

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2010

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[Mentor it Forward](#)

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg today celebrated Women's History Month with the launch of *Mentor it Forward*, a "speed mentoring" program created by the City's Commission on Women's Issues and Barnard College to provide students from colleges across the five boroughs, access to executive level professional women who

otherwise would not have time to participate in traditional mentorship programs requiring month or year-long commitments. The Mayor kicked off the first *Mentor it Forward* event at Barnard College's newly opened Diana Center, where he was joined by Barnard College President Debora Spar, the Commission on Women's Issues Chair Anne Sutherland Fuchs and Executive Director Briana Collins, and NYC Service Chief Service Officer Diahann Billings-Burford and CBS 2 News Anchor and Reporter Cindy Hsu.

To read the full press release and to find out more about the *Mentor it Forward* program, visit [NYC Commission on Women's Issues](#).

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It's Tax Time - Go Get Your Refund!

Tax season is here once again. Did you know you may be eligible for free tax preparation and tax credits that could increase your refund?

A tax return must be filed in order to receive important tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the New York City Child Care Tax Credit. To learn more about eligibility for tax credits and to find a free tax preparation site, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/ofe.

Child Care Tax Credit – MOTHERS, PAY ATTENTION!

You may be eligible for the New York City Child Care Tax Credit and other tax credits for parents. Working parents earning less than \$30,000 who pay for child care costs for children 4 years old and younger could be eligible for up to \$1,733. Even if you don't qualify for the NYC Child Care Tax Credit, you may still qualify for the Federal and/or State Child Care Tax Credit! Visit the [NYC Office of Financial Empowerment](#) to see if you qualify.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable credit that returns federal, state, and New York City tax dollars to qualifying families and individuals. The refund amount varies depending on your income and marital and parental status. This means that whether you're a single woman, married, have no children or have three children, you may qualify to receive this tax credit!

This year, if you have children and earn less than \$48,000 you could be eligible for up to \$7,600 with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); and if you have no children and earn less than \$13,000 you could be eligible for \$600.

To see if you qualify for the EITC Tax Credit, visit the [NYC Office of Financial Empowerment](#)

Need Help Filing Your Taxes?

If you qualify, you could also have your taxes prepared for free all across New York City at one of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Call 311 and ask

for a free tax site or visit www.nyc.gov/ofe to find a convenient free tax site. And remember, if you file your taxes electronically you'll receive your refund in 8 to 14 business days and avoid paying fees and high interest for a Refund Anticipation Loan (RALs).

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Health Insurance Made Easy

New York City women, families and small business owners have a new way to help find health insurance plans that best fit their healthcare needs and budgets. Launched in September 2009 by the Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access, the NYC Health Insurance Link helps those who do not currently have health insurance coverage, or those who are shopping for cheaper options (including young adults under 30), find a health care plan.

To start looking for health plans available in the City, enter your basic personal or business information, and the Link generates a list of possible health plans and provides a direct comparison of the costs and benefits of each. A "premium calculator" can also be used for small businesses to determine the amount they can afford to offer employees.

Tips on how to make health insurance more affordable are also available on the Link. One example of this is the Child Health Plus (CHP) insurance program. If your family has an annual household income of \$88,200 or less, your children may be eligible for lower cost coverage.

To find out more about Health Insurance options in New York City, visit the [NYC Health Insurance Link](#).

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Working Women

Despite the economic downturn, there were over 25,000 job placements in New York City during 2009, 51% of which were women. This amount of placements broke 2008's record of 17,000 job placements.

The City is committed to providing job training and job placement services to those in need at Workforce1 Career Centers and CareerLinkNYC. If you are a woman in need of a job, take advantage of both of these resources to help find work.

If you are either looking for employment or are an employer with available employment opportunities, you can visit [Workforce 1](#) and [CareerLinkNYC](#).

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About the NYC Commission on Women's Issues

The New York City Commission on Women's Issues (formerly the Commission on the Status of Women) was established by Mayoral Executive Order in 1975 as an advisory body to the Mayor on matters impacting the lives of New York City women. Currently, the Commission serves as an important vehicle through which women and families can connect with City services that support and address their needs.

We hope this newsletter will be an extension of this work. Not only will we share with you the newest initiatives and programs coming out of the City, but also we will help you understand how these efforts impact you as a woman.

For more information on our own key programs such as the NYC Women's Resource Network, the NYC Young Women's Volunteer Summit and the NYC Ladders for Leaders program, please visit www.nyc.gov/women to find out how you could benefit and/or participate today!

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IN OTHER NEWS

GIVE YOUR BLANK

Your BLANK can be anything. Energy, skills, passion, time. Help make a difference by volunteering today!

HOST A PRODUCTS OF HOPE DRIVE

Collecting basic toiletry items at your office or school is a great way to give your blank!

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