



## **About WHEDCo**

The Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDCo) works with families in the Bronx who struggle with the multiple challenges presented by poverty, and who, like all of us, aspire to a healthy, financially stable future. WHEDCo offers interconnected, innovative and high quality solutions - including the building of healthy energy-smart affordable homes - and because of this, the Bronx is a more beautiful, more equitable, and more economically vibrant place to live and raise a family.

WHEDCo was founded in 1991 by pioneering president Nancy Biberman, who began restoring the Bronx in the late '80s, when she led an organization that redeveloped 23 abandoned buildings into over 700 affordable apartments.

Nancy was acutely aware, however, that housing alone was not going to lift families out of poverty, especially in a borough as devastated as the Bronx. She had a vision of providing low-income women and children with both affordable homes and interconnected, high quality solutions to the obstacles they face, and foresaw the profound community-wide economic and educational opportunities that would result from reclaiming, renovating, and transforming the long-abandoned Morrisania Hospital complex.

Partnering with neighborhood leaders, Nancy developed that ravaged site into the award-winning Urban Horizons Economic Development Center, an architecturally stunning building providing high quality homes and initiatives to low income families, and catalyzed the construction of a high-performing magnet school, serving the residents of Urban Horizons and the surrounding community.

Today WHEDCo's innovation solutions include: family support, mental health and housing services; education and youth development through after-school and summer programs; early childhood education and family literacy in the Head Start Early Childhood Discovery Center; an expansive Home-Based Child Care Microenterprise Network; and a small business incubation program in a fully equipped commercial kitchen. WHEDCo continues to develop affordable housing solutions in the Bronx and is currently conducting a green retrofit of Urban Horizons and completed Intervale Green a sustainable "green" building that will use energy-efficient technology and environmentally friendly materials to offer apartments for 128 low-income families and supportive housing for 46 young adults aging out of foster care. In 2007, WHEDCo served nearly 8,000 families.

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