

A Night to Meet Our Community



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Brooklyn's NYU Langone leaders spent National Night Out on August 13 discussing our vast healthcare offerings with families, neighbors, and awestruck kids from across the borough.

For the eighth year in a row, NYU Langone Health was a big part of National Night Out events in Brooklyn. The initiative, launched in 1984, promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie through fun gatherings hosted by local police precincts across the country.

Brooklyn staffers partnered with the 72nd police precinct in the Windsor Terrace area for their event on August 13. They met with dozens of community members to share information about our healthcare services, raise awareness about our locations across the borough, and—oh yeah—offer kids the opportunity to climb aboard and explore an NYU Langone ambulance.

"Having an ambulance present is an excellent opportunity for children to dispel any anxiety they might have regarding emergencies," says Sara Ostolaza, MSW, senior manager of community and city affairs within the Office of Government and Community Affairs at NYU Langone Health, who has directed our part of Brooklyn's National Night Out since 2017. "The ambulance, complete with Emergency Medical Technicians—or EMTs—and hospital staff, provides a positive environment that encourages children to role play and see the ambulance as a resource, easing any anxiety that might occur if they might need to use one."

The Family Health Centers at NYU Langone (FHCs) also had a big presence at the event. Alison Solomon, MPA, director of community partnerships, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, and Maha Allawh, a patient relations representative, spoke to participants about primary care services at the FHCs. Other NYU Langone leaders at the gathering included Tashana Lewis Sinclair, from the Beatrice W. Welters Breast Cancer Outreach and Navigation Program, and Yanairy Guerrero, from the Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Family Support Program.

The week before, on August 6, the 84th police precinct held their National Night Out event at Brooklyn Bridge Park. The storm forecasted for that night didn't stop Nancy Conroy, MD, chief of service for the Emergency Department at the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Ambulatory Care Center in Cobble Hill, along with Marissa Wiegner, associate director of Emergency Services & Clinical Operations, from representing the institution at the festivities at Brooklyn Bridge Park—at least for 90 minutes until the rain started to fall.

The two chatted with community members about the many services available, including primary and specialty care, emergency care, imaging services, same-day surgery, and cancer care. "It's always great to get out in the community and tell Brooklynites about all we have to offer," says Dr. Conroy. "We'll be back next year too—with hopefully sunny skies."