

END-OF-YEAR REPORT

Making a Difference for NY - 12

C O N G B E Z S M O W F N N K D I F N E F F Z O N E Z



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Official Business

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(Union Bug)



Dear Neighbors,

As you know, Democrats had an ambitious agenda for this Congress and already it has been extremely productive. At a time when our country is faced with many challenges, progress was made for New Yorkers.

Through our work, we are expanding access to education, responding to the global warming crisis and keeping New York's children safe. The American dream, which has been out of reach for so many working families, is finally being restored through increased career opportunities, better wages and a chance at prosperity for everyone, not just the privileged few. This past year's accomplishments will provide real and lasting results.

However, there is no doubt we still have work to do. Our service men and women must be out of harm's way and return home immediately from the war in Iraq. There needs to be relief from the rising health care costs and help for those struggling with high credit card debt. Moving forward, New Yorkers need increased economic certainty. As Chair of the Small Business Committee, I am determined to making sure entrepreneurs keep fueling our local economy. Your priorities are my priorities, and in 2008 I will continue to fight for what matters most to the people of Brooklyn, Queens and the Lower East Side.

I am honored to be your voice in the United States Congress. Working together we can achieve our goals and make a better New York.

> Sincerely, Nydia M. Velázquez

Member of Congress



the Floating Pool at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ

Making a Difference for New York's 12th District

A New Direction for America; A New Direction for NY

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez made a difference for New Yorkers on the toughest challenges we face.

- Raising the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years, bringing a pay increase to over 274,000 New York City residents.
- Successfully worked to help pass the largest investment in college financial assistance in over 60 years that will make college more affordable by cutting student loan interest rates in half.
- Strengthening Head Start by supporting legislation to improve classroom and teacher quality, increasing the ability of children from working families to begin kindergarten ready to succeed.
- Through the work of Rep. Velázquez and her colleagues, New York's veterans are receiving increased health benefits, including greater mental health services.

Fighting for New Yorkers

Congresswoman Velázquez continues to stand up against the President when he is wrong for New York.

- Fighting to ensure the over 400,000 children in New York from low-income working families and the 10 million nationwide have quality health coverage.
- Insisting the Administration provide New York's 2.5 million seniors with affordable prescription medication.
- Demanding our troops return home safely and soon by establishing a clear timeline for their immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

\$195,000

\$97,000

Hamilton-Madison House:

To support social service

programs for seniors and

provide new equipment.

Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC):

To expand the Council's Arts in

Education program for children

Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy:

To expand ongoing education for youth

and adults to learn about the waterfront's

history and the importance of taking care of

in public schools in Brooklyn.

\$188,000

\$282,000

our natural resources.

Chinese-American Planning Council: To help Chinese Americans acquire the skills needed for employment and assist with job placement.

\$188,000

Grand Street Settlement: To support the Community Technology Center and the Computer Clubhouse in their youth development programs for local children

North Brooklyn Development Corporation & Creative Development Center: To support the center's after school services and programs,

\$150,000

Boricua College: For renovation of the North Side campus.

\$892,000

Queens Child Guidance Center: For Early Head Start services.

\$235,000

Project for Public Spaces: For preservation and revitalization of the Moore Street Market.

\$400,000

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: For the construction of a health care family facility for low-income

residents.

\$1.29 million

Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation: For Head Start full year/full day services for children and families.

\$94.000

Police Athletic League Miccio Center in Red Hook: To improve the quality of life for Red Hook children by creating youth recreational programs, educational and personal development.

\$214,000

El Puente: For obesity, diabetes, STDs and HIV/AIDS prevention programs as well as other environmentally connected diseases, such as asthma.

\$214,000

\$282,000

credit management.

Gowanus Canal: To continue studying ways to clean and restore the canal.

Hispanic Information and Telecommunications

Network: To conduct a pilot initiative for small

business development, homeownership and

\$250,000

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation: To help increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse effects by promoting a green roof design.

\$321,000

Woodhull Hospital: To establish the first hospital-based Radiologic Technology School providing high school graduates with the resources to pursue careers in health and science.

Making Housing More Affordable

A top priority for Congresswoman Velázquez is making sure New Yorkers are able to find and access housing at an affordable price.

- Working to stop dishonest lending practices that are threatening many New Yorkers dream of homeownership.
- Increasing the number of low income families that receive affordable housing assistance.
- Spearheading the largest affordable housing expansion in decades resulting in over 1.5 million additional homes in the next ten
- Fostering a partnership with all levels of government to ensure quality and accessible public housing for New Yorkers.

Providing Results for New York Small Businesses

Under Chairwoman Velázquez's leadership, New York small firms had more of their concerns addressed this year than any other in the history of the Small Business Committee.

- Passed historic legislation enhancing small business energy efficiency and tools for New York's entrepreneurs to develop energy efficient technologies.
- Increasing access to capital by working to make small business loans accessible and affordable, specifically for minorities, veterans and women.
- Expanding contracting opportunities for New York small firms by securing the passage of legislation enabling them to fully participate in the \$400 billion dollar federal marketplace.

\$3.86 million

Sunset Park Health Council, Inc: For Health Center Cluster initiative.

Federal Grant Funding for New York's 12th Congressional District

Visit my website at www.house.gov/velazquez-