

neighborhoodnews

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SERVING BRIARWOOD, CAMBRIA HEIGHTS, HOLLIS, JAMAICA, JAMAICA ESTATES, JAMAICA HILLS, LAURELTON, QUEENS VILLAGE, ROSEDALE, SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, ST. ALBANS



Shanqua Harrison
Controller,
Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
Jamaica

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Shanqua Harrison is currently the Controller at the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation. As the controller of the Corporation, she has the hefty task of being the head accountant. "I support the activities of the neighborhood and the Corporation," said Harrison. She has been an outstanding supporter of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation for more than four years now. One of her main tasks there is to run the payroll as well as all the other financial duties in the Corporation. Harrison also helps the other workers and mentors the interns from LaGuardia College. "I'm really proud of our interns and it means a lot to the community to have kids from LaGuardia coming here," she said.

PERSONAL: Harrison, who recently turned 44, graduated from SUNY Binghamton University in 1988. Along with being an alumnus, she is still active with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. She feels like her parents had a huge impact on her working to help out the Jamaica area and community. Her father and grandmother owned a candy shop and a grocery store in downtown Jamaica. "Helping out a community that was so grateful towards my own family feels amazing," Harrison said.

JOB: Before coming to the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, Harrison worked for HIP. During her time there, she was the manager while contributing to the company by dealing with the city accountants.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: "We've [Greater Jamaica Development Corporation] grown a lot in the last four years since I've been here," Harrison said. She said her biggest challenge right now is to get new accounting software that everyone in the company can use. "Being in Jamaica, these utilities aren't always there for us," she said. Finding accounting software to help the company grow in years to come is their biggest task, she added.

PROUDEST MOMENT: She recalls her proudest moment coming when she was promoted from financial manager to controller of the Corporation. "It came as a surprise to me and it was very overwhelming, but I was thankful for the opportunity," Harrison said.

INSPIRATION: Harrison said she is inspired by her purpose in life. For her, waking up every morning and going out to help her community is very inspirational to her. "Giving back to the people of my own community is very gratifying," she said.

- Adam Misch