Monica Morales is a seven-time Emmy Award-winning PIX11 News investigative reporter for the weekday evening newscasts at 5:45 p.m. She also hosts a TV show called “Monica Makes It Happen.”

In 2024, her show won an Emmy Award for “Community Service.” Morales is renowned and beloved throughout New York City for making connections that positively change lives.

Since 2016, Morales has personally visited over 250 New York City housing developments, helped to ensure the repair of hundreds of homes and secured transfers to safe homes for dozens of families. Thanks to Morales’ recent investigations on housing issues and a SNAP benefits scam, many New Yorkers recently received reimbursements. Morales has also helped shed light on dozens of public spaces and community centers needing repairs. Her coverage of deteriorating conditions at several Bronx playgrounds helped to secure $1 million to repair those playgrounds. Thanks to a series of her stories, she helped save a Bronx pantry set to close.

Morales’ favorite stories are helping local moms obtain direly needed resources and she stays on their stories for years. Morales helped Jessica Middleton, a seven-month-pregnant homeless viewer who was sleeping on a park bench, move into a safe home by connecting her with Good Counsel, a non-profit organization. Middleton now has a new home for her new daughter and a new career.

A Brooklyn-based single parent and overnight security guard, Kameka Marsh, reached out to Morales for financial help to finish college. Morales connected with her, and she received a scholarship from LaGuardia Community College, which was established in her name and has helped Kameka and other single parents afford to attend and graduate from Laguardia Community College.

On her show, Morales honors everyday heroes and celebrities who help their communities thrive, including celebrities and leaders of organizations that provide resources to help her viewers who are in need. Recent guests include DMC, Ja Rule, Kool and the Gang, Vin Rock of Naughty by Nature, Fivio Foreign, Styles P, the Founder of Farmacy for Life, Latin Pop Star Lisa Lisa, Ralph McDaniels, David Belafonte, and Jim Jones. Morales also scored a one-on-one interview with JPMorgan Chase’s CEO Jamie Dimon to talk about wealth creation in underserved communities in New York City. Organizations with which Morales connects in helping her viewers include Goya, the First Responder’s Children’s Foundation, Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, The Public Housing Community Fund, Con Edison, Union Settlement, New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, and the Ford Foundation.

Morales is very active in the Hispanic Community. In 2024, she was elected to New York’s National Academy of Arts and Sciences Board of Governors. She was awarded the 100 Hispanic Women Community Service Award. In 2022, Morales received the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Freedom for her advocacy in immigrant communities and was named one of El Diario Nueva York’s Latina of Distinction for her work in the Hispanic community. She also serves on the board of Casa de las Américas at LaGuardia Community College and the Advisory Council of Ellis Island Honors Society.

Morales was profiled by the Columbia Journalism Review in 2019 for her special brand of advocacy journalism and is considered one of the only reporters in the nation to focus on public housing in the United States. Morales’ Ted Talk on how “Moms Make It Happen” in 2020 focused on the power of women in their communities. Morales says her late mother, Maria Teresa Morales, a Bolivian immigrant to this country who worked three jobs to support her family, is her inspiration every day.

Morales has received a National Emmy for Breaking News, six local Emmys, and an Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Series and Reporting. In 2020, Morales won a Continuing Coverage Emmy for her “Monica Makes It Happen” series, and in 2021 and 2022, she was nominated for a Community Service Emmy for her daily coverage of New York City’s housing crisis.

In 2018, Morales was invited to the White House. In 2024, she was inducted into Bottomless Closet’s Hall of Fame for her support of the nonprofits’ work supporting women. In 2023, the Zonta Club of New York, a group active in the United Nations advocating for gender equality, presented Morales with the “Distinguished Woman of the Year Award” for her advocacy.

Since Morales first came to New York City as a reporter on WNBC 4 in 2004, her broadcasting career has taken her throughout the country, from WNBC in New York City, WFXT-FOX25 in Boston, WTVJ-NBC6 in Miami and WDJT-CBS in Milwaukee.