12th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner

HONORING
SOCIAL WORK LEADERS
IN NEW YORK CITY

Thursday, March 28, 2019
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Jing Fong Restaurant
20 Elizabeth St.
New York, NY
March 28, 2019

Welcome and thank you so very much for joining us at our 12th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner and Dance! We are excited to have you with us as we ELEVATE Social Workers in the City!

Now is an opportune time to celebrate ourselves and our leaders in the field in the metropolitan New York City area. Social Workers are part of the fabric of what makes the Big Apple great. We are deeply invested in political, social justice and service support to all New Yorkers. We seek to bring the Race, Diversity and Intersectionality (RDI) lens into every facet of social work practice. Tonight, we do our part to amplify the importance of these and other social work values by honoring those among us who have gone above and beyond to emulate them.

We are fortunate that as a City and Chapter, we are not without social workers worth celebrating. For all of the great leaders that we celebrate tonight, we acknowledge that there are many more who go unnoticed, who have given of themselves selflessly, and who ELEVATE our profession. We also give our gratitude and strength to you. You are the “unsung heroes”, you deserve and have our unwavering support.

Willing Chin-Ma, Diane Heggie, Evelyn Laureano and Carl Mazza, we celebrate you as our Diamond Leaders of 2019. Thank you for the work you have done to transform the field as we’ve known it. We also honor six Aquamarine Gem Leaders, six Sapphire Gem Leaders, ten Emerald Gem Leaders and nine Ruby Gem Leaders who have contributed to every part of the profession. We are indebted to your service and thank you for all you do.

In addition to recognizing excellence, our annual Awards Dinner is an opportunity to help NASW-NYC advocate for our profession through your financial support. By joining us tonight, you are investing in our field through the Social Work Investment Initiative for expanded loan forgiveness, test preparation assistance to retain social workers of diverse backgrounds, and funding to increase the number of licensed social workers in shortage areas. Your contributions also help us grow our platform of the RDI lens, as we seek to promote passage of the Racial Equity Assessment in Legislation Bill (REAL). REAL will create a process by which all positive legislation accepted by New York will have a racial equity lens to them; ending years of injustice to communities of color.

For those with a passion for political social work, we invite you join our New York City Political Action for Candidate Election Committee (NYC- PACE), which meets the second Wednesday of every month. You can contact them at naswnycpace@gmail.com. Also, be sure to attend our 5th Annual Social Work in the City Continuing Education Conference on June 14, 2019. We are actively seeking proposals for this conference that draws over 600 professionals. We also invite you to bring your energy and voice to our other ongoing committees, task forces, and collectives. Attend one of our upcoming Round Table discussions on the needs and challenges of social workers in New York City.

We would like to thank everyone for making this evening possible. Special thanks go out to our Chapter staff, specifically Olanike Oyeyemi and Shari Jones, as well as Members of our Fundraising Committee - Pat Gray (Co-chair), Susan Moritz, Karen Dixon, Maria Lizardo and Linda Lausell-Bryant. On behalf of NASW-NYC Leadership, the Chapter Fundraising and Award Selections Committees, and the Board of Directors, we thank you for being a part of our 12th Annual celebration. We sincerely hope you have a good time tonight and take a moment to ELEVATE yourself. You deserve it!!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Claire Green-Forde
Executive Director, NASW-NYC

Benjamin Sher, MA, LMSW
President of the Board of Directors, NASW-NYC
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

12th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner

Program

Welcome
Jeremy Babb
Marcella J. Tillett
Masters of Ceremony

Benjamin R. Sher
President of the Board of Directors, NASW-NYC

Dr. Claire Green-Forde
Executive Director, NASW-NYC

Awards Presentation
6:30 p.m.

Aquamarine Leaders
Amanda Babine
Dwayne Brown
Ari Chiarella

Sapphire Leaders
Erika Dautruche
Danielle Fairbairn-Bland
Dr. Hanni Flaherty

Emerald Leaders
Tonya Arnold
Dr. Naomi Barasch
Judge Richard Berman
Clarendetine Brooks
Sarah Crawford Banda

Ruby Leaders
Toni Campopiano
Amy Cohen
Dr. Donna Demetri Friedman
Dr. Patricia Gray
Dr. Dorothy Henderson

Diamond Leaders
Willing Chin-Ma
Dianne Heggie

Honoring:

Dinner and Dance
7:00 p.m.

[3-7 years of leadership]
This stone represents youth, hope, health, and fidelity.

(8-15 years of leadership)
This stone represents honesty, loyalty, purity, and trust.

[16-25 years of leadership]
This stone represents love and rebirth.

[26+ years of leadership]
This stone represents passion, courage and emotion.

[(Lifetime of leadership)]
The diamond is timeless, strong, and beautiful.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

AQUAMARINE LEADERS (3-7 years of leadership)
This stone represents youth, hope, health, and fidelity.

**Amanda Babine, MSW**

Amanda is currently the Director of Policy & Programs at the New York Transgender Advocacy Group where she develops and leads LGBTQI state-wide policy initiatives. She has evaluated large citywide pilot programs, improving the systems that serve New Yorkers, while working at Columbia University and the City University of New York (CUNY). Before transitioning into a more quantitative role, she worked at the Center for the Study of Social Policy developing a youth well-being framework while conducting Participatory Action Research (PAR) with youth who were serviced by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Amanda is currently on the Board of Directors for Evaluate for Change, a nonprofit that provides capacity building around evaluation for nonprofit professionals. Amanda holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work & Public Policy from Columbia University.

**Dwayne Brown, LMSW**

Dwayne received his Master of Social Work (MSW) from Lehman College School of Social Work in June 2016. He began his social work career working with marginalized and traumatized youth and their families at the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC), where he learned to assess and view clients’ need through a trauma lens.

In 2017, he began working at the Actors Fund as a Social Worker within their Entertainment Assistance Program. Dwayne works with clients within the entertainment industry, providing case management, supportive counseling, and clinical group work. Dwayne also works part time at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center with LGBTQ+ clients.

In his short time within the field, Dwayne has learned to assess, empathize and validate his clients’ many intersections and helps them to understand how they may impact their current day challenges, concerns and mental health needs. When he isn’t working one of his two jobs, Dwayne is actively volunteering on the steering committee of the IN MY MIND, LGBTQ+ People of Color Mental Health Conference. This conference and the LGBTQ+ community are two communities that Dwayne works passionately to support.

**Ari Chiarella, LMSW**

Ari graduated Barnard College with a BA in Psychology in 2007. She began as a Family Advocate at the Center for Family Representation (CFR) in 2007 and continued at CFR as an MSW intern in 2011 through the One Year Residency program at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. In 2012, she became a Staff Social Worker in the CFR’s Manhattan office before transitioning to the Queens office in the role of Senior Social Worker in 2015. During her time in Queens, she was promoted to Supervisor and Co-Director in 2017.

In her roles at CFR over the years, she has been responsible for direct client work including case management and working collaboratively with city agencies to help parents navigate the child welfare system, supervising staff and social work interns, program development, presenting at a national parent representation conference, and training in-state and out-of-state practitioners. She currently sits on several workgroups throughout the city as part of collaborative efforts with city agencies to improve the efficiency and quality of representation and services which parents and families receive.
Christine Mindicino, LCSW

Christine graduated from the NYU Silver School of Social Work in 2011. She currently is a Therapist and Clinical Supervisor at Brooklyn Counseling Services, working with children/adolescents and adults while providing clinical supervision and oversight to Licensed Master Social Workers. Christine’s work in the field has focused on using a trauma informed approach and social justice lens to support clients of all ages. Her professional experience includes case work with developmentally disabled adults and case management with children and families - providing home-based crisis services for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

She has more recent experience as a social work director of school-based counseling programs, overseeing school-based social workers and teams of social work interns while also maintaining a direct service caseload. In addition to taking an individual trauma informed approach with clients, Christine also provided training for Department of Education staff on utilizing trauma informed approaches within classrooms. Through workshops and classroom interventions, Christine and her teams supported staff/students in creating mindfulness spaces in classrooms to support de-escalation and emotional regulation. She has received post graduate training in areas such as clinical practice with adolescents and trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Erica Sandoval, LMSW

Erica is Director of Medical, Volunteer, & Community Engagement at Make-A-Wish® Metro New York and Western New York. Erica’s initiative is to provide access to wishes for all kids diagnosed with critical illness in the region. Over 3,377 wishes have been granted since Erica joined the chapter.

She is a Clinical Therapist at Western Queens Consultation Center. Erica received the Community Service Award for her community service efforts on the board of the Latino Social Work Coalition. Erica completed her Master of Social Work Degree and her Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Practice with Adolescents and Families from New York University School of Social Work.

Erica is the oldest of three social worker daughters. Her path to social work began with her grandmother and mother’s journeys to the United States in pursuit of the “American Dream.” Erica mirrors the strength of the women who raised her. Erica states: “Working with families throughout their many different stages and guiding them through the difficult times provide me with a sense of hope for the future. The most important part of our profession is providing access to resources for our communities while developing policies to serve and better our communities. At best, we must be leaders of positive change.”

Alexandra Seals, MSW, PhD Candidate

Alexandra is a criminal justice and anti-poverty reform advocate. Alexandra is a PhD student in Social Work at Fordham University. Her work focuses on the patterns and causes of intergenerational crime within the United States and examines structures and institutions through a holistic, social, and organizing lens to promote justice and social change.

Nationally and internationally, she engages the work on the micro, mezzo and macro level to support the empowerment of disenfranchised and oppressed groups. Locally, she has worked with some of the most vulnerable populations in NYC. Internationally, her work has brought her to Eastern Africa. She has worked as a Research Consultant at Fordham University’s Beck Institute for Religion and Poverty.

Currently, she is an Adjunct Instructor at Columbia University School of Social Work and is pursuing the development of a private consulting practice. She has served on the Westchester Ban the Box Task Force. Her work is featured in a documentary released by the New York State Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration. She holds a BS in Psychology from Fordham University, an MBA with a specialization in Data Analytics, and an MSW from Lehman College.
Erika Dautruche, MSW

Erika is a Conference Facilitator (Child & Family Specialist) with the NYC Administration for Children Services (ACS). In her role as facilitator, Erika utilizes the six-stage model to guide discussions with families, children, youth, ACS staff, and service providers to support child safety, family stability and service goal progression. Erika’s career with ACS began as a Program Evaluator (Provider Agency Measurement System Scorecard Reviewer). In that position, Erika evaluated the case work practice of Preventive Service providers and attributes her deep understanding of data collection, casework practice, and measurable outcomes to her tenure at PAMS Scorecard.

Erika’s strong passion for community service, coupled with her desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others, has always guided her path. This is embodied in her membership in the Queens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., her dedication to her role as a Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention (SAVI) advocate for Mt. Sinai, and by continuing to volunteer with the Food Bank For New York City.

Erika is an Alumni of Adelphi University School of Social Work and continues to keep abreast of new methods and modalities regarding the provision of social work services. With her recent completion of the LIFT: LGBTQ Institute for Family Therapy certification, Erika enhanced her social work & coaching skills in the areas of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Erika’s additional certifications include: Understanding Domestic Violence: Essential & Intersections (CONNECT) and Lean Six Sigma. Erika wants to take this opportunity to acknowledge that she “stands on the shoulders of giants.” It has been the unwavering support of her family, sorority, mentors, and colleagues that fuels her drive and commitment to maintaining social work standards.

Danielle Fairbairn-Bland, LCSW

Danielle is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with arms stretched across the social spheres. Her selflessness was shaped during her formative years in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn to parents who migrated from the beautiful island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As a transformational speaker and mental wellness advocate, she provides genuine support to those experiencing challenging life transitions. With over 10 years of experience in the field of Social Work, Danielle has provided support to individuals impacted by trauma, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, and the criminal justice system. Furthermore, her focus on mentoring Human Service professionals and developing culturally relevant curriculum provides individuals with the tools needed to promote change.

Danielle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the State University of Stony Brook and a Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College School of Social Work. She also completed advanced certification programs in Leadership, Family Development and Clinical Social Work, making her professionally qualified to support diverse communities. Danielle is currently employed at the New York City Department of Education - Division of School Climate and Wellness, where she supports partnerships between community mental health providers and schools. In addition to her experience as a Clinician and Administrator, Danielle is the CEO of a thriving personal development boutique that provides counseling, coaching and consulting services to uplift, heal and inspire communities. With sustained strength and support, Danielle will continue to use her platform to promote mental health awareness, eliminate disparities and strengthen local and global communities.

Hanni Flaherty, PhD, LCSW-R

Dr. Flaherty is a dedicated teacher, researcher, and practitioner. She has focused her career on reducing stigma and improving mental health services through clinical practice, research and education. Dr. Flaherty is a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Associate Director of the Doctoral Program at Wurzweiler School of Social Work. She completed her PhD and MSW at New York University Silver School of Social Work. Prior to returning to NYU for her PhD, Dr. Flaherty practiced clinical social work for over ten years, specializing in adolescent high-risk behaviors. Dr. Flaherty continues to work clinically in private practice at Alma, a new co-practicing community for therapists on a mission to simplify access to therapy and normalize mental health.

Dr. Flaherty’s research interests are in the areas of clinical social work practice with a focus on innovation implementation and social work education with an emphasis on the transition to online education. Dr. Flaherty’s academic training, research and years of clinical social work experience have uniquely positioned her to be an effective teacher of social work education and a researcher informed by her rich clinical experience.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

Lydia Franco, PhD, LMSW

Dr. Franco is the Co-Director of the Clinical Education and Innovation Department and a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University Silver School of Social Work. She has led clinical training initiatives for the Community Technical Assistance Center of New York, a statewide training center, since 2011 and leads the technical assistance team for the Connections to Care program through ThriveNYC. She co-led the development of the 4 Rs and 2 Ss for Strengthening Families model, an evidence-based practice, and oversaw the NIH-funded R01 study that assessed its effectiveness within real world mental health clinics.

Moreover, Dr. Franco provides training and technical assistance expertise locally and nationally on engagement best practices, family strengthening approaches, workforce resilience, and implementation science. Dr. Franco received her PhD in Social Work from Rutgers University and her MSSW from Columbia University School of Social Work. She is a Part-Time Lecturer at Rutgers University and a SIFI-certified Field Instructor.

Shanequa Moore, LMSW

Shanequa is the founder and CEO at the I’RAISE Girls & Boys International Corporation, where she has devoted 100 percent of her career to serving vulnerable and disadvantaged children, youth and families for the past 16 years. She has extensive experience in clinical and policy practice in multiple settings including clinics, schools, law firms and government.

Shanequa obtained her master’s degree from Columbia University School of Social Work in 2010. She was mentored by pioneering women of excellence in the field of Social Work including, Mary Pender Greene during her internship at the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services where she helped to expand the undoing organizational racism initiative, Dianne Heggie during her internship at COFFCA, Jenny Crawford during her internship at Bronx Defenders and Jane Waldfogel, her academic advisor at Columbia University.

Shanequa’s recent activities include developing a comprehensive mental health program model for children in New York City Public schools where over 1,000 students are provided with mental health and supportive services, as well as the launching of a Montessori Pre-K program with the NYC Department of Education in Staten Island. Shanequa also serves as State Representative with New York State Office of Children & Family Services, where she oversees the operations of over 60 early childhood programs to ensure compliance with New York State policy and law.

Above all Shanequa is a loving and devoted mother to her 7-year-old daughter, Genesis. She will be pursuing her doctoral degree at Harvard University in Public Policy and she will be a candidate for New York State Senator in the 2021 elections where she plans to help reform child welfare and juvenile justice practice and improve the quality of life of immigrant children and low-income families.

Shamika Vargas, LCSW

Shamika is the Director of Mental Health Services at Hour Children Inc. where she oversees social work practice dedicated to the reentry and healing of formerly incarcerated women and their families. She is a passionate advocate who roots her work in reforming the criminal justice and child welfare systems and improving outcomes for women and families. Shamika has provided individual and group level services to adults and families involved in New York City family and criminal courts for over ten years through her roles at The Bronx Defenders, Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center, and the Jewish Childcare Association (JCCA).

She has also supported social work students in her roles as an advisor, field instructor, and adjunct lecturer at Columbia’s School of Social Work. Independently, Shamika facilitates workshops and coaching sessions with emerging and seasoned professionals and is particularly passionate about the experience of women of color as providers and consumers of social services. She received her B.S.W. from Marist College and her M.S.W. from Columbia University, but her greatest work is seen in her 11-year-old son, Joseph.
Tonya Arnold, LCSW

Tonya is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Department of Education (DOE). She is a School Social Worker at P.S. 169 and works with children from Pre-K to 5th grade. As a School Social Worker, Tonya realizes that each child comes with unique needs and tailors her work with them to meet their individual needs. Tonya has almost two decades of experience as a social worker in a variety of settings such as drug treatment, foster care, HIV/AIDS, Early Intervention, and home care.

Tonya obtained her undergraduate degree from Lehman College. She went on to receive her Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Hunter College. Tonya always wanted to be a Social Worker because she felt a great need to support and empower the most vulnerable. Her passion to help people become the best version of themselves continues to be her driving force in the work that she does. Tonya strives each day to embody the qualities of a social worker not only in her professional life but also in her personal life as well. She considers being a social worker not only a career but a lifestyle.

Naomi Barasch, Dr.PH, LCSW

Dr. Barasch has been working for Safe Horizon as the Senior Director of the Queens Child Advocacy Center since 2010. She is a licensed Clinical Social Worker as well as a Doctor of Public Health. Dr. Barasch has held varied jobs as a social worker, a profession rich in opportunities, in Israel, Houston, TX and New York.

Before coming to Safe Horizon, Dr. Barasch has worked as a community organizer in housing projects, a Director of a Community Center, a community organizer and trainer in a peace organization, an advocate in an environmental agency around environmental justice, a clinician in a Mental Health Clinic, and as the Director of Field Education at Adelphi University School of Social Work.

Dr. Barasch feels blessed to have the opportunity for a rich professional life with the support and understanding of her parents, husband and two amazing children.

Judge Richard Berman, Esq., MSW

Judge Berman has been a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York since November 1998. He received a B.S. degree from Cornell University in 1964, a J.D. degree in 1967 from N.Y.U. School of Law, and an M.S.W. in May of 1996 from the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

Judge Berman was an Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell from 1970 to 1974. He served as Executive Assistant to United States Senator Jacob K. Javits from 1974 to 1978. In 1978, he became General Counsel to Warner Cable Corporation (and also to MTV Networks Inc. in 1984). In 1986, he became a member of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae.

From May 1995 until October 1998, Judge Berman served as a New York State Family Court Judge. He is the author of “Special Immigrant Juvenile Status;” “A Team Model to Identify Child Abuse;” “Seven Steps to Protect Children;” and “Community Service for Juvenile Offenders.” He was a member of the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children.
Clarencetine Brooks, LMSW, PhD Candidate

Clarencetine (Teena) Brooks is the Assistant Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. OCA provides consumer/peer perspectives to inform the Division’s work in mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities.

Previously, she worked for thirteen years with the Urban Justice Center, an innovative nonprofit that serves New York City’s most vulnerable residents through a combination of direct legal service, systemic advocacy, community education and political organizing.

Teena has also worked closely with the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS). She served as a Regional Organizer from 2000 to 2006. Teena also served as Co-President of the Board of Directors for NYAPRS from 2006-2008 and co-chaired the organization’s cultural competence committee and was an active member of the public policy and the strategic planning committees before becoming a consultant for the organization in 2009.

She is currently a Lecturer and Adjunct Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work and has also taught social welfare policy at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Teena is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in the Social Welfare program.

Sarah Crawford Banda, LMSW

Sarah has spent her twenty-year career as a Social Worker in roles that allow her to ally herself with immigrant women and their families. As the Director of NMIC’s Domestic Violence Project, she worked closely with survivors, service providers, communities and their constituencies to empower survivors and help prevent intimate partner violence.

Sarah helped found the Washington Heights & Inwood Coalition Against Domestic Violence and has been a member of various advisory boards and taskforces. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Columbia University School of Social Work.

Mathyilde Frontus, PhD, LMSW

Dr. Frontus is the newly elected Assemblymember for 46th Assembly District, covering all of Coney Island and Sea Gate, as well as parts of Bath Beach, Bay Ridge, Brighton Beach, Dyker Heights and Gravesend. A proud social worker, Dr. Frontus earned her BSW and MSW from New York University and her PhD from the Columbia University School of Social Work. She has taught advocacy and social justice at both of her alma maters and plans to teach a course in Political Social Work in the Fall of 2019 at NYU. 

Dr. Frontus has lived in Coney Island for over 30 years and is a well-known community leader and advocate against gun violence. She is mostly known for being the founder and leader of three not-for-profit organizations in her community: Urban Neighborhood Services (UNS), a one-stop shop social service agency (Est. 2004), the Coney Island Coalition against Violence (Est. 2009) and the Coney Island Anti-Violence Collaborative (Est. 2013).

Before starting her nonprofit organizations, Dr. Frontus held a number of social work positions such as case manager, medical social worker, behavioral health provider, homefinder and director of program planning and development. Over the years she has worked inside of K-12 schools, community health centers, nonprofit organizations, and has worked with seniors, HIV patients and foster care parents at their homes. Dr. Frontus is the fifth Haitian-American elected to the New York State Assembly, and the second Haitian-American woman elected from New York City.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

Joseph Madonia, LCSW-R

Joseph is currently the Executive Director of the Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund, a private grant-giving foundation. In this role he oversees all aspects of the foundation including administering grants to organizations that improve the lives of children with disabilities and children in foster care. Joseph is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the New York University Silver School of Social Work. Prior to the Warner Fund, Joseph spent 15 years as the Director of the Brooklyn Treatment Court where he was responsible for the implementation of policy and planning for judicial diversion courts including Brooklyn Diversion, Veterans, and DWI courts.

Joseph was the co-developer of the Brooklyn Treatment Court Training Academy and conducted training for drug court practitioners through the New York State Unified Court System and the Center for Court Innovation. He stays close to court innovations by currently serving as an active board member of New York State Drug Court Professionals.

Joseph is a graduate of New York University and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He holds several degrees and certifications including Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor and Forensic Mental Health Counselor. He maintains a private practice where he treats adolescents and young adults with substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Vilmarie Rodriguez, LCSW

Vilmarie started her career working as a cancer care technician at Calvary Hospital, the only hospital in the U.S. dedicated to providing hospice and palliative care to adult patients with advanced cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. She did this for almost 5 years. Though she originally wanted to be a nurse, she started looking into social work and knew that as long as oncology remained her focus, it would be a fulfilling career for her.

She has been involved in program implementation and management for many years and has developed expertise in different areas such as: working with children and families, Breast Cancer, Hispanic Outreach and Education. The focus always being oncology and using a race, diversity and intersectionality lens. She has been a CancerCare Social Worker since 2006 and has contributed to numerous CancerCare programs and publications. Some of them being; Oncology Social Workers and How We Help. In Surviving Cancer: Our Voices & Choices (Ed. Behr, M.: WWH Press); p. 139-142 (2014).

She presented in San Juan, Puerto Rico to Oncology Personnel, including Social Workers, Nurses, Oncologists, Advocacy Organizations, Community Workers - “CancerCare Services, including Financial, Transportation and Psychosocial Services for Cancer Patients Impacted by Hurricane Maria and Its Aftermath: Enabling Patients to Continue to Receive Their Cancer Treatment, Pain and Symptom Management” (April 2018). This last presentation speaks to the work she is currently doing in regards to being the Director of Patient Assistance at CancerCare. Vilmarie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Lehman College and a Master of Social Work degree from Fordham University.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

**John Tavolacci, LCSW**

John Tavolacci is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Odyssey House. He is a Clinical Social Worker specializing in addiction treatment with 30 years of experience in the field. In addition to managing the clinical operations of Odyssey House, John is actively involved with advocacy efforts at the city, state and federal levels. He brings a creative approach to the addiction treatment field, which is exemplified by his incorporating fitness as a significant component of rehabilitation. He founded “Run for Your Life,” a program that trains Odyssey House residents to become runners, participating in smaller charity races throughout the year and culminating in the New York City Marathon.

John earned a Master of Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work in 2000 and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from SUNY Empire State College in 1994, where he was honored as a “distinguished graduate.” He is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). He is currently President of Therapeutic Communities of New York.

**Julie Spitzer, LMSW**

Julie has provided executive leadership as a Department Director for Eviction Prevention and Access to Benefits Department for over 16 years. Through her dedication in combating housing discrimination, food scarcity, and barriers to health care, she has promoted social and economic justice for the betterment of New York State residents.

Julie has played a vital role in developing organization-wide policies. As a result, the portfolio of programs under Julie have helped tens of thousands of low-income individuals, families, seniors, and immigrants either stay in their homes or obtain permanent housing with connections to economic supports.

In addition, she continues to combat food insecurity and increase access to quality health care throughout New York. Fair housing standards and practices are not only a professional goal, but an initiative that hits close to home. As a former South Bronx New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident, Julie has firsthand knowledge of the challenges New York City residents face to obtain housing and supplemental assistance. She is personally motivated to maintain actionable progress in fair housing and the wrap-around services needed to empower clients to be self-sufficient and to develop healthy communities.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

**Toni Campopiano, LCSW**

Toni has worked in the field of education and mental health for almost 30 years. Working in the nonprofit community in the Bronx, Toni recognized the impact of mental health and poverty on adolescent education and has established a reputation as a transformational leader who is driven by challenge, undeterred by obstacles, and committed to furthering standards of excellence.

Her expertise encompasses all aspects of development and administration, from controlling costs and maximizing revenues to harnessing team strengths to improve performance. Her ability to build consensus among executive teams and stakeholders to promote transparency and influence positive change has been repeatedly proven. Her influence on the profession is exemplified by the legions of social workers she has supervised, trained in fieldwork and mentored. Her impact on the students her programs has served is incalculable. Toni, a graduate of Fordham University, worked with Good Shepherd Services in their school based programs, NY Presbyterian Psychiatric Department and Acacia Network /Promesa.

**Amy Cohen, MSW**

After her 12-year-old son, Sammy, was killed in 2013, Amy joined with others and helped found Families for Safe Streets (FSS). Families for Safe Streets confronts traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those personally affected by crashes in our communities. All of its members have been injured or lost loved ones in this preventable epidemic.

FSS’ efforts were instrumental in lowering the speed limit, getting speed safety cameras, redesigning dangerous streets and more. Their efforts are widely credited with reducing NYC’s traffic fatalities by 33% in recent years while deaths in the rest of the country are sadly rising. FSS is now growing as a national movement with chapters forming across the country.

Amy is a social worker and was previously an administrator of a large social service agency but is now spending most of her time volunteering for FSS.

**Donna Demetri Friedman, PhD, LCSW-R**

Donna (Adjunct Associate Professor; adult, child, and mother-infant therapist) is the CEO of Mosaic Mental Health. She has grown in her career from an intern in 1992 to supervisor to COO in 10 years. Leading Mosaic through the Medicaid Redesign, Donna was invited to speak at the Coalition for Behavioral Health, DOHMH, Institute for Health Care Improvement, NYS DSRIP Learning Symposium and the National Council for Behavioral Health - where Mosaic was recognized as an Exemplary Practice.

She received her PhD in 2005 from NYU, conducting infant research with Dr. Beatrice Beebe at Columbia, she has taught at NYU, NIP, and IPTAR since 1999 and currently teaches Trauma and Attachment in the doctoral program. A therapist in the Mothers, Infants and Young Children program of September 11, 2001; she is co-editor of Attachment-based Clinical Work with Children and has written several articles and book chapters. She has also served on the editorial board of JCSW.

She received the NYU Outstanding Alumna Award in 2009, completed the three-year Anni Bergman Parent-Infant Program in October 2015 and holds a Certificate in Business Excellence from Columbia Business School in April 2018. She is a Board Member of the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School, Bronx Partners for Healthy Communities, and parenting consultant for the 92nd St Y - where she teaches "Becoming Parents."
Patricia Gray, Ed.D, LCSW

Dr. Gray graduated from City College, Columbia University School of Social Work, and Hunter College with her Post Masters in Administration. She earned her Doctorate in Education and Leadership from St. John Fisher College. Dr. Gray has twenty-nine years of progressive administrative experience in development and oversight in programs and policies. Additionally, she worked on initiatives in child welfare, homeless services, and higher education to promote service users, student growth and professional achievement.

Further, she supervised and supported social work graduate students and professionals in private and public social work institutions. Dr. Gray developed her private practice working with individuals, families and groups and conducts service coordination for individuals wanting to remain in their communities. Recently Dr. Gray was named the Guest Editor for the Online Reflections Journal to produce a section on the Effectiveness of Continuing Education: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective. Dr. Gray is the Director of Continuing Education at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.

Dorothy Henderson, PhD, LCSW

Dorothy retired from the Jewish Board of Child and Family Services in 2018. There she was the Director of the Infant, Child and Family Institute and a senior national Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Trainer - providing CPP training and case consultation to mental health and ACS funded prevention programs. Dorothy has 40 years of experience in infant and early childhood mental health, and started her career at Harlem Hospital’s Division of Developmental Psychiatry in 1979. She went on to develop two ACS funded early childhood prevention programs, the Harlem Center for Family Development run by VNS at Harlem Hospital and the VIPS Family Rehab Program for women in recovery and their infants at St. Luke’s/Roosevelt Hospital.

Dorothy was the Assistant Director of the Infant-Parent Study Center, The Jewish Board’s two-year, post-graduate training program from 1995-2008. She was instrumental in developing trauma-informed infant mental health programs for court-involved families nationally and locally. She is a member of the Zero to Three Academy of Fellows, was a founding board member of the New York Zero-to-Three Network and a member of the New York City Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Work Group. She also served on the National Advisory Committee of Zero to Three’s Safe Baby Court Teams Project.

Cheryl Kamen, LMSW

Cheryl has worked in the field of aging for over 35 years. This Brooklyn native has served as Program Director of Henry Street Settlement Senior Center since 2016 and previously held positions at Hudson Guild (Director of Adult Services for over 12 years) and the Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults (Executive Director for 20 years).

Cheryl earned her Masters degree at Fordham University and attended Gettysburg College for her Bachelor’s degree. She is a Gerontological Social Work Practice Fellow with the Helen Rehr Center for Social Work Practice and is certified in Not-for-Profit Management (Columbia), Social Work Management (National Network of Social Work Managers) and Aging (Hunter Brookdale). She has presented or moderated at over a dozen conferences and received numerous awards.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

Gerald Mallon, DSW

Dr. Mallon is the Julia Lathrop Professor of Child Welfare and the Associate Dean of Scholarship and Research at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in New York City. Dr. Mallon has been a child welfare practitioner, advocate, educator, and researcher for his entire 44-year career. Dr. Mallon was the first child welfare professional in the country to research, write about, and develop programs for LGBTQ youth in child welfare settings.

He is the Senior Editor of the professional journal Child Welfare and the author or editor of more than twenty-four books. Dr. Mallon has lectured and worked extensively throughout the United States, and internationally in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Singapore, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Mallon earned his doctorate in Social Welfare from the City University of New York at Hunter College, holds an MSW from Fordham University and a BSW from Dominican College. Dr. Mallon also lives the talk he talks, in addition to being a child welfare professional for his entire career, he has been a foster parent and is the adoptive parent of now grown children.

Constance Stafford, LCSW-R

Constance joined the College of Staten Island’s Department of Social Work as Manager of Professional Student Services in 2015. Also, Constance has been an Adjunct Professor in the Social Work Department since 2012, managing the HBSE sequence and was appointed as Assistant Field Director in 2017. She concentrates on assisting both undergraduate and graduate students in social work to achieve their educational and career aspirations as well as preparing MSW students for the licensing exam, significantly improving the College’s success rate. The College of Staten Island MSW program has a sole concentration in social work practice for people with disabilities and Constance often helps students to understand how broad the field of disabilities actually is.

Constance worked for more than 30 years with voluntary, non-profit programs on Staten Island. She has worked at Community Resources Staten Island and at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center’s St. Elizabeth Ann’s Health Care and Rehabilitation Center. She provided care management and counseling services for children and families in early intervention programs, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and patients with complex medical conditions and their families after admission into short/long term rehabilitation. Constance focused on family education, advocacy relations, and organizational leadership. She has organized, conducted, and developed training and workshops.

Currently, she serves on the Staten Island Person-Centered Care Services Human Rights Committee. Previously, she served as Recording Secretary for the Staten Island Alzheimer’s Association. Constance earned her MSW from Fordham University. She received a BA Degree in Sociology from Virginia Wesleyan College (currently Virginia Wesleyan University).

Rev. Anna Wyatt, LMSW

God called young Anna Nell to the gospel ministry in a dream. With little or no support for women preachers, Anna Nell did not answer her call for ordination until age 89. She is now Pastor and Social Work Supervisor at Churchill Baptist Church of Christ, Inc, alongside her biological daughter, founding Senior Pastor Theresa Ora Wyatt, Juris Doctor.

Anna Nell’s call to social work is the synthesis of everything she has accomplished in life. She is an advocate and interventional counselor to the needy. “After her salvation,” motherhood is her greatest treasure. Widowed 45 years, Anna Nell and her late husband, Reverend John Willie Wyatt raised daughter Theresa along with 15 foster children from the Graham-Windham agency. This awakened Anna Nell’s passion for social work.

Anna Nell is the very first NYC Board of Education/District Council 37 employee and union member career ladder program graduate. She is also a graduate of Adelphi University Graduate School of Social Work, The College of New Rochelle and Williams Memorial High School.

As a PTA President in 1960’s Harlem, Anna Nell was a visionary and founder of the movement to close the old Public School 90 and build Community School 200 and Intermediate School 10 (now the Frederick Douglass Academy, Harlem, New York). Some of her legislative honors and recognition include: Citation from the Hon. Al Taylor - NYS Assembly, Proclamation from U. S. Congressman Charles Rangel, and Proclamation signed by The Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
**Celebrating Social Work Leaders**

**DIAMOND LEADERS**

(Diamond is timeless, strong, and beautiful.

**Willing Chin-Ma, LMSW**

A solid foundation in social work remains the bedrock supporting over 25+ years of Willing’s leadership in community and advocacy work. At the heart of her work lies a commitment to empowering communities to embrace life-long learning and a determination to eliminate the disparities in resources and opportunities afforded low-income communities. Her highly regarded expertise as an executive focuses on results from quality performance improvement, to leadership development, to organizational effectiveness. Willing is a passionate social worker in the field of human services and she worked hard to ensure that the incoming social work interns experience non-profit management and clinical services first hand. After she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Counseling from Hunter College, she went on to graduate from New York University School of Social Work.

For the last 21+ years at Grand St Settlement, she has been a strong advocate for low-income seniors, children and families. Willing has held several senior leadership roles and spearheaded some of the most significant initiatives in Grand St. Settlement’s (GSS) history. She has demonstrated her devotion by improving the quality of the programs for the clients that are in her portfolio. She has worked to ensure that early education is at the highest quality to improve the word gap for children in poverty, and she built successes for older adults that struggle with the lack of bilingual mental health and health services for low income immigrants.

Willing was the driving force in applying for and implementing the development of Grand St. Settlement’s first senior apartments that estimated $11+ million of federal grant monies. She served as Grand St Settlement’s leader with the finest project development team and, after completion of senior housing apartments, she faithfully worked to ensure systems were created to deliver high quality senior living for low income older adults. In 2015, GSS was awarded a Federal 5 year grant ($10M over 5 years) to improve the quality of center-based and family child care services for infant and toddler in the under-served areas of Brooklyn. Willing is devoted to continue expansion and improvement of service deliveries for the young children and the elderly.

Currently, she serves an active role in the following organizations: Advisory Council Member for 3K and EarlyLearn Transition Advisory Group (2017-Present), Fundraising Board Member of the Coalition for Asian Children and Families (2015-Present), Advisory Council Member of the Day Care Council, Inc. (2014-Present), and as a member of the Head Start Sponsoring Board, Inc. (2000-Present). She is married to the Reverend Dr. Stephen Ma, who is Pastor of one of the largest churches on Staten Island, NY. They have two sons studying to be socially responsible engineers. She enjoys serving in the church with her husband and loves traveling with her family. She also loves having delicious dim sum with friends and family.

In 2007, The National Association of Social Workers-NYC Chapter presented Willing with the first Emerging Social Work Leadership Award. She was an inaugural recipient for the now Annual Award for Social Workers.

**Dianne Heggie, LMSW**

Dianne Heggie retired in 2018 following a career in the field of child welfare. For more than 30 years, she was a practitioner in the areas of residential care and child protection. Her work experience included positions ranging from front-line social worker to Executive Director, and she has served as Field Instructor for graduate social work students from Columbia University and New York University.

In 2004, Dianne joined the staff of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA). Her expertise as a practitioner enhanced her advocacy on behalf of the COFCCA member agencies, which provide the majority of residential and family-based foster care, juvenile justice, and preventive services statewide.

She is a member of Black Agency Executives and serves on the executive board of the Hance Family Foundation, creator of the Beautiful Me self-esteem and empowerment curriculum for girls and women. She is also a member of the Mental Health Professionals Certification Committee of the Appellate Division First and Second Departments.

A Licensed Master Social Worker, Dianne has a Master of Social Work degree from New York University and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College.
Celebrating Social Work Leaders

**Evelyn Laureano, PhD, MSW**

Dr. Laureano recently retired after 28 years as CEO of Neighborhood SHOPP, a Bronx organization dedicated to empowering elders of color through advocacy, leadership training and targeted services. She has 47 years in gerontological social work practice, beginning her career at Bellevue Hospital’s multidisciplinary Geriatric Program, the first of its kind in the nation. Her accomplishments include the first Bronx elder abuse intervention program, culturally appropriate wellness initiatives and the development of strengths-based social work practice with minority elders.

She serves on the NYC DFTA Advisory Council, Ponce Bank Community Foundation, NYC Elder Abuse Center, VNS IRB and was a past member of NASW-NYC’s Board of Directors. She was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, served as consultant for the National Elder Justice Roadmap, and presents nationally and locally at conferences.

Dr. Laureano earned a BA degree from Lehman College, MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work and PhD from Yeshiva- Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

As a Nuyorican, Dr. Laureano is enjoying her retirement with her children and grandkids in the Bronx and her siblings in Puerto Rico; and is looking forward to her next life phase with great joy and expectation.

**Carl Mazza, DSW, LMSW**

Dr. Mazza is Professor of Social Work at Lehman College of the City University of New York as well as the Chair of the Social Work Department. He is one of the five original faculty members at Lehman College who founded their MSW program. He is one of four founding editors of *Urban Social Work (USW)* published by Springer Publishers. USW is the only professional social work journal in the U.S. dedicated to exploring urban social issues. Dr. Mazza is Past President of the New York State Social Work Education Association and Former Chairperson of the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Track for the Council on Social Work Education.

He has been recognized by the Urban Male Leadership Program of CUNY and the African and African-American Studies Department of Lehman College for his years of service and dedication to mentoring students; awarded Outstanding Service to Lehman College; and “Outstanding Peer Reviewer” from the Journal of Social Work Education. Dr. Mazza has been named “Person of the Year” by the College Initiative Program, a support program for people transitioning from prison into college and has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Hudson Link, a nonprofit agency providing college education to people incarcerated in prison. At Lehman College, he was named Teacher of the Year in 2005.

He has published on incarcerated fathers, children of incarcerated parents, persons re-entering the larger society from prison, practicing social work in prisons, and adolescent fathers and fatherhood. He is the author of the book, *Fatherhood in America: Social Work Perspectives in a Changing Society*. He is currently authoring a book on work with exonerated/wrongfully convicted people as well as an article on George Stinner, Jr. the youngest person ever executed in the United States (he was 14 years old and executed in South Carolina). He is particularly proud of the accomplishments of his mentees, many of whom transitioned from prison and have been academically and professionally successful in the field of social services. He serves on the board of directors of several nonprofit social service agencies concerned with social and economic justice.
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TO OUR ESTEEMED HONOREE

SARAH CRAWFORD BANDA

AS DIRECTOR OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT WE ADMIRE AND RESPECT YOUR DEDICATION TO ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM & MAY YOU CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
The Board of the Joseph LeRoy and Ann C. Warner Fund congratulates our Executive Director, Joseph Madonia, on his well deserved recognition of the NASW Emerald Award. His leadership, dedication, enthusiasm and insight inspire us everyday.

The New York Zero-to-Three Network Celebrates Co-Founder and Longtime Board Member Dorothy Henderson, PhD, LCSW Congratulations!

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Celebrating Social Work Leaders

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and all the distinguished honorees
Congratulations, Clarencetine (Teena) Brooks, for being named an Emerald Leader!

Your hard work, leadership and commitment to the improvement of social and human conditions is appreciated by all!

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Urban Pathways proudly supports NASW NYC 12th Annual Leadership Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Gray for being honored as a Ruby Leader in the profession. We thank Pat for her partnership with Urban Pathways and advancing social work through training.

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Constance Stafford

On behalf of SLG Construction and your family we wanted to congratulate you for all your accomplishments. You very well deserve these congrats for your hard work and dedication.

Lilly, Garance, Jules, Cade, Linton, Leah, Kamor, Beatrice, Johnathan, Terrance, Lucy, Norman & Brian
# NYU Silver School of Social Work Congratulates:

## Diamond Leaders
- **Willing Chin-Ma**, MSW ’92
- **Dianne Heggie**, MSW ’73

## Aqua Leaders
- **Christine Mindicino**, MSW ’11
- **Erica Sandoval**, MSW ’11

## Emerald Leaders
- **Dr. Mathyilde Frontus**, BS ’98, MSW ’99
- **Joseph Madonia**, MSW ’99

## Sapphire Leaders
- **Dr. Hanni Flaherty**, MSW ’07, PhD ’18
- **Dr. Lydia Franco**, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy & Research

## Ruby Leaders
- **Donna Demetri Friedman**, MSW ’93
- **Dr. Dorothy Henderson**, PhD ’12

The leadership, commitment to bettering society, and dedication to the social work profession by our distinguished NYU Silver alumni and all of tonight’s honorees are an inspiration to us all.

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**NYU Silver is Proud to Support NASW-NYC.**

[Visit socialwork.nyu.edu](http://socialwork.nyu.edu) for more information.

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Columbia School of Social Work salutes the NASW-NYC 2019 Leaders of the Profession, including our nine awardees:

**AQUA LEADER**

Amanda Babine ’12
New York Transgender Advocacy Group

**SAPPHIRE LEADERS**

Dr. Lydia Franco ’04
McSilver Institute/NYU
Shanequa Moore ’10
I’RAISE Girls and Boys International Corp.

**EMERALD LEADERS**

Sarah Crawford-Banda ’95
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
Dr. Mathylde Frontus ’15 PhD
New York State Assembly

**RUBY LEADERS**

Patricia Gray ’90
Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College

Dr. Dorothy Henderson ’79
The Jewish Board
Willing Chin-Ma, LMSW, through her hard work and dedication, has had a transformative impact on the people of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

-The Staff, Board and Communities of Grand St. Settlement
The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College warmly congratulates our Associate Dean Gerald P. Mallon, and our Director of Continuing Education / Licensure Patricia Gray, recipients of the 2019 Ruby Leader Award.

This well-deserved honor recognizes Dr. Mallon and Dr. Gray’s extraordinary commitments and contributions to the Social Work profession here in New York.

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Congratulations Christine Mindicino!
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CONGRATULATES
ALL OF TONIGHT'S Awardees

We salute our Met Council social workers whose work is vital to our mission.

Aliza Leiter, LMSW
Amanda Kremer, LMSW
Daphne Schneider, LMSW
Dawnlena Deans-Malone, MSW
Devorah Weiss, LMSW
Ivanna Usyk, MSW
Judah Zellermaier, LCSW
Julia Kessler-Hollar, LMSW
Luis Machuca, LMSW
Micol Rieger, LMSW
Nechama Bakst, LCSW
Petra Scully, BSW
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Congratulations and best wishes to Julie Spitzer for receiving the Emerald Leader Award

Your hard work and dedication are an inspiration to us all!
With appreciation and thanks, from your BronxWorks family

Western Queens Consultation Center congratulates
Erica Sandoval, LMSW
on making a huge difference for children and families every day.
Erica, we are proud to celebrate your accomplishments.

New York State Social Work Education Association congratulates our former President, Dr. Carl Mazza,
NASW- NYC Diamond Leader
and all other NASW- NYC Leaders,
March 28, 2019
CONGRATULATES

Dr. Evelyn Laureano

for her recognition as a Diamond Top Leader for her years of service in the field of Aging & Social Work.
Congratulations to all of the Social Work Award Recipients!

Kimba M. Wood,
U.S.D.J., S.D.N.Y.

safehorizon salutes the National Association of Social Workers’ 2019 Leadership Awards Honorees

We extend our congratulations to the honorees, including Senior Director of the Queens Child Advocacy Center Naomi Barasch, for their contributions to New Yorkers and their commitment to New York City’s nonprofit agencies.
CancerCare is proud to support the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers 12th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner.

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Congratulations

**Toni Campopiano**

From Margaret Aylward and all the many

**New York City Social Workers you have impacted.**
Thank you for seeing the world as it could be... and then working to make it so.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan applauds the National Association of Social Workers, New York Chapter and joins you in congratulating the honorees of the 12th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner.

We know that at times it feels like an uphill battle, but changing the world for the better is a worthwhile climb.

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Congratulations to all our Gem Leaders!

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the Social work Community!
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