

Ashley Valentin

All my life I only ever lived in one neighborhood, seeing the same faces, same stray cats and same cycles occurring since the day I could remember. I live uptown and the Bronx, the second stop on the 4 train so yes very uptown. I have my own family but there is always another one when I walk out of my apartment . My birthday is July 5th which happens to be the day after independence day, Mark and Ms.Gina (my neighbors) for the past 7 or 8 years Mark and Ms.Gina have made it tradition to have a bbq at the park across the street from us and bring it in front of our building after hours to watch the fireworks. As soon as it hits 12 Ms.Gina and Mr.Mark sing happy birthday to me with my family. I am forever grateful for these amazing neighbors who are now family due to a true connection and friendship.

There are little to no important landmarks near my house but we do have one of the biggest parks near my house , 'Van Cortlandt park'. Van Cortlandt was built in 1748 by one's son, Frederick Van Cortlandt, although there is nothing interesting nor fun facts about the park it is engaging to find out that it was managed with assistance from the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance all this time in order to be kept open. There is a lot of space for improvement in my neighborhood, although there is a big sense of community there is neglect in our area. There is always garbage outside on the sidewalks or tv screens and things for the NYC rates to much on. I live near a highschool, specifically Dewitt Clinton highschool and there is always garbage in the grass when I'm walking to the train, but there is also a lack of garbage cans at every corner. There should be more center programs & rehabilitation centers for those in the community who need it physically, emotional and mentally. There is a hospital near me which has helped me with my health and any illness I've had my whole life. 'Montefiore, which is one of the most known hospitals in NYC, Montefiore is ranked among the top hospitals nationally and regionally by the U.S. News & World Report.'

On the other hand there are little to no resources for those in my community who need it, there are many people who are jobless and unfortunate and rely on government assistance to live but there is a lack of resources at hand for those in the neighborhood. Instead there are constant arguments & fights in my neighborhood between each other due to lack of resources to help those in my community who need anger management services or overall help to better themselves. My overall impression on my neighborhood is I don't recommend living in the Bronx, the majority of the energy you receive from people are negative and although there are a lot of opportunities there are more issues and wrong doings by people who are a product of their environment.