

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free therapy sessions, food, music, and family fun offered at *Therapy Comes to The Bronx* event on Friday, June 27 at Devoe Park



(New York, New York—June 11, 2025) Food, fun, music, games, and therapy might seem like an unusual mix, but all will be on offer at ***Therapy Comes to The Bronx*** presented by [Rising Ground's](http://RisingGround.org) Atlas program at Devoe Park on Friday, June 27 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Atlas is a voluntary program for young adults, primarily aged 18 to 24, who have been arrested and released on their own recognizance. It provides therapeutic services, community support, and pathways to opportunities with the aim of reducing recidivism

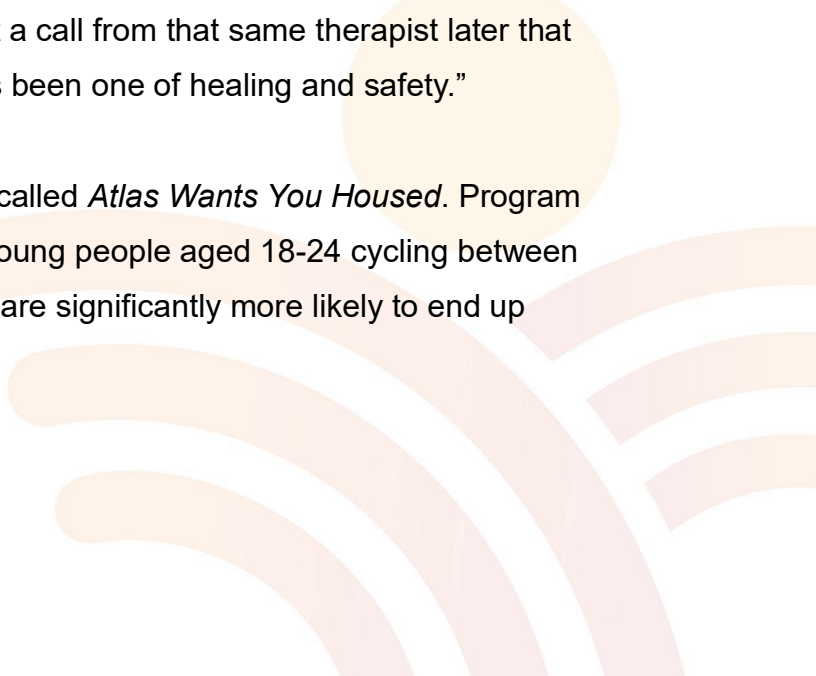
and victimization by addressing the root causes of violence, such as trauma and lack of access to resources. Through this approach, Atlas taps into families' own strengths and resiliencies to develop healthier relationships and strategies for success.

Rising Ground has previously held Atlas community events in Harlem and Queens with people enthusiastically taking part in the onsite therapy sessions held in private tents.

"People can expect a day of healing, community, and fun! We understand the systemic challenges that Bronx folks persevere through every day and we're passionate about pouring back into our own communities," says Atlas Supervisor, Edward Chan. "We'll have down-to-earth and skilled therapists onsite that make therapy feel like talking to your friend. We'll have case managers who are ready and able to help with more concrete needs like food and legal support."

Mr. Chan says the response from communities to the onsite therapy at previous events exceeded expectations: "I've seen tough young men go from a game of pick-up basketball with our staff to trying an impromptu therapy session where they talk about challenges they're facing for the first time because they don't know who else to talk to. We've had mothers who've been holding it down for their families finally get a moment of reprieve because they've been heard and seen by our therapists. We've had numerous families who have been on waitlists for other therapeutic services finally get to talk to a real therapist on the spot and get a call from that same therapist later that week. In short, the community response has been one of healing and safety."

The Bronx event will launch a new initiative called *Atlas Wants You Housed*. Program Director, Nijah Afflic, says data shows that young people aged 18-24 cycling between foster care, shelters, and the justice system are significantly more likely to end up incarcerated again within two years.



“If we want to break the cycle, we need housing solutions tailored to the unique needs of emerging adults, grounded in stability, mental health care, and long-term reintegration support,” she says. “Our primary goal in therapy is to keep families together, unite them, or reunite them — creating opportunities for young adults to have a place they call home both literally and figuratively. While we don’t have housing options accessible to the folks we serve in Atlas, we can partner with other Rising Ground programs that do and we’re taking an extra step at *Therapy Comes to The Bronx* by inviting providers to share information and housing resources with community members.”

Resources include housing lottery applications and information on tenants’ legal rights. There will be a lottery where the winner will get a housing-related bill paid and giveaways of items such as cookware to increase family bonding and connection in the household.

Starting at 2:00 pm and running through 6:00 pm, the day will also include free food, music, games, and giveaways. No registration is required: “It’s a block party with a side of therapy,” says Ms. Afflic. “We hope people will bring their kids, neighbors, friends, and family for a day of healing and joy!”

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Calendar Editors:

Rising Ground’s Atlas presents *Therapy Comes to The Bronx*

Friday, June 27, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Devoe Park, W 188th St, Bronx, NY 10468

Contact: Jennifer Scott, Communications Coordinator, 917-652-6617

About Rising Ground

Rising Ground is a leading nonprofit human services organization, currently operating more than 101 programs at 143 sites across all five New York City boroughs and Westchester County, employing a workforce of 2,100+ people. Driven by the belief that each of us can thrive when life has hope and opportunity, Rising Ground provides caring support and proven paths to positive change, helping more than 30,000 individuals and 72,000 family members to rise above adversity. Founded in 1831 as Leake & Watts, an orphanage, Rising Ground has been at the forefront of supporting evolving community needs and is a leader in utilizing results-focused, evidence-based practices. For more information, visit RisingGround.org.