

For Immediate Release

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Community Access Honors Steve Coe for Lifetime Achievement, Raises \$1.8M at Annual Good Neighbor Gala



*Dan Wurtzel, Gala Chair, and John Turturro, Honorary Gala Chair.
Photo Credit: Sean Sime*

(New York, NY, 5/3/19) – Community Access hosted its 45th Anniversary Good Neighbor Gala on Thursday, May 2, to support the expansion of opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. The event was held at 583 Park Avenue in New York City, with more than 600 leaders of business and the community attending. Gala leadership included Emmy-winning actor and director John Turturro as Honorary Gala Chair, and Gala Chair Dan Wurtzel, President of FirstService Residential New York. Dascha Polanco, mental health advocate and critically-acclaimed star of *Orange Is the New Black*, appeared as a special guest speaker.

Community Access' CEO Steve Coe was honored with Community Access' Lifetime Achievement Award, offered in recognition of Steve's 40 years of service. Steve's leadership transformed Community Access into one of the largest nonprofit developers of supportive and affordable housing in New York City; the nation's preeminent provider of peer job training; a leading advocate for human rights; and a safe haven for thousands of people overcoming mental health concerns, trauma, and abuse.

Moreover, Steve has spearheaded numerous task forces and coalitions that have advocated for systemic changes that respect individual autonomy and improve access to health care.

“The small, grassroots organization Steve joined in 1979 is now one of the most important nonprofits in New York City: a provider of affordable and supportive housing, job training, and healing-focused services to thousands of our neighbors; an advocate for the human rights of people living with mental health concerns; and a champion for every New Yorker looking for a better life. As we celebrate Community Access tonight, we also celebrate Steve, and his unbelievable career of service,” said **Dan Wurtzel, Gala Chair and Vice President of Community Access’ Board of Directors.**

“Over the course of my career, I’ve learned that good ideas spread and good ideas backed up by effective and successful programs spread even faster. We’ve seen this happen again and again as Community Access has hosted visitors from throughout the U.S. and other countries,” said **Steve Coe, CEO of Community Access.** “In retirement, I will continue to help the good ideas of Community Access spread. I’m grateful to everyone who supported our gala, and by extension, the thousands of people who will benefit in the future.”

About Community Access

Community Access’ mission is to expand 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.

www.communityaccess.org

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