

## A Message From Our President/CEO



Paul B. Feuerstein, President/CEO

For 25 years, Barrier Free Living (BFL) has been in the business of helping people with disabilities to help themselves.

At our Transitional Housing facility, our priority is to ensure that our residents learn the skills necessary to live independently.

We offer our residents:

- money-management workshops
- a savings-account program
- independent living skills workshops

Our goal is to help our residents to become truly integrated, productive members of society.

Barrier Free Living  
Transitional Housing:  
212-677-6668 (Voice/TTY)  
[www.bflnyc.org](http://www.bflnyc.org)

Barrier Free Living  
270 East Second Street  
New York, NY 10009-7815

# Transitional Housing



## Barrier Free Living



## Who We Are

Barrier Free Living's (BFL) Transitional Housing provides safe shelter and case management services to people with disabilities who are homeless, including those who require the services of a homecare attendant. The BFL mission is to reintegrate residents into the community to live independently.



BFL residents perform at the summer talent show, organized by the Occupational Therapy department.

## Our Services Include:

- Benefits assistance
- Permanent housing placements
- Coordination of homecare
- Independent living skills training
- Occupational Therapy
- Advocacy and referrals for medical, mental health, and other services
- Events to encourage community building

## A Resident's Story In Her Own Words: Irma Flores

*I have been living at Barrier Free Living's Transitional Housing for about two years. In 2002, after 20 years of marriage, I became a widow. Everything changed. My disability left me unable to work (and homeless). I have been a minister for 20 years and (despite becoming homeless) I continue to preach at my local church. Five times a week, I travel for two hours each way. I do not let anything stop me.*



Irma Flores, at left, works with Occupational Therapy intern Maria Leonard.

*Besides church, I helped create a newspaper for the Transitional Housing residents. I am chief editor. I am bilingual and I assist the Occupational Therapy interns by translating the weekly schedule into Spanish. I also translate for non-Spanish-speaking staff members.*

*I would like a job where I can use computers. Once I complete VESID\*, I will establish a computer program at my church. I use the computer room at the residence to search for a home. I would like to find suitable housing, but due to my disability, it is hard to find. I plan to complete rehabilitation therapy so I can be better at using my prosthesis, which will make me more independent.*

\* NY State Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

## Who is Eligible for Our Program?

For access to Transitional Housing services, all prospective residents must be referred through the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS). For information, visit the DHS website at [www.ny.gov/dhs](http://www.ny.gov/dhs).

Prospective residents must have a disability that requires home attendant services and must be enrolled in community Medicaid. Referrals by hospitals to BFL must be made through the NYC Department of Homeless Service's Program Review Unit. Please call 212-361-0579 for more information.



A BFL resident reviews housing documents.

BFL's Transitional Housing is supported by funding from New York City Department of Homeless Services and New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.