



The Work Connection™

New York City Industries for the Blind, Inc.
also available in audio **Winter, 2008**

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Ms. Sammy Bradly was named “The 2007 Blind Employee of the Year” by New York City Industries for the Blind at a ceremony held during the company’s Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 21st. The Award was presented to Ms. Bradly by Mr. Rick Bland, President & CEO of NYCIB, in front of 150 of Ms. Bradly’s colleagues, special guests and NYCIB Board Members. Ms. Bradley works in the U.S.P.S. Mail Bag Department, and was joined onstage by her daughter Helen.

Mr. Owen Ennis of the Shipping Department received top honors as the 2007 Sighted Employee of the Year, and Ms. Shevone Arthurs of the Letter-shop took home the Award for 2007’s Most Improved Employee of the Year.

The ceremony featured a moving speech by last year’s Blind Employee of the Year Mr. Khaled Musa, who noted, “Becoming Employee of the Year gave me opportunities I did not know were possible and I will always be grateful.”

Congratulations

Sammy, Owen and Shevone!



NYCIB President & CEO Rick Bland presents award to Employee of the Year Sammy Bradly



Award Winner Owen Ennis



Award Winner Shevone Arthurs

The mission of New York City Industries for the Blind is to provide on-site employment and training opportunities for men and women from the NYC region who are blind or severely visually impaired. NYCIB is a 501 c 3 not-for-profit corporation. Donations are welcomed and tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Banco Popular Presents NYCIB with \$10,000 Contribution

The Banco Popular Foundation announced last October that NYCIB would be one of the honored recipients of its 2007 Metro Dreammaker Grant Awards. Mr. Mark Noto, Senior Vice President of Banco Popular, presented the Award check to NYCIB President & CEO Rick Bland at NYCIB's Employee of the Year and Holiday Celebrations on December 21st.

"I am grateful to be able to come here and personally thank each of you for all of your hard work," Mr. Noto said as he addressed the group of approximately 150 employees, "You make all of us very proud."

Several NYCIB Board members and other distinguished guests were present at the festivities, including NYCIB Treasurer Bernard Engelhard of Engelhard & Associates, Board member Fred Hugue of Sovereign Bank and Board member Larry Scot of Skody, Scot along with his son, Jason.



NYCIB President & CEO Rick Bland accepting check from Banco Popular Sr. VP and NYCIB Board member Mark Noto.

Look for the listing of our generous friends and contributors in the next "Work Connection."

The Work Connection is a quarterly publication of New York City Industries for the Blind, Inc. For Audio copies, or to order a Products Catalog or make a donation, please call 718-854-7300, ext. 277, or email imatula@nycib.org



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"Please help us keep jobs in NYC. Learn more about us at www.nycib.org"

NYCIB and Media Right Productions Celebrates Talent

Eleven groups and individuals competed in the NYCIB Annual Employee Talent Contest. The audience snapped fingers, sang along and cheered on the sometimes shy performers, who entertained a crowd of almost 150 fellow employees. NYCIB's own keyboardist extraordinaire John Perez accompanied performances ranging from *The International Jingle Bells*, sung in four languages, to the symbols clanking, toe-tapping version of *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*.

The Talent winners were Roberto Baptiste from the Lettershop and Hector Crespo from the Mop Department. Through a generous contribution by company founder Doug Maxwell and associate Jeff Delorme of Media Right Productions, this year's first and second place prizes included a recording session in Media Right's Manhattan recording studios. Media Right will also provide the winners with copies of their recorded songs so they can distribute them to friends and family members.

NYCIB President & CEO Rick Bland introduced Mr. Maxwell, who is legally blind and the recent winner of the Entrepreneurial Award Grant from National Industries for the Blind, The crowd cheered as he remarked, "I am so pleased I could be here today to hear all the wonderful performers, and I'm glad Media Right Productions can reward them for their talent and efforts. I know the recordings will be a life-long memento of this special occasion."



Above, Sing A-Long Contestants with winner Hector Crespo on mic, and left, Roberto Baptiste wows the crowd

Congratulations Roberto and Hector!

**NYCIB Expands and Upgrades Website
www.NYCIB.org**

NYCIB upgraded – and simplified – its online purchase process for special products in 2007, and recently expanded the upgrades to include the ability to accept on-line donations using VISA or MasterCard. The site is professionally secured, and makes it easier for people interested in making contributions online to do so. Check it out at www.nycib.org

NYCIB opened our doors in 1996 with two contracts and a few employees. Today, we are a full service, manufacturing, warehousing, bulk mail, fulfillment and custom assembly/packaging business, with 150,000 sq ft of workspace and 165 employees. Know someone who is legally blind and looking for work? Call us at 718-854-7300, ext 224

NYCIB Board of Directors Honors Mr. Willard R Phillips, Jr.

At a luncheon held on December 18th, members of the Board of Directors of New York City Industries for the Blind honored outgoing Board member Willard R. Phillips, Jr., who has moved to Northern California and retired from the Board. NYCIB President & CEO Rick Bland presented Mr. Phillips with a plaque, saying, "Please accept this as a token of our appreciation for your nine years of service to the men and women who are blind and visually impaired and working at NYCIB."



NYCIB Board members, from left seated, Chairman Susan Small-Weil, Treas. Bernard Englehard and his wife Enid, Sec'y Marc Bailin, stdg CFO Jay Warford, Pres & CEO Rick Bland Willard Phillips.(not shown: Laurence Scot, Fred Hugue and Mark Noto)

Mr. Phillips thanked Chairman Small-Weill and the rest of the Board members and staff for their hard work. "I am sorry to leave you and this extraordinary organization," he said.

The Board also took the opportunity to welcome Vice President of Development Linda Matula to the NYCIB family. "She has her job cut out for her, but we are all here to help her succeed at raising funds for NYCIB," said Board Treasurer Bernard Engelhard.



Featured Career on the Move: Mr. Ted Rios

Though legally blind, while in school Ted Rios excelled at basketball and thrived in the performing arts. For a number of years, Ted worked in the movie and television industry until he decided to join the NYCIB family in August, 2004. He worked diligently in the Lettershop, and then in the Office doing customer service and data entry. After two years working in that capacity, Ted was promoted to NYC Sales Rep in November 2007. He feels particularly enthusiastic about working with the school systems. "It is a great opportunity for me as a person with visual problems to be out there representing what NYCIB is all about. I am thankful and very eager to show what I can accomplish and I hope I can serve as an example for others in the same situation," exclaimed Ted.

Congratulations Ted!

NYCIB is a member of the National Association for the Employment of People who are Blind (NAEPB), and an Associated Agency of National Industries for the Blind (NIB), and Industries for the Blind of New York State.(IBNYS)