

Profiles of Some of the Amazing Folks Here at PTH

Meet a couple of our amazing staff

Adrian Antonio Paling is the new housing organizer at PTH. Adrian Antonio Paling was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Bronx. His desire to become an organizer began while attending an Urban History class at Lehman College and learning about New York's legacy of displacement. As a student, he worked with the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance fighting for community input in development processes in the Bronx. Also, he helped start a Minor in Urban Community Development that focuses on creating a pipeline of professionals back into the communities that they are from. He started his career in organizing as a Student Organizer working for NYPIRG fighting for social justice issues at Brooklyn College. He now is our Housing Organizer where, as he states, "Is extremely happy to be a part of an organization that takes action in such an effective way."

Anika Paris is the office manager at PTH. She has been counting metrocards and panicking over the whereabouts of the banner for over a year. A recent transplant to Bed Stuy, Anika's also really excited about the Vacant Property Count in her new neighborhood this month. Outside of PTH, Anika tries to undermine capitalism by training new members at the 4th St. Food Co-Op and sending books to prisoners with Books Through Bars, NYC. She's also evangelical about Impulse! releases, so if you're tired of hearing about Alice Coltrane just ask her were the banner is.

Meet some of our wonderful, new board members

Willie Baptist joined the PTH board in January, after being a long time friend and mentor of many of us here. A formerly homeless father who came out of the Watts uprisings, the Black Student Movement, and working as a lead organizer with the United Steelworkers, Willie has 40 years of experience organizing amongst the poor. He has been a leader of the National Union of the Homeless, the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, the National Welfare Rights Union, the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, and many other networks. Willie serves as the Poverty Initiative Scholar-in-Residence and is the Coordinator of the Poverty Scholars Program at Union Theological Seminary.

Ryan Gibbs joined the PTH board in January, but has been a leader and full time volunteer at PTH since March of 2006, less than a year after he first became homeless. The first day that he walked into the office, was our first sleep-out in protest of warehoused vacant property. Ryan was invited to join and said "Why not, I'm sleeping on the street anyway!" Ryan grew up on Long Island, where his family still resides. Ryan has worked as an office manager, and he also enjoys singing, and if you go to Central Park and see the bubble folks, the ones that use bamboo sticks to make enormous, magical bubbles, then one of them is likely to be Ryan, so say hello!

Sue Lob has been an organizer for over 25 years and joined the PTH board in January. Sue has worked on a range of issues: tenant organizing and affordable housing; reducing infant mortality and the need for prenatal care services; welfare rights; child welfare & Family Court reform; food coop organizing; fighting for needed transportation; and ending violence against women. She founded and directed (from 2000-2009) the Voices of Women Organizing Project (VOW), an organization that brings together a diverse group of survivors of domestic violence from across the City to fight to ensure that domestic violence survivors get the services they need and hold accountable the systems they turn to.

Ms. Lob developed leadership training programs for community leaders (especially women) and staff of social service agencies. Sue has served as the chair of the Child Welfare Committee of the NYC Interagency Task Force Against

Domestic Violence, and on the Boards of the NY Asian Women's Center and the Center for Anti-violence Education. She currently teaches courses on community organizing and policy at Columbia University School of Social Work and Milano, the New School for Policy and Management.

William Burnett is a Roman Catholic and a lifelong activist and organizer. He studied philosophy and theology at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College. William has been a leader of Picture the Homeless since 2004. He is also a former staffer at PTH, and as the Faith Community Outreach Coordinator, William led our Potter's Field Campaign to victory on a number of key demands regarding the handling and interment of the indigent dead in New York City, and regarding the right of homeless and poor people left behind to have closure in the loss of those close to them. William currently serves as the treasurer of the board of directors of Picture the Homeless; and is the administrator of information technology at Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing. William's writing has been published in The Christian Citizen and in many progressive blogs. William currently writes for Our Daily Thread, a Catholic-community progressive political blog sponsored by Catholics United.

Last but never least, here are a couple of our fabulous leaders

Kendall Jackman, born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, is a former postal worker who is currently homeless. Prior to her appointment with the Postal Service, she worked as a receptionist among other jobs. She grew up in a household where her grandfather, who was a Garveyite, ran his own business. Her parents and uncle were union members. Discussing history and politics with her grandfather, and helping her father with his union work, stoked the activist fire in her blood that she was born with.

While in Junior High School, when seven students were shot at Jackson State, an Historic Black College, during a student protest of the Vietnam War (getting only a fraction of the media coverage than Kent State), she and her fellow students took over their own school for one week in solidarity protest. As a member of the original students to attend South Shore High School (first graduating class), she was confronted by racism. For two and a half weeks, she and her fellow students rioted against each other. She was one of a small group of students selected to form the first Leadership Class to address these issues. In later years, she was active in her union. She has one daughter, Kenyetta.

Andres Perez was born & raised in E. New York, Brooklyn, with 7 sisters and 2 brothers. In the late 70's his family moved to the Bronx where he was encouraged to go to trade schools and study maintenance, repairs and youth counseling. He worked at the Police Athletic League, then for 20 years at the NYC Housing Authority. After doing all of that, plus having 3 sons and moving in with his ailing mom to care for her until her passing, he became homeless because he wasn't on his mothers lease. Andres joined Picture the Homeless a year ago and is a leader of our Housing Not Warehousing campaign, as well as representing PTH on the National Campaign to Restore Housing Rights. Andres states that he "feels like his life is getting back on track". He is also working in a transitional jobs program in the Parks Department and hopes to be hired fulltime. Andres is bilingual, of Afro Puerto Rican heritage.

Darlene Bryant is homeless, born and raised in Harlem. Darlene first became homeless in the late 80's. She's slept on subway, shelters, and friends' couches. Darlene was a participant of the Tompkins Sq. Park, Tent City in 1988, distributing food and clothes. 24 years later she feels herself "struggling to the point of no return". Darlene first came to PTH for legal help a year ago. She was hungry, so attended an organizing meeting for the snacks. There, she ran into an old friend from Tent City and stayed. Darlene immediately stepped up, becoming involved once again in the movement in different ways: doing radio, television, public speaking, leading direct actions. Darlene is a leader of the Housing Not Warehousing campaign and feels that "instead of gentrifying communities with new buildings, we should renovate some of the warehoused ones and move myself and my homeless brothers and sisters off the streets into buildings." Darlene wants to make sure everyone knows that if anyone needs a loud and rambunctious activist, she's applying for the position, just look for Darlene Bryant "THE ACTIVIST, AND SQUATTER".

www.picturethehomeless.org