

# STRONG FOUNDATIONS NEW HORIZONS



MAY 4, 2017 583 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY

# We gratefully acknowledge our 2017 gala leadership.

#### Co-Chairs

Dan Wurtzel, President
FirstService Residential New York

Hercules Argyriou and George Poulon, Principals Mega Contracting Group

## **PROGRAM**

#### Welcome

Stephen H. Chase, Community Access Board President Dan Wurtzel, Community Access Board Member and Gala Co-Chair

#### **Video Presentation**

## **Our Community**

Cal Hedigan and Alysia Pascaris, Deputy CEOs

#### **Remarks**

John Turturro Actor, Director, Writer

#### **Presentations**

Steve Coe, CEO, presenting to Citi Community Capital

Diane Louard-Michel, Board Member, presenting to Maggi Knox and Sandra Lowe

## **Participant Remarks**

Marcia Richard

## **Call for Support**

Maureen Friar

#### **DINNER SERVED**



# HONOREE CITI COMMUNITY CAPITAL

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

**MAGGI KNOX** 



Citi Community Capital (CCC) is the community lending and investing arm of Citi. Unique among its peers, CCC provides a comprehensive array of financial products, from investment banking to lending and equity investment, designed to create strong communities. CCC

has been ranked the #1 affordable housing lender in the United States in each of the past seven years by *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine.

The projects CCC finances serve special needs populations, including the nation's homeless population, seniors and those with disabilities, as well as low-income families and individuals. CCC is the leading investment banker, lender or equity provider in many of the areas in which it participates, and is generally acknowledged to be among the most innovative firms in the industry.

With 13 offices around the country staffed by a strong, capable team of professionals, CCC provides financing solutions that are specifically designed to meet each client's needs.

CCC is a vital partner in the construction of two new Community Access housing developments in the Bronx: at 172nd Street, and at Bruckner Boulevard. When completed, these developments will provide homes to hundreds of formerly homeless individuals and families.



When Maggi Knox started working at Community Access in 1988, the field of supportive housing didn't formally exist. But, as a law expert in real estate, she became a pioneer in the field. Since then, her more than 29 years of service have been marked by effectiveness, excellence, and a lot of heart. Her passion and meticulous attention to detail have enhanced our work and changed countless lives for the better.

As our Director of Real Estate, Maggi has dedicated her career to

developing top-quality supportive housing throughout New York City. She has led the way as contracts and blueprints have become bricks and mortar, and as bricks and mortar have been transformed into homes. She has overseen the project development and construction of each of our 20 supportive housing developments in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. These buildings are home to more than 1,400 families and individuals—most of whom would otherwise be living on the streets, in shelters, or in institutions.

This June, Maggi will begin a new chapter in her life: retirement! She leaves behind a wonderful legacy: a grateful community of tenants, colleagues, and collaborators whose lives and work she has greatly enriched.



# SPECIAL RECOGNITION SANDRA LOWE



Throughout her life and career, Sandra Lowe, Esq., has been a champion of social justice and civil rights, and an unrelenting advocate for people most in need. Whether as a criminal defense and civil rights lawyer, or as the head of Governor Mario Cuomo's Office of Gay & Lesbian Concerns, or in countless other ways with Community Access, she has consistently advanced her belief in the fundamental rights and dignity of all people.

Sandra joined Community Access in 1995 as our Deputy Director for Program Services, and went on to become our Community Relations Manager, a wide-ranging role that encompasses advocacy, fundraising, and supporting our Art Collective Program.

Well-known for her persuasiveness, Sandra has connected elected officials and other community stakeholders on matters related to supportive housing and mental health. She also conducts weekly legal workshops at our East Village Access PROS (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) program, during which participants discuss civics and the law.

The board and staff of Community Access greatly appreciate Sandra's tireless commitment to the work, mission, and values of our organization, and wish her the very best in her upcoming retirement.

# HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS\*

#### **CHAMPIONS**

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\*As of April 26, 2017



# **OUR STORY**

Founded in 1974, Community Access is a pioneer of supportive housing and social services in NYC for people with mental health concerns. We proudly lead advocacy efforts that rally our community to promote human rights, social justice, and economic opportunities for all.

Too often, the people we serve have been left out and shut out, seen as undeserving of the opportunity to build or re-build their lives: New Yorkers who have lived on the streets or in shelters and institutions; who are struggling with drug and alcohol use; who are recovering from trauma, discrimination, and isolation.

Community Access provides person-centered services that help people pursue goals that are important to them—from gaining access to an affordable home, to learning new skills; from re-establishing community ties, to establishing goals for the future.

#### Housing

We are one of the oldest and largest providers of supportive housing in NYC. We created the blended housing model, which has become a best practice nationally: this includes low-income families living side-by-side with people with mental health concerns.

#### **Education & Job Training**

Our award-winning programs combine research-based methods with the bedrock principles of peer expertise. Of note, our Howie the Harp Advocacy Center in Harlem is recognized nationally as the gold standard in job training for mental health consumers.

#### Crisis Services

We opened the first Crisis Respite Center in NYC, and run a peeroperated support line—resources that help people avoid emergency rooms and costly hospitalizations.

#### Health & Wellness

We run several programs focused on helping participants improve their physical and emotional well-being, including care coordination services, urban farming initiatives, a pet adoption program, and a dynamic PROS (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) program.

#### Advocacy

We are the leading advocacy organization for mental health consumers in New York. We train and empower community members to engage in activities that help shape policies and system-wide change.

#### Art

Our unique Art Collective workshop provides opportunities for individuals to enhance their sense of identity, meaning, and purpose in life.



# The Art Collective Store Is Open!









Community Access' Art Collective is a community of artists and creative individuals who share the experience of living with a mental health condition. Our focus is on personal expression, art techniques, and building skills through art.

Visit the Art Collective store at **communityaccessart.org** to learn more about our artists and their inspirational work.



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Bob Allen Martha Dabagian Theodore Francavilla Laura Gould, LCSW Dr. Cynthia B. Green Diane Louard-Michel Julie Lowy Barbara Malatesta Adil Nathani Ramesh Shah Bradley Soto Abbott Stillman Jose Vazquez Dan Wurtzel

#### Strategic Advisors to the Board

David Kuperberg Anastasia P. Vournas

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Steve Coe

# communityaccess.org









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