

Community Access Raises \$1.5M at Annual Good Neighbor Gala

The organization honors ESKW/Architects, Richman Housing Resources as Affordable Housing Advocates of the Year



On Thursday, May 11th, 2023, Community Access hosted its 49th Annual Good Neighbor Gala, a fundraiser and celebration to raise support for the nonprofit's critical work in ending homelessness by providing life-saving services to individuals and families across New York City, including supportive housing, hot meals, mental health care, and more. The event was held at 583 Park Avenue in Manhattan, with more than 500 leaders of business and the community attending.

Gala leadership included Gala Chair Emmy-Award winning actor and director John Turturro, Gala Chair Dan Wurtzel, President of FirstService Residential New York, and Gala Chair Ricki Lake, Emmy-Award Winner, Actor, and Host. Ashley Judd, mental health advocate, activist, and actress, appeared as a special guest speaker.



ESKW/Architects and Richman Housing Resources were honored as Community Access' Affordable Housing Advocates of the Year for their commitment to community development and affordable housing. The two organizations have been a central force in designing, developing, and funding buildings for people living with mental health concerns and families with children coming out of the shelter system for decades.

"The gala is always a special evening," said Dan Wurtzel, Gala Chair and Vice President of Community Access' Board of Directors. "Tonight, we are celebrating the life-changing work of Community Access, which remains at the forefront of the fight for a more just New York, as one of the largest, nonprofit real estate developers in the city – and a leading provider of supportive and affordable housing, job training, and healing-focused services for New Yorkers living with mental health concerns,"

"I am proud of the work Community Access has done to transform our public mental health system into one that positions people as experts in their own lives and recovery," said Cal Hedigan, CEO of Community Access. "Tonight we celebrate how far we have come, and look ahead to the work that still remains. As we see what is happening to the most marginalized among us in our city, it is clear that our work is more important than ever before."

"We are humbled to be honored by Community Access, which has been creating top quality affordable housing since 1974. Richman Housing Resources has had the honor and privilege of working with Community Access on seven projects that are creating over 800 apartments for low-income and formerly homeless New Yorkers," said Moshe Mckie-Krisberg and Kevin Hoffman from Richman Housing Resources. "Lastly, we would like to congratulate our fellow honoree, ESKW/Architects, for designing and building safe affordable housing for all New Yorkers."

"Since Harold and Judith Edelman founded our office in the 1960s, ESKW/Architects has focused its practice on the design of space for the segment of our community that is deeply underserved. We strive to bring thoughtfulness and understanding to our buildings so that clients experience them as uplifting, supportive, and community-building," said Andrew Knox from ESKW Architects.

"Our partnership with Community Access allows this work to occur. It is a great honor to be recognized by Community Access as an ally in the struggle to provide housing and support to those who need it."