



WIHD Celebrates Abilities at Annual Spring Gala

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pictured: Photo 1: Paul Dunphey and Vera Halpenny; Photo 2: Natalie Santoro and Family; Photos 3: Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and friends and family of Katherine Kelly

Scarsdale, NY (May 2023) --- The Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) held its Annual Spring Gala, ‘Celebrating Abilities’, on **Thursday, May 4th at the Scarsdale Golf Club**. The event, which was attended by 200 friends and supporters of WIHD, honored organizations and individuals making significant contributions to WIHD’s mission of improving the lives of people with disabilities as well as vulnerable children.

The President’s Award was presented to **NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester and Paul J. Dunphey**, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of NewYork-Presbyterian Allen/Westchester, for their partnership with WIHD and Ability Beyond on Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH is an immersive nine-month career development experience for young adults with disabilities hosted at their site. The Mission Family recipient was **Natalie Santoro & Children**. She is a member of WIHD’s Community Advisory Committee, social worker, business entrepreneur committed to giving back, as well as foster and adoptive parent. The Service Award commemorated the memory of **Katherine A. Kelly**, a devoted member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. For a decade, she spearheaded the donation of over 400 brand new coats and 450 backpacks full of school supplies for children and families in the foster care system.

“It was a very uplifting evening that celebrated the commitment of everyone in attendance from our dedicated staff to our amazing supporters, volunteers and the honorees,” said Vera Halpenny, WIHD Board President. “We were pleased to



receive the support of so many individuals and organizations in our community and to recognize our honorees who have made a huge impact in helping to advance the work we do for individuals with developmental disabilities and vulnerable children.”

More About the Honorees:

President’s Award

NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester and Paul J. Dunphey. Paul J. Dunphey, MBA joined NY Presbyterian in 1990 and is currently the Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer for NYP Allen and NYP Westchester hospitals. In this dual role, he leads day-to-day operations for the NYP Allen and NYP Westchester campuses and works closely with each facility’s respective team to focus on the patient experience; quality and patient safety; financial and operational strength; and relationship building with staff, physicians, and the community.

Mission Family

Natalie Santoro, LMSW, is an entrepreneur for approximately 25 years. Natalie and her brother Paul own and operate five Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins franchises in Westchester County, NY.

Her heart and her mind continue to act on her civic values. Natalie served on the board of the YWCA from 2017 to 2019, and she currently sits on WIHD’s Community Advisory Committee since Oct. 2021. She is an adoptive single mother through foster care and she is a current foster parent caring for an infant. She strives to have her business involved in local community events.

Service Award

Katherine A. Kelly, MMEd earned a BA in History with a minor in Music, an MA in Music Education, a certificate in Supervision/Administration, and was a certified Secondary Principal and Superintendent.

During her college years, in March 1963, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was attracted to the sorority because of its main motto: “Service to all Mankind.”

She founded and was the principal of one of the first small theme-based high schools in NYC, Bronx Leadership Academy High School. Post-retirement, she



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mentored new principals as an Educational Consultant and was a member of the Advisory Board of the Eagle Academy, a high school founded by 100 Black Men.

Katherine was lovingly married for 40 years and had a sister, nieces and nephews, a great-niece and great-nephew, a step-daughter and a granddaughter.

Westchester Institute for Human Development

As one of 68 University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and vulnerable children through professional education, direct service provision, and innovative research. First established in 1950, WIHD moved to Westchester County, NY in 1972 and has been a key regional resource providing a wide range of medical, dental, clinical and social services to individuals with disabilities, vulnerable children, families and professionals. At WIHD, everything we do is guided by our vision of a future in which all people, including people with disabilities and vulnerable children, live healthy and productive lives as full members of society. For more information, go to www.wihd.org.