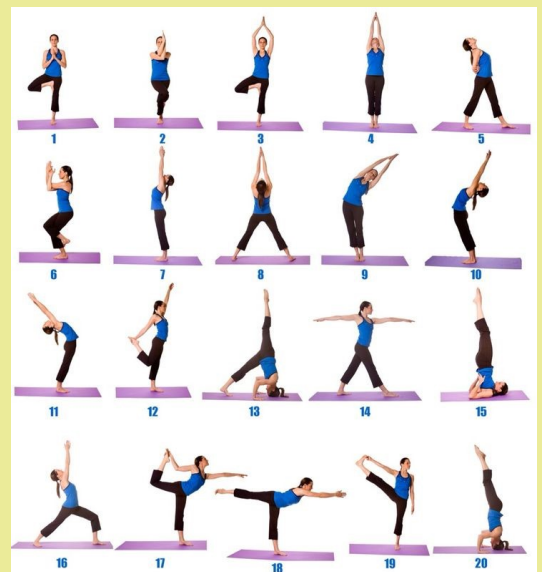
**Zumba: All classes from 4-4:45pm
every other Tuesdays:**

**April 3
April 17
May 1
May 15
May 29**



**Yoga: All classes from Noon-12:45pm
every other Tuesday**

**April 10
April 24
May 8**



Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc.



Great Baby Beginnings!

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