



2022

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ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF CHANGE



PAUL FEUERSTEIN
Founder

An advocate and visionary for survivors of domestic violence with disabilities for over four decades, Paul B. Feuerstein CEO/Founder of Barrier Free Living (BFL) retired December 30, 2022.



CYNTHIA AMODEO
CEO

Cynthia Amodeo, who joined the agency in 2008, takes on the role of Chief Executive Officer. "It is an exciting time as we look towards the future through our continued advocacy, developing new partnerships and by continuing our programs supporting survivors with disabilities and those who are D/deaf."

A YEAR OF HONORS



Barrier Free Living (BFL) received a 2022 Purple Ribbon Award from DomesticShelters.org for Innovative Services at its programs for survivors of domestic violence with disabilities.



Barrier Free Living received the National Crime Victims' Service Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services at a ceremony held April 29 at Constitution Gardens National Park.



In 2022 Governor Kathy Hochul announced a \$6.9 million award for Barrier Free Living's newest vision - Freedom Village in Manhattan's Bowery neighborhood.

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS



BFLA

Work began in 2022 on the renovation of a learning center for the kids at BFL's supportive housing program in the Bronx. BFL works with as many as 120 children a day at its programs.



SECRET GARDEN

The Secret Garden answered over 3500 hotline calls in 2022 and served an average of 260 clients

On average, 50 clients were assisted with rental arrears to provide security and avoid eviction and 10 clients were able to move into their new apartments.



FREEDOM HOUSE

F.R.E.E financial empowerment workshops resumed online; volunteers successfully collaborated with residents by offering individual consultations to provide education on strategies to increase credit scores, create budgets, and answer any financial-related questions.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

SNAPSHOT



SECRET GARDEN

Secret Garden received an OVW continuation award for 2022-2025 to provide sexual assault individual counseling and groups to survivors.

Lucy, the sexual assault coordinator at Secret Garden (pictured above) provided direct services to 32 individuals in 2022.

While all clients identified as having a disability, about 40% of clients identified as having multiple disabilities. All clients have at least one form of disability that resulted directly from intimate partner violence.

20%

20% OF CLIENTS THAT ENGAGED IN DIRECT SERVICES IDENTIFIED AS LGBTQ+ AND ABOUT 5% IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER.

75%

75% OF CLIENTS SERVED WERE WOMEN OF COLOR AND 20% WERE SPANISH SPEAKING

PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY



Financial Health

The data below is a consolidated balance sheet. Details on BFL's financial statements are available at bflnyc.org/about-us/leadership/

Assets

\$4,920,510
current assets

\$5,624,137
deferred charge

\$3,802,934
property and equipment

\$14,347,581
Total Assets

Liabilities

\$1,519,201
current liabilities

\$8,326,039
notes payable

\$4,502,341
net assets

\$14,347,581
Total liabilities and net assets



BOARD CHAIR & CEO MESSAGE

While 2022 was a year of growth, accomplishment, and change for Barrier Free Living (BFL), from multiple agency honors to the retirement of our visionary founder Paul Feuerstein, 2023 is already proving to be a year like no other for the BFL team.

We are excited to move into a number of exciting key initiatives, including a new solar roof for our Freedom House shelter as part of our Keep it Green, Keep it Safe campaign and we will maintain our focus in a number of areas:

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- Vision: Developing and implementing BFL's newest program, Freedom Village which will include 75 affordable and supportive apartments for homeless adults in need of services and seniors transitioning out of nursing homes.

- Infrastructure and Process: Improving the delivery of our mission and ensuring a sustainable organization by recruiting and retaining skilled and diverse staff, volunteers, and board members.



Gerald Francese,
Chairman of the Board



Cynthia Amodeo, CEO⁶

SUPPORTERS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Turner Construction Company Foundation donated \$7,000 to Barrier Free Living. The donation was part of funds raised during the New York Inaugural Spring Golf Classic held on June 6th, 2022.

Benjamin Moore donated ten gallons of paint needed to renovate BFL's supportive housing program's Kids' Learning Center in 2022. Support continues to grow every year including new connections with HBO and NYC Public Theatre.



**Turner
Construction
Company
Foundation**



Benjamin Moore®



VOLUNTEERS & IN-KIND

✓ SHARING TALENT

A recent graduate of Parson's School of Design, Kitty found out about Freedom House on instagram and reached out to support our mission. A fashion designer and artist, Kitty has signed on to paint and add brightness to several public areas of the program.

✓ TEAM WORK

Our BFLA team (along with Foxy Management) has been working on a vibrant new lobby mural with Jon Souza AKA Phes a Brazilian-American artist from Harlem, NYC. He is a graffiti/mural artist, emcee, producer, educator and cultural ambassador. Below is an image of Jon's earlier work.

✓ THE VALENTINE PROJECT

The Valentine project donated 160 hand crafted gift bags to the survivors of domestic violence with disabilities at our programs. Items ranged from jewelry to scarves, beauty products and chocolates.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Barrier Free Living Board of Directors

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