

41ST ANNIVERSARY
GOOD NEIGHBOR GALA



BRINGING
JUSTICE
HOME

MAY 7, 2015
583 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY

**We gratefully acknowledge
our 2015 gala leadership.**

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41ST ANNIVERSARY GOOD NEIGHBOR GALA

PROGRAM

Welcome

Stephen H. Chase, Board President

Video Presentation

Our Community

Cal Hedigan & Alysia Pascaris, Deputy CEOs

Steve Coe, CEO

Presentation of Awards

Carla Rabinowitz

Community Organizer, Community Access

Mayor's Task Force on Behavioral Health
and the Criminal Justice System

Hedwig O'Hara

Senior Staff Attorney, Lawyers Alliance for New York

Tenant Remarks

Call for Support

Maureen Friar, Strategic Development Officer

DINNER SERVED

Raffle Winners Announced



HONOREE

Carla Rabinowitz is a passionate and effective advocate on a wide array of public policy issues affecting New Yorkers with mental health concerns – from housing and adult home reform to employment, job training, and mental health consumer rights.

Carla joined Community Access as a Project Liberty Worker in 2002 and has served as the organization's Community Organizer since 2004. In this role, she works to increase staff and participant involvement in the political process, publishes regular advocacy updates, brings tenants to Community Board meetings to advocate for neighborhood improvements, and organizes forums that connect elected officials and tenants. Notably, Carla created the annual NYC Mental Health Film Festival, now the oldest and largest festival of its kind in the United States. She also serves as President of the Board at the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS), a statewide coalition of people who use and/or provide recovery oriented community-based mental health services.

Since 2012 Carla has provided invaluable leadership as project coordinator for Communities for Crisis Intervention Teams (CCIT-NYC), a New York City coalition of mental health and criminal justice organizations brought together by Community Access. CCIT-NYC successfully advocated for improved police training and greater police-community partnership to:

- Improve responses to crisis situations involving people with mental health concerns.
- Reduce injuries to police and mental health recipients
- Prevent unnecessary arrests and incarceration

A native New Yorker, Carla graduated from the University of Chicago and received her law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

The board and staff of Community Access greatly appreciate Carla's leadership, tireless advocacy, and dedication to making New York a better and more just city.



HONOREE

In December 2014, **Mayor de Blasio's Task Force on Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System** released an Action Plan that lays out a comprehensive roadmap to continue to drive down crime while also reducing the number of people with behavioral health issues needlessly cycling through the criminal justice system.

The Task Force spent 100 days developing dozens of interlocking public health and public safety strategies that will be jointly implemented by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York Police Department, the Department of Correction, the Department of Probation, the District Attorneys, the Courts, and the Administration of Children's Services.

Key strategies include:

- **Diversion to services, instead of arrest, for people who do not pose a public safety risk.** The City will open two clinical drop-off community centers to assess needs and provide short-term behavioral health care, provide training on recognizing and dealing with behavioral health needs to all police officers, and add 2,300 slots citywide to supervised release programs.
- **Therapeutic treatment in jail.** The City will improve officer and inmate safety by deploying Crisis Intervention Teams comprised of corrections and health workers, reducing punitive segregation, and creating specialized units to provide preventive services to inmates with behavioral health issues.
- **Expanded re-entry services that will help to stabilize individuals and limit their future involvement in the justice system.** The City will provide in-jail discharge planning teams to connect people to Medicaid, the Human Resources Administration, Health Homes and other available programs and services, as well as create 267 supportive, permanent housing slots to decrease emergency room, shelter, and jail use.

Community Access applauds Mayor de Blasio and the Task Force for their leadership and unprecedented \$130 million investment that will reduce unnecessary arrests and incarceration, and create a more equitable system.

HONOREE

Hedwig O'Hara (Hedy) is a Senior Staff Attorney at Lawyers Alliance for New York, the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations that are improving the quality of life in New York City neighborhoods. Hedy leads the Affordable Housing and Homeless Services Program, representing nonprofits in affordable housing development and advising organizations on general real estate matters and nonprofit law. She writes and presents Lawyers Alliance's educational programs on affordable housing, joint ventures, leasing and low-income housing tax credits.

Hedy has worked with Community Access since 2002, the year she joined Lawyers Alliance for New York. Along with Lawyers Alliance staff and pro bono volunteers, she has handled housing joint ventures and housing development transactions for Community Access on 12 different sites.

Prior to joining Lawyers Alliance for New York, Hedy was a real estate associate for 11 years at the law firms of Brown & Wood LLP (now Sidley Austin LLP), and Battle Fowler LLP prior to and after its merger with Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker LLP.



Hedy, who is a native New Yorker, has a B.A., *cum laude*, from Hunter College of the City University of New York and a J.D. from Fordham Law School. She is a member of Community Access' Real Estate Committee and of the Housing & Urban Development Committee of the City Bar Association. As a volunteer docent with the Municipal Arts Society she leads tours of Grand Central Terminal.

Community Access is very grateful for Hedy's intellect, astute counsel and commitment to the mission of the agency.

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OUR STORY

Every night in New York City, more than 50,000 individuals cycle through the shelter system, including a disproportionate number of people living with mental illness. At Community Access, we believe that having an affordable home and a strong support system is the key to ending this cycle. That's why we've devoted the past four decades to building quality housing and to being a leading advocate for New Yorkers overcoming mental illness.

We have helped thousands of individuals and families move off the streets and out of shelters, and we have provided training and education that have made a profoundly positive difference in people's lives and futures.

Community Access has grown from modest beginnings in the Lower East Side—our first housing programs were tenement buildings lovingly repaired by a group of our volunteer founders—to become one of the oldest and largest nonprofits in New York City dedicated to ending homelessness and to transforming systems of care for people with psychiatric disabilities.

Over time, our agency has built 18 magnificent affordable housing programs in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx that are home to more than 1,400 individuals and family members. We have created the top ranking workforce development program for people with psychiatric disabilities, and implemented innovative counseling, self-help, crisis intervention, and support services that empower individuals to reclaim their lives. In all of these efforts, the people we help are some of New York City's most vulnerable citizens: individuals coming out of the shelter system and institutions, low-income working families, LGBT people, veterans, people living with HIV/AIDS, youth who have aged out of the foster care system, and others who have experienced trauma or abuse.

We welcome you as a partner in our ongoing work to ensure the rights of all people with psychiatric disabilities to lead full and integrated lives in our community.



OUR REACH

Community Access expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

This past year, we touched the lives of nearly 10,000 New Yorkers through:

- **Housing:** 1,400 formerly homeless individuals and low-income family members housed each night in 18 apartment buildings developed in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn
- **Job Training:** 1,000 graduates of our Howie the Harp human services peer specialist job training program
- **Crisis Respite:** 100 individuals provided short-term respite in New York's first crisis respite center
- **Support Line:** 6,000 calls answered on our peer-operated support line: 646-741-HOPE
- **Recovery:** Nearly 1,000 individuals participated in our recovery and support programs

We are working diligently to help transform people's lives and make New York City better for everyone - and we can't do this without you.

- **Make a contribution to help end homelessness in NYC:**
communityaccess.org/donate
- **Join the conversation online:**
facebook.com/communityaccess
- **Come visit us:** We are happy to schedule tours and host receptions at any of our 20 locations around the city.



OUR FUTURE



Community Access' planned giving program offers an exceptional opportunity for caring neighbors to invest in our future through:

1. Wills and bequests
2. Charitable remainder trusts
3. Gifts of life insurance
4. Donations of appreciated assets, e.g. stocks and real estate

We encourage you to connect with us to discuss planned gift options that are right for you and your loved ones. If you have already included Community Access in your estate planning, please call us so that we may recognize your support.

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