

5th Annual

NEW YORK CITY IMAGINE AWARDS

Recognizing *Innovation & Leadership* in the Nonprofit Sector



Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Guastavino's





Celebrating your tireless **COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.**

*We are pleased to support The 2025 5th Annual NYC
Imagine Awards.*

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IMAGINE

*a world without hope or compassion
a world without food and shelter
a world without arts and culture
a world without innovation and impact
a world where the nonprofit sector didn't exist*

The nonprofit sector continues to be a vital thread in the fabric of New York City. It touches every neighborhood across the five boroughs and beyond and impacts everyone regardless of socio-economic class. Nonprofits embody the very best of who we are: compassion, imagination, hopefulness, selflessness, empathy, and most importantly, our humanity. Every day, these organizations heal, feed, shelter, clothe, inspire, educate, advocate, protect, and bring hope to everyone who lives, works, or visits the New York metropolitan area. They provoke thought, foster exploration, and promote tolerance... and they do it all not for recognition, but because they truly care enough to make a difference, to change lives.

The past few years have brought significant challenges, including economic uncertainty, digital transformation, workforce shortages, fear and isolation, and an ever-growing demand for services. The increasing polarization of our society has only added to the strain. Yet, through it all, nonprofits have continued to show up, step up, and lift up.

That's why nights like tonight matter. Events like the Imagine Awards give us a chance to pause, reflect, and celebrate the sector that quietly powers so much of our City's progress, the Bat-light across the dark sky of Gotham. While we wish we could personally thank each of the nearly 35,000 nonprofit organizations operating in the NYC metropolitan area, tonight we shine a spotlight on 24 incredible finalists—organizations that represent the very best of what New York City's nonprofit community has to offer.

So, welcome to the **5th Annual New York City Imagine Awards**, a program created to honor excellence, spark collaboration, and amplify the voices of nonprofits doing extraordinary work. Tonight, these 24 finalists will compete across six categories: **Leadership, Innovation, Rising Star, Arts & Culture, Social Impact, and DEIA**. Each category winner will receive a **\$5,000 Imagine Award** and well-earned bragging rights for the year. And thanks to our **Fan Favorite Award**, one finalist—chosen by public vote—will receive an additional **\$3,000 prize**.

Your support tonight helps elevate the entire sector. Thank you for being part of this celebration and for recognizing the organizations that work tirelessly to make New York City a better place.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to our **Titanium Sponsor, Webster Bank**, and our **Platinum Sponsors**, which include **Alliant Insurance Services, Inc., Cerini & Associates, LLP, Chase for Business, The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, Nonprofit Resource Hub, OneGroup, and Your Part-Time Controller**. Please consider supporting these businesses that so generously support the nonprofit sector.

We would like to provide a heartfelt thank you to our awards committee and judges, whose dedication and insight made tonight possible.

Finally, we encourage you, if you are moved by one of tonight's finalists or the Imagine Awards itself, to consider getting involved, donate your time, your money, your expertise... it will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations once again to this year's finalists. Let's celebrate their impact, their innovation, and their unwavering commitment to making a difference

Thank You,

Kenneth Cerini, CPA, CFP, FABFA
Managing Partner, Cerini & Associates, LLP



Evening Program

With Thanks

Welcome

Kenneth Cerini, CPA, CFP, FABFA, Imagine Awards Founder
Managing Partner, Cerini & Associates, LLP

Emcee

Sonia Rincón
WABC-TV Eyewitness News Reporter

The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation Arts & Culture Award

presented by:

Courtney Klein & Kelly Klein
Board of Directors, The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

The Your Part-Time Controller Rising Star Award

presented by:

Rachel DeMatteo & Nicole Frisina
Director & Manager, Your Part-Time Controller

The Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. Leadership Excellence Award

presented by:

John Cunningham
Executive Vice President, Alliant Retirement Consulting

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA) Award Sponsored by Chase for Business

presented by:

Frank Apollo
Executive Director, Chase Business Banking

Dinner & Networking

Webster Bank Titanium Sponsor Remarks

Daniel J. Liberty
Regional President, Head of Not for Profit Banking, Webster Bank

Nonprofit Resource Hub Fan Favorite Award

presented by:

Alison LaFerlita
Executive Director, Nonprofit Resource Hub

The OneGroup Innovation Award

presented by:

Pierre Morrisseau
Chief Executive Officer, OneGroup

The Cerini & Associates, LLP Social Impact Award

presented by:

Mahnaz Cavalluzzi, CPA
Partner, Cerini & Associates, LLP

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Thanks to the Imagine Awards Committee

Founder

Kenneth R. Cerini, CPA, *Cerini & Associates, LLP*

Josephine Bottitta, *OneGroup*

Max Denler, *Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.*

Tommy DiMisa, *Vanguard Benefits & Philanthropy in Phocus*

Jaime Fahy, *RoundTable Technology*

Nicole Frisina, *YPTC*

Scott Haber, *Valley Bank*

Andrea Kantor, *Webster Bank*

Marissa Mack, *Webster Bank*

Dylan Saperman, Esq., *Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP*

Steven J. Shogan, *TitleVest*

Carole Turnyanszki, *JMT Consulting*

Event Planner

Hillary Needle, *Hillary Needle Events, Inc.*

Marketing/Graphic Designers

Kelli-Anne Cerini, *Cerini & Associates, LLP*

Kristina Laino-Tortorice, *Cerini & Associates, LLP*

Special Thanks to the Imagine Awards Judging Panel

Nafisa Ahmed, *Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP*

Joanne Krush, *SterlingRisk Insurance*

Glen Landow, *Landow and Landow Architects*

Richard Mayer, *Ensemble Studio Theatre*

Jillian Menna, *Foundation Risk Partners; Braverman Greenspun LLP*

Barbara Paxton, *BoardStrong*

Kristine Riggio, *Children's Medical Fund of NY*



Ken Cerini, CPA, CFP, FABFA

Managing Partner

Cerini & Associates, LLP

Ken Cerini is the founder and managing partner of Cerini & Associates, LLP. Like many of the nonprofits he serves, Ken is passionate about making a difference, believing it's essential to be deeply invested in every client relationship and provide real value to each of his clients. He is one of the top accountants/consultants in New York, working with special education providers, well-versed in nonprofit issues, and heavily involved in the healthcare industry. But since this is the Imagine Awards, a program focused more on passion than technical skills, let's dive into who Ken really is:

- ▶ **Ken gives generously of his time**, providing hundreds of hours a year in free advice, advocacy, and training to the nonprofit sector, which means so much to him.
- ▶ **Ken is an avid climber and hiker**, believing everything can be made better by adding a mountain (or three). He enjoys the thrill of pushing himself and the views once he arrives (*follow him on Instagram @totalcerinity*). Over the years, Ken has channeled his passion for hanging off rocks and frozen waterfalls and traversing glaciers into fundraising opportunities for various nonprofits through the **Cerini Challenge** and has established the **Cerini Family Foundation** with his family.
- ▶ **Ken is a bit of a psycho on the Peleton**. He cranks the resistance way up (*he has been known to hit 100% on a regular basis*) and isn't happy unless he finishes in the top 1% on the All-Time leaderboard!
- ▶ **Ken cherishes family**. He has been married to his wife, Bonnie, for nearly 35 years and is immensely proud of his three children:
 - ▷ **Kelli** - who serves as the Marketing Manager at Cerini & Associates.
 - ▷ **Arielle** - who earned her doctorate in communication and design and works as a UX Experience Manager.
 - ▷ **Erik** - a computer programmer in Massachusetts.
 - ▷ **Ember** - Ken's first Granddaughter who will turn one later this week!
- ▷ At home, Ken is kept busy with his three dogs: **Max** (*an Old English Sheepdog*), **Mickey** (*a Pomeranian-Husky mix*), and **Gucci** (*a Pomeranian*).
- ▶ **Ken is a sci-fi and fantasy geek**. His favorite books include *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* five-book trilogy, *The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings*, *Ender's Game*, and *Dune*. A fan of the Marvel Universe, *Star Wars*, and *Star Trek*, Ken has also been known to show up at Renaissance Fairs in costume. He hopes some day to meet a real dragon.
- ▶ **Ken loves to cook and bake**, enjoying it as a creative outlet. Every holiday season, he and his family bake more than 4,000 cookies (*both regular and gluten free*) to share with friends and loved ones.
- ▶ **Ken is a head-banger**, with a passion for heavy metal music. While many people mellow out with age, Ken is not one of them!
- ▶ Finally, **Ken is the founder of the Imagine Awards**, an impactful way to recognize and celebrate the nonprofit sector, which is often overlooked and underappreciated.

Meet the Emcee



Sonia Rincón
General Assignment Reporter
WABC-TV's Eyewitness News

Sonia Rincyn is a general assignment reporter for WABC-TV. Raised in four out of five boroughs of the city (all but Queens!), Sonia is thrilled to tell New York's day-to day stories, documenting its changes, challenges, cultural richness and resiliency.

If her name sounds familiar, you may have heard her voice on New York's all-news radio station 1010 WINS, where she spent 15 years as an anchor and reporter while freelance reporting for

New York-area television stations, before joining the Eyewitness News team full-time in May 2022.

Her broadcast journalism career began at Emerson College in Boston, where she served as news director for college radio station WERS-FM. Before returning home to New York, Sonia reported and anchored news for radio stations in Connecticut, Maine, Virginia and Pennsylvania including KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia.

Sonia earned numerous awards in her 20+ year radio career, including an Edward R. Murrow award for storm coverage of Ida in 2021.

She also has served as an adjunct lecturer at CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism.

Sonia has Colombian and Scottish heritage and is fluent in Spanish. When she's not working, Sonia enjoys theater and live music, fitness classes and cooking. She lives in the Bronx, is a die-hard Yankees fan and a proud alumna of LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts.

Meet the Judges



Nafisa Ahmed
Attorney, Not-For-Profit Practice Group
Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP

Nafisa Ahmed is an attorney in the Not-for-Profit practice group at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP. Nafisa provides legal counsel to a broad range of nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations, including religious corporations, educational institutions, and human and social service agencies. She concentrates her practice in all aspects of not-for-profit law, including corporate, real estate and finance law as it pertains to nonprofits. Her practice encompasses the formation and dissolution of nonprofit entities, corporate governance, charitable registration and compliance, nonprofit mergers and acquisitions, securing and closing financing for the development of residential and day program facilities, and the leasing, sale, and refinancing of commercial properties.

Meet the Judges



Joanne Krush
Chief Financial Officer
SterlingRisk Insurance

Joanne Krush is Chief Financial Officer at SterlingRisk (Woodbury, New York), one of the nation's leading independent insurance brokers. In addition to her ongoing responsibilities as CFO, Joanne is a member of the SterlingRisk Executive Team. She joined SterlingRisk in 2015 after having held various senior financial positions in the insurance brokerage industry.

A licensed CPA and CGMA, Joanne received a BBA in Accounting from Hofstra University and

belongs to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Management Accountants, and the New York State Society of CPAs, where she has served as Co-chair of the Nassau CFO Committee. Her financial management background includes Management Reporting, Strategic Planning, M&A, Budgeting and Cash Management, Internal Controls, and **Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)**.

In addition to her professional affiliations, Joanne performs community service that benefits Long Island's most vulnerable citizens. She volunteers at both the Mercy INN Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch and the **Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HHI)**. Along with several of her SterlingRisk colleagues, she was also honored by the American Heart Association of Long Island as a Go Red for Women Honoree, helping to raise over \$63,000 for the organization.

Named one of the "Top 50 Most Influential Women" by Long Island Business News, Joanne is an exceptional executive who personifies what it means to "give your all" to your profession, your colleagues, and those starting out in their careers. Whether helping United Way of Long Island by reviewing financial statements of member agencies — pro bono — or serving on the committee for the annual Long Island Imagine Awards, she works hard to give back to the Long Island community. At Hofstra University, she is a member of the Women in Leadership Advisory Board. Within the financial industry, Joanne is Co-chair of the Nassau Chapter of the NYSSCPA CFO & Financial Executive Committee and a member of both **Financial Executives International (FEI)** and FEI's Women's Initiative.

Meet the Judges



Glen J. Landow, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Partner
Landow and Landow Architects AIA

Glen Landow, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP is a partner in Landow and Landow Architects, an award winning third generation architectural, interior design, and planning firm founded by his grandfather in 1922. Now in its 103rd year, the firm's legacy and reputation for design innovation, creativity, expertise, and personal service continues to grow. As the lead designer and principal in charge of numerous firm projects, his work spans multiple markets including Education, Healthcare, Community,

Corporate, Retail, and Residential building projects, a majority of which are for nonprofit clients. Glen is a member of the American Institute of Architects, a Certificate holder from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and received LEED AP status from the US Green Building Council. He holds Architectural licenses in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Florida, and has taught design studio and lecture courses at the New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of Voices for Truth and Humanity, a non-profit organization fighting hate and intolerance through education. Glen received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Certificate in Gerontology from Syracuse University and his Master's Degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.

Meet the Judges



Richard Mayer
Development Director
Ensemble Studio Theatre

Richard Mayer is an artist, producer, and arts administrator who has worked across the United States. For over a decade, he lived and worked in New Orleans, where he led two performing arts venues, ran a production company, and helped launch three arts festivals. He was eventually named *New Orleans Theatre Person of the Year* for his leadership in the arts and his support of the wider theatre community.

Originally from Westchester, NY, Richard returned to New York to earn a Master's Degree in Arts Administration from Columbia University. While at Columbia, he focused his research on audience development and the growth of art forms outside the mainstream, presenting some of his work at the Social Theory, Politics, & the Arts conference.

Following graduate school, Richard served for several years as Executive Director of Landmark on Main Street, a performing arts center on Long Island. He currently works as Development Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre in Hell's Kitchen, a nonprofit theatre dedicated to developing new work and supporting artists at every stage of their creative lives.

Community building and audience development have been the cornerstones of Richard's work and research in the arts.



Jillian Menna, JD, MBA, CPCU
General Counsel
Foundation Risk Partner

Jillian currently serves as General Counsel for Genatt V, a Foundation Risk Partner, as well as Of-Counsel to Braverman Greenspun PC, a boutique condo/coop law firm based in NYC. In addition to her professional obligations, Jillian is an experienced mediator. She volunteers for her local community center, EAC/Long Island Dispute Resolution Center, handling special education mediations, custody/visitation mediations, and more. Jillian received her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Touro Law Center and an MBA from the Jack Welch Management Institute, graduating with distinction a Welch Scholar. She has also completed her **Chartered Casualty & Property Underwriter (CPCU)** Designation and is a Licensed Independent General Adjuster. She is an Energeia Partner, Class of 2016. Jillian was involved with the Long Island Imagine Awards years ago and is thrilled to be part of the New York City Imagine Awards now.

Meet the Judges



Barbara D. Paxton
Director
BoardStrong

Barbara Paxton is the Director of BoardStrong, an organization that provides nonprofits access to diverse board candidates with a passion to serve, while helping boards make best use of the talent around the table and preparing new board members to serve as effectively as possible.

Barbara is recognized as a pragmatic and creative nonprofit leader with experience in board leadership, board development and governance, fundraising and finance. Her experience includes working with boards to revise their bylaws, create committee structures and onboarding processes, plan strategically and effectively manage change.

From launching donor campaigns to helping organizations develop strategic governance plans, Barbara focuses on results and achieving excellence. Barbara has also been the Chief Development Officer at The Child Center of NY, after having served as the Director of Development at Helene Fuld College of Nursing in Harlem and Executive Director of Children of Bellevue. She has served on the Boards of The Pearl Theatre Company and the New York Junior League, and currently serves as chair of the board of the Center for Comprehensive Health Practice and a member of the Community Advisory Committee of the Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital.

Barbara earned a B.A. at Wellesley College and a Master of International Affairs at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Meet the Judges



Kristine Riggio
Executive Director
Children's Medical Fund of NY

Kristine Riggio is an accomplished nonprofit executive and development strategist with over 18 years of experience leading high-impact fundraising campaigns, corporate partnerships, and community engagement initiatives.

As Executive Director of the **Children's Medical Fund of New York (CMFNY)**, Kristine leads one of Long Island's most respected philanthropic organizations, which has raised over \$90 million to support programs and facilities at Cohen Children's Medical Center. Under her leadership, CMF is driving growth through diversified revenue streams, the launch of innovative fundraising events, and the expansion of its endowment and community programs.

Kristine's career is defined by measurable results and mission-driven leadership. Prior to CMF, she held senior development roles with the American Diabetes Association, where she revitalized the Long Island Tour de Cure Signature Campaign, launched the Research Update Gala, and achieved double-digit year-over-year revenue growth. She has also consulted for national, regional and start up organizations, guiding them through successful campaigns and major donor initiatives, helped with strategic planning, board development and training. Her approach emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and community impact while building sustainable programs that connect donors to purpose.

Beyond her professional achievements, Kristine is deeply committed to community service. She currently serves as President of Massapequa SEPTA (Special Education PTA), President of Massapequa Challenger Booster Club, and Committee Chair for Boy Scout Troop 776.

Known for her energy, empathy, and entrepreneurial spirit, Kristine inspires teams and supporters alike with her belief that philanthropy, when done with heart and vision, transforms entire communities.



Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. Leadership Excellence Award

This award recognizes an exemplary nonprofit leader (who may be an Executive Director, board member, staff member, volunteer, etc.) whose accomplishments have advanced his/her organization. The leader must work in and reside in any of the NYC boroughs. This is not about traditional volunteering, directors, or funding, but focuses on innovation in driving organizational change and social impact.



Cerini & Associates, LLP Social Impact Award

This award will be given to a nonprofit organization generating over \$5 million in revenue, that measures success not just by meeting its mission, but by affecting the surrounding community. Impact goes beyond the number of children served, shelters provided, and mouths fed. Impact looks at how the organization impacted the New York City community as a whole, and how the results have been measured.



Claire Friedlander Family Foundation Arts & Culture Award

This award is available to any arts and/or cultural organization that has had a significant impact in New York City. This includes organizations that have had a significant, measurable impact on their community, developed new and/or innovative programming, developed effective fee-generating programs, or have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their artistic and/or cultural field.



Nonprofit Resource Hub Fan Favorite Award

Each finalist is automatically entered into the voting pool to win the \$3,000 Fan Favorite Award. Voting typically runs for 3 weeks in August/September. The public can vote daily via social media and each finalist is encouraged to share the link. The finalist with the most votes is declared the "Fan Favorite" and is announced LIVE at the event.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA) Award Sponsored By Chase For Business

This award recognizes an organization for prioritizing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and/or Accessibility within its mission OR within its programming to deepen and expand its DEIA impact and to strive to build DEIA into program design and delivery, staff recruitment and engagement, volunteerism, and donor engagement. The organization needs to show that DEIA is a primary focus and how the organization is effectively addressing DEIA issues through its programming and its organizational culture (*from the top down*).



OneGroup Innovation Award

This nonprofit has been innovative in adopting new platforms that have led to a significant increase in the organization's ability to meet its mission. This could include the implementation of technology that enables the organization to achieve cost savings and better communication; a strategic approach to fundraising; a unique and effective public relations campaign; etc.



Your Part-Time Controller Rising Star Award

This award will recognize a nonprofit generating under \$5 million in revenue for its outstanding innovation, impact, and achievements in meeting its mission. The award will be given to an organization who demonstrates an outstanding record of sustained achievement, has successfully demonstrated successful financial performance, and has built a reputation for excellence within the community.

Congratulations Finalists



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Rising Star Award



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LAB SCHOOL**

Phi Pham, Executive Director

Building Beats

37 North 15th, St #210, Brooklyn, NY 11222

(347) 762-5669 | www.buildingbeats.org



Building Beats provides DJ and music programs that teach entrepreneurial, leadership, and life skills to underserved youth. Founded in 2013, we **emerged** in response to the **loss of arts programming and access to digital tools**, especially in low-income, BIPOC, and justice-involved communities in NYC.

What began as grassroots workshops has grown into a tech-forward nonprofit serving **12,600+ young people** with **250+ partners** across NYC and in LA. We currently run **three unique programs** to ensure that youth and young adults have access to high-quality music tech education:

bbWorkshops brings programs to youth in schools, shelters, libraries, and community justice centers in NYC and LA. Our teaching artists facilitate year-long residencies or masterclasses in **digital music production** (*beatmaking, digital composition*), **DJing** (*performance, turntablism*), **podcasting** (*storytelling, audio editing*), and **music coding** (*writing code, programming*)—all of which build creative confidence and digital literacy.

bbLeaders offers college and career readiness to young adults through five cohorts: **Creative Pathways** (*career development*), **Frequency Society** (*radio, broadcasting*), **College Access** (*applications, campus visits*), and two **Summer Camps** in **DJing** and **Songwriting**. Participants **build portfolios**, apply for **college**, gain **industry exposure**, and take on **paid DJ gigs** and **Assistant Teaching Artist** roles.

bbForTeachers provides **instructional materials**, **professional development**, and **free online resources** that help educators bring music-tech into their classrooms—**scaling impact beyond direct service**.

Through this three-pronged, technology-driven approach, we prepare students to join the **21st-century workforce** and to help **shape future technologies**, advancing our vision of an **equitable creative economy** where all students can thrive.

Lisa B Lewis, Founder & Executive Director

Omnium Circus®

(718) 875-0428 | www.omniumcircus.org



Brooklyn-based **Omnium Circus®** is revolutionizing live entertainment. Omnium Circus® is a spirited, limit-defying & life-affirming spectacle with award-winning artistry, memorable music and a heartwarming story. Described as “*Genuinely Extraordinary!*” by The New York Times, Omnium blends the thrill of performance with a profound message of unity.

Omnium Circus® was founded on the belief that full inclusion and representation in the arts lead to self-actualization, increased tolerance and a better society. By celebrating our diverse cast, crew and staff with multiple abilities and providing access for audiences of all abilities, we demonstrate that anything is possible. All people can achieve their own greatness regardless of their challenges—physical, emotional, neurological or societal.

Audiences, delighted to recognize themselves in the dazzling performances, are treated to an expanded view of the beauty and potential of those around them who might experience the world differently than they do. Relaxed seating, integrated ASL, Audio Description, captions, tactile experiences and sensory supports at each performance create an immersive experience designed to fully welcome everyone.

Omnium is built upon a tripod of Entertainment, Employment, and Education, from the board room to the tech table—onstage, behind the scenes and for audiences. With 25% of its artists and 40% of the overall team identifying as persons with disabilities, Omnium Circus® creates opportunities and fosters dialogue, inspiring new perspectives on what it means to belong. Omnium means *of all and belonging to all*. Omnium Circus® is more than a show; we are furthering a movement toward a truly inclusive future in the arts.

Rich Souto, Executive Director

LEAP (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program, Inc.)

535 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10018

(212) 769-4160 | www.leapnyc.org



For almost 50 years, **LEAP** has partnered with school communities to offer creative arts programs that encourage New York City youth to pursue their passions, develop their strengths, and amplify their voices.

We envision a city where education is equitable and the arts are accessible for youth in communities that are rich in culture and capability and have been excluded and under-resourced. Youth in our communities will be the next generation of lifelong learners, creative problem solvers, and collaborative leaders.

Since 1977, LEAP has been a leading force in arts education, reaching hundreds of thousands of students across New York City. Beginning in four Manhattan schools, it was one of the first organizations in New York City to focus on improving students' academic skills through the arts, rather than offering the arts solely for creative expression. As one of the city's longest-standing arts education nonprofits, LEAP now serves over 21,000 students annually through partnerships with more than 100 schools and community organizations. In response to ongoing cuts to arts funding in NYC schools, just as when it was first founded, LEAP continues to meet this challenge by providing in-school arts residencies, afterschool and summer programs, and original, historically informed theater productions. Through culturally responsive teaching and a focus on **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**, LEAP uses the arts to promote literacy, elevate student voices, and support the whole child.

We Believe in the Power of Art.

Stephanie Berger DeLuca, Chief Executive Officer

The Poetry Society of New York, Inc.

www.poetrysocietytyny.org



The Poetry Society of New York is a 501(c)3 art-led nonprofit that creates fun, innovative poetry experiences. Our mission is to bring the transformative impact of poetry to those seeking a more creative life. We envision a world where poetry is not just celebrated, but vital and accessible to all: breaking down barriers, inspiring joy, and uplifting diverse voices. Our geographical focus is on New York state, but our programs serve audiences of all ages both nationally and internationally. Rooted in the belief that poetry belongs to us all, we create experiences of poetry where people from all walks of life can explore, express, play, and find a sense of belonging. By prioritizing accessibility, experimentation, collaboration, and undeniable fun, we foster innovation and community in the often stale and isolating literary sphere. Each of our programs offers an invitation into a vibrant poetry world specifically designed to stimulate discovery, wonder, and life-long friendships between creative souls.

Isaac Adlerstein, Executive Director
Broadway Community
601 West 114th Street, Basement, New York, NY 10025
(212) 864-6100 ext. 120 | www.broadwaycommunity.org



Founded in 1982 by volunteers from Broadway Presbyterian Church, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University, we have grown into what is now known as **Broadway Community**. We have grown from providing lunch meals three days a week to providing a broad range of programs serving New Yorkers experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty.

We empower one another with a welcoming environment for all, providing nourishing food – breakfast and lunch 4 days a week, food pantries – getting staple food as well as fresh produce to those in need, and overnight shelter for 19 homeless individuals providing a clean, safe space to lay their heads. We also provide support services - medical care, life skills practice, social services support, and faithful accompaniment through these challenging times.

Working tirelessly to break down the barriers of poverty, inequity, and privilege – until all are fed, in body and spirit – Broadway Community provides countless opportunities to bring neighbors together across socioeconomic and cultural boundaries. Our entire community is dedicated to creating an environment where all feel welcome and valued.

Dedicated to serving New Yorkers experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty, Broadway Community sets an abundant table, believing that **everyone** deserves justice, dignity, health, and wholeness. We empower one another with nourishing food, a welcoming environment, shelter, medical care, life skills practice, and faithful accompaniment through challenging times. We serve one another - breaking down barriers of poverty, inequity, and privilege - until all are fed, in body and spirit.

Simply, we serve.

Emily May, Executive Director
Right to Be
www.righttobe.org

RIGHT
TO
BE

Right to Be (formerly Hollaback!)’s mission is to end harassment in all its forms by building the power of everyday people to create safe and welcoming environments for all.

The organization focuses on turning the care we have for each other into simple, creative, effective action. Together, they’re working to build a world that’s free of harassment and filled with humanity. Right To Be works across sectors to prevent and reduce violence; they lead bystander intervention trainings to safely respond to hate, created the Hate and Hope tracker as a one-of-a-kind storysharing and anti-harassment mapping site, coordinate the Allies Solidarity Network to lead national anti-hate campaigns, deliver Right To Be YOUTH programming to teach young people how to stand up against bullying, and recently launched the Expert Voices Together system to support researchers and journalists facing online and hybrid harassment.

Right To Be has reached over 4 million people with effective, real-world tools to lead against hate. Over the past year, they’ve trained 35,000 New Yorkers to recognize, respond to, and heal from harassment. Their programs have a real impact in the city – outside evaluation shows that 98% of Right To Be’s participants grow their ability to recognize violence and de-escalate violent situations - 76% have used bystander intervention tools to prevent an act of violence in their lives.

Learn how you can stand up for your community, and get trained today at:

www.righttobe.org/upcoming-free-trainings

Liz Northcutt, Executive Director
City Living NY
505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1805, New York, NY 10018
(347) 588-5080 | www.citylivingnewyork.org



City Living NY (CLNY) empowers youth aging out of foster care by providing essential resources and in-depth support. In NYC ~400 young people “age out” every year, which means they were not returned to their parents, taken in by kin, or adopted into a family. After aging out of care, these youth are released with minimal, and often no, support system. Our goal is to help these young people achieve stability and to prevent or end homelessness. We serve any young person 21-27 years old who has aged out of foster care in securing and maintaining housing and reaching education and employment goals. We also support our parents in keeping their young families intact. Our Alumni Program ensures there is no “second aging out” of CLNY; we continue to be the trusted adults every young person needs to succeed.

The outcomes that CLNY has been able to achieve since our founding demonstrate that when we offer young people time, resources, and care we can break the cycle of unemployment and homelessness for transitional age youth. While the homelessness rates for former foster youth are staggering, CLNY has never had a single young person evicted from their home. While nationally only 3% of former foster youth will graduate college, 68% of the youth in our Education Program are currently enrolled in college, with 97% of them on track to graduate. When foster care ends, our work begins.

Amanda Rice, Founder & CEO, 3x Cancer Survivor
The Chick Mission
121 West 36th Street #333, New York, NY 10018
(512) 222-6613 | www.thechickmission.org



chick mission.

The Chick Mission is a nonprofit organization fiercely dedicated to brightening fertility futures for women battling cancer. Our mission is to ensure every young woman newly diagnosed with cancer has the option to preserve fertility through direct financial support, educational programs, and advocacy efforts.

The Chick Mission idea “hatched” when Amanda’s fertility preservation coverage was denied by her insurance company. Staring down a long road of chemotherapy, radiation, and long-term drug therapy, Amanda understood the high likelihood of infertility after her treatment and decided to move forward covering the costs on her own. The idea of other patients choosing not to pursue preservation simply because of the cost barrier did not sit well – socioeconomic standing should not dictate whether anyone has an opportunity to have biological children after they battle cancer.

After battling cancer 3x before her 40th birthday, Amanda founded The Chick Mission to right these healthcare wrongs. Since 2018, the organization has directly funded fertility preservation treatment for nearly 700 newly diagnosed female cancer patients (and counting!) saving women and families across the United States over \$9 million in medical expenses, while also championing grassroots advocacy efforts that have led to legislative change mandating insurance companies cover the cost of egg freezing before fertility-jeopardizing treatment. We refuse to let the emotional, physical, and financial cost of a cancer diagnosis stand between young women and a full life after battling this disease. Having cancer isn’t a choice. Having kids still should be.

Dylan Zajac, Founder and Executive Director
Computers 4 People
321 Newark St. #32, Hoboken, NJ 07030
(551) 399-1202 | www.computers4people.org

Computers 4 People

Computers 4 People is on a mission to close the digital divide by refurbishing and donating computers, teaching digital skills, and providing affordable internet access to underserved communities. Founded in 2019 by **Dylan Zajac** at age 15, the organization began by collecting used laptops from local neighbors and businesses. Today, **Computers 4 People** has grown into a multi-state leader in digital equity, donating over **5,300 refurbished computers** and partnering with more than **400 community-based organizations** across New Jersey, New York City, and Massachusetts.

Beyond devices, the organization offers **digital literacy classes** to ensure people can fully benefit from technology, and recently launched **Shield Internet**, a low-cost 5G/4G internet service now reaching households nationwide. Each step of the process, from secure data wiping to distribution, is designed to maximize environmental sustainability while creating economic and educational opportunity for those most in need.

Recognized by **Forbes 30 Under 30**, the **776 Foundation**, and **The Kelly Clarkson Show**, **Computers 4 People** is committed to reaching its bold goal of donating **1 million computers by 2030**. Every computer represents more than just a device: it is a lifeline to education, employment, healthcare, and community. By transforming e-waste into empowerment, **Computers 4 People** is helping people unlock their dreams and thrive in the digital age.

Kavita Mehra, Executive Director
Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
P.O. Box 1333, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-1333
www.sakhi.org

SAKHI
FOR SOUTH ASIAN SURVIVORS

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors exists to represent the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean diaspora in a survivor-led movement for gender justice and to honor the collective and inherent power of all survivors of violence.

Founded in 1989, **Sakhi for South Asian Survivors** is the second-oldest South Asian and Indo-Caribbean gender justice organization in the United States—and the first to break the silence on gender-based violence within New York City's South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities. Over three decades, **Sakhi** has worked with over 18,000 survivors and their families.

Under the leadership of Executive Director **Kavita Mehra**, who first joined **Sakhi** as an intern in 2002 and became its sixth executive director in 2017, the organization has grown by over 800% and expanded to include trauma-informed mental health, housing, and food justice programs.

Sakhi's programs provide culturally competent, linguistically accessible direct services: *Anti-Violence Program, Youth Empowerment Program, Sexual Assault Program, Legal Justice Program, Housing Justice Program, Economic Empowerment, Mental Health Counseling, Food Justice Program, Community Engagement Program*

- In 2024, **Sakhi** answered **1,815 calls** on New York City's only gender-based violence helpline staffed by multilingual South Asian speakers.
- Through our **Housing Justice Program**, we distributed **\$1.2M in rental assistance—our highest to date—helping 239 survivors secure stable, permanent housing.**
- **90% of survivors** in the program reported increased independence after working with **Sakhi**.

Our work is rooted in the belief that every survivor deserves safety, dignity, and the opportunity to thrive. These numbers reflect what we know from experience: **Sakhi's programs create lasting change and disrupt cycles of violence.**

Michael Royce, Chief Executive Officer
New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)
29 W. 38th Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10018
(212) 366-6900 | www.nyfa.org

NYFA
New York Foundation for the Arts

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) is a national nonprofit arts service organization based in New York City that empowers artists in all disciplines, as well as cultural workers, to achieve success on their own terms by providing critical support, resources, and opportunities.

Because of CEO **Michael Royce's** transformational leadership, **NYFA** has grown from a small budget of \$1.5 million with just two programs to a \$22 million budget with over 20 programs serving 1 million constituents.

As part of this growth, **Michael** has evolved **NYFA** to meet the needs of today's artists, launching incubators for artists and cultural leaders; distributing guaranteed income; providing housing subsidies; raising over \$21 million in emergency funding for national disasters; and establishing networks for NYC immigrant artists, representing 76 countries.

It is **Michael's** life work to elevate the voices and work of artists, cultural workers, and emerging arts organizations. With each day, he works towards **NYFA's** vision for a world where artists thrive in the practice and expression of their creative work, a world that celebrates and supports them.

Donald M. Ruff Jr., President & CEO
The Eagle Academy Foundation, Inc.
31 W. 125th Street, New York, N.Y. 10027
(212) 477-8370 | www.eafny.org

THE EAGLE
ACADEMY FOUNDATION

The Eagle Academy Foundation (EAF) challenges systemic barriers, thereby empowering young men of color to achieve their desired educational, career, and life outcomes. We deliver strategic direct-impact work and advance institutional change.

As a charismatic visionary, **Donald** has spearheaded transformative initiatives including the **Eagles Soaring Beyond (ESB)** initiative, focused on college readiness, workforce development, and financial empowerment. He also founded the All-Male College Fair and the Career Pathways Expo, two cornerstone programs that open doors to higher education and career opportunities for thousands of young men each year.

EAF is a leader across NYC public schools and organizations nationwide in training and strengthening the capacity of adults to advance outcomes for young men of color- from 6th grade to adulthood. Through the **Eagle Institute**, 2,000 educators across 34 school districts nationwide have received training to inspire the next generation of leaders impacting over 40,000 young men. We are the largest network devoted to the educational advancement of young men of color in the country.

We are a 20-year-old social impact organization led by predominantly Black & Brown professionals. 65% of our Board of Directors and 84% of our staff represent the communities we serve and bring a wealth of diverse lived experiences and backgrounds.

Amisha Mody Mehta, Executive Officer
New York City Urban Debate League
25 Broadway 12th Floor, New York, NY 10004
(917) 774-6539 | www.debate.nyc



The New York City Urban Debate League (NYCUDL) is the largest urban debate program in the country, serving more than 4,000 students annually across all five boroughs. We partner with over 250 schools—81% of them Title I—to ensure that every young person, regardless of background, has access to the transformative power of debate. Our work includes hosting over 40 tournaments each year, running free summer debate camps for underserved students, and launching district-wide debate leagues that provide sustained opportunities for civic learning and leadership. We also run the *New New Yorkers League*, which allows multilingual learners to debate in Spanish and other languages, judged by bilingual educators, giving students the chance to build confidence and advocacy skills in their strongest voices.

Mission Statement: *The New York City Urban Debate League's mission is to unlock the transformative power of debate for New York City public school students to develop the next generation of informed, compassionate, and courageous leaders.*

Our mission statement clearly states that NYCUDL is designed to make competitive debate accessible to all students, especially those from historically underrepresented communities. We empower young people to become engaged citizens, critical thinkers, and effective advocates by providing debate education, mentorship, and opportunities to compete. Through debate, students build confidence, improve academic outcomes, and develop the skills necessary to succeed in college, career, and civic life.

By integrating debate into classrooms and communities, the NYCUDL builds bridges across schools and neighborhoods, fosters dialogue across lines of difference, and equips the next generation with the skills to navigate complexity and lead with empathy.

Emily Marchese, Executive Director
Reach Out and Read of Greater New York
105 West 86th Street #330, New York, NY 10024
(646) 453-6785 | www.reachoutandreadnyc.org



At **Reach Out & Read of Greater NY**, we believe every child deserves the chance to thrive. We partner with pediatricians to promote reading and share early literacy guidance during routine checkups for children under five.

Each year, over a quarter of a million children receive care from our trusted doctors, and we distribute more than half a million free books for families to take home and keep. We currently serve 39% of all children under 5 in NYC, with the goal to serve 50% by 2030.

Many families assume learning to read starts in school, but research shows that reading together early supports lifelong learning, health, and well-being. That's why we focus our work in high-need communities: to give all families the tools and confidence they need to build strong bonding and reading routines at home.

Our program is grounded in the power of representation. Almost all of the books we provide are bilingual, available in more than 10 languages, so every family can access the stories that provide the foundation for literacy and more.

We're making early literacy a standard part of pediatric care. Through quality books, trusted doctors, and decades of research, we're building a better future...one book and one child at a time.

Ibrahima Souare, Executive Officer
NYPACE (New York Professional Advisors for Community Entrepreneurs)
580 Fifth Avenue, Suite 820, New York, NY 10036
(212) 465-2515 | www.nypace.org



New York Professional Advisors for Community Entrepreneurs (NYPACE) was founded in 2002 by a group of finance professionals with a shared goal: to utilize their expertise to benefit small businesses by increasing their access to opportunities for scaling. After volunteering with several nonprofits, the founders identified direct ways to support small business owners in under-resourced communities. They decided to fill this gap themselves.

NYPACE was incorporated in 2003 and granted 501(c)(3) status in 2005. For several years following, the organization relied entirely on volunteers. Through pilot programs during this period, NYPACE refined a mentorship model that pairs experienced professionals with emerging entrepreneurs to help them strengthen operations, access capital, and scale sustainably. Many of those early volunteers continue to guide the organization as Board members.

In 2012, NYPACE hired its first staff member, Stephanie Bombaci, who managed complex advisory teams and documented impact. Stephanie now serves as the Director of Corporate Initiatives & Events. In 2018, the organization appointed its first Executive Director, expanding its leadership and laying the groundwork for sustainable growth.

Assuming the role in 2022, Executive Director Ibrahima Souare is leading NYPACE through a new strategic plan focused on empowering entrepreneurs and transforming communities. The organization has deepened its DEIA commitment by expanding access for women and entrepreneurs of color. NYPACE also strengthened citywide partnerships and worked to ensure equitable business success pathways.

Today, NYPACE continues to prove that diversity drives innovation. The organization empowers local founders, builds inclusive economies, and honors New York City's entrepreneurial resilience.

Diane Colonna, Executive Director
Special Olympics New York
94 New Karner Road, Suite 208, Albany, NY 12203
www.specialolympics-ny.org



Special Olympics New York (SONY) provides year-round sports training and competition in Olympic-style sports for more than 48,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) across the state, including over 27,000 in New York City. Our mission is to offer opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and share gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other athletes, and the community.

This mission drives our vision of a world where people with ID lead healthy, fulfilling lives as respected members of a more inclusive society. To achieve it, we provide all programs at no cost, ensuring equitable access to sports, health services, and leadership opportunities. Divisioning ensures fair play, while Unified Sports bring together athletes with and without ID to compete as teammates, building friendships and transforming communities.

With more than 14,000 volunteers, including 7,000+ trained coaches, SONY empowers athletes to succeed both on and off the field. From our Healthy Athletes program to Athlete Leadership Councils, individuals with ID are at the center of everything we do, shaping an inclusive movement that celebrates ability over disability.

Laura Lazarus, CEO & Co-Founder
Anthos|Home
 90 Broad St, Suite 1703A, New York, NY 10004
 (212) 606-0785 | www.anthoshome.org



Anthos|Home is transforming the way New York City's housing voucher system works by removing barriers and accelerating the path from shelter and unstable living situations to permanent housing. On average, it takes families more than a year to find housing after receiving a voucher. Anthos|Home reduces that timeline substantially.

Through our innovative model which uses key technological tools, we proactively reserve units with trusted landlords, deploy flexible funds to cover repairs and moving costs, and guide families through every step of the housing process. Our expert team provides ongoing support to both tenants and landlords, ensuring housing stability for one year after move-in. Since our 2023 launch, we've helped more than 400 households—nearly 700 people, including young adults aging out of foster care and families with complex medical needs—to secure permanent homes, all with a 100% retention rate to date.

At Anthos|Home, we believe home is the foundation for opportunity, dignity, and belonging. By working closely with our government and nonprofit partners, and combining hands-on support with bold, scalable innovation, we are building a better path to home here in NYC.

Lauren Blodgett, Executive Director & Founder
The Brave House
 155 Water Street, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
www.thebravehouse.com



The Brave House supports young immigrant and refugee women, ages 16-24, with a focus on survivors of gender-based violence. From our hub in Brooklyn, we provide free legal aid, mental health care, community events, leadership development, and holistic services within an environment of joy and friendship. Launched in 2018, the Brave House grew from our founder's work as an immigration attorney, where she gained a unique perspective on the complex challenges immigrant children face in accessing crucial services such as therapy, help with school, health insurance, housing, and making friends. We emerged as a sisterhood for young immigrant and refugee women navigating life in NYC. We provide sustained, wraparound support—always free of charge—while centering the voices and leadership of our members.

An innovative tool is our **custom-built Brave House App**, designed to put community and resources directly into the hands of immigrant youth navigating complex legal and personal challenges. Alongside a resource library, event calendar, and peer-to-peer messaging, the App's standout feature is "My Case": a secure, private space where members can view personalized legal information, court dates, and attorney details.

While most legal services focus solely on representation, we emphasize legal empowerment. By placing critical information at our members' fingertips, we shift from a gatekeeper model to one that builds agency and self-advocacy. The App also connects members to mental health, education, and housing resources—all in one place—strengthening both individual resilience and collective community power.

Jane Pfitsch, LMSW, NYU Langone Social Worker
NYU Langone Pain Reprocessing Therapy Program
 240 East 38th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10016
 (212) 201-1004 | www.nyulangone.org



The mission behind our **Pain Reprocessing Therapy (PRT)** program at **NYU Langone** is to bring nonopioid and noninvasive chronic pain treatments to marginalized and underprivileged populations. PRT is designed around the understanding that pain is a danger signal from the brain and not always a sign of structural damage in the body. Chronic pain is often caused by learned neural pathways that keep that danger signal "on," even when the body is safe. PRT uses psychoeducation, mindfulness, and exposure-based somatic exercises to reprogram these pathways, reducing and often eliminating chronic pain and other symptoms.

PRT has its roots in methods practiced for decades, and there is a growing evidence base supporting its efficacy. However, the mainstream medical system has been slow to adopt these interventions, leading to a gap between knowledge and practice, particularly with underprivileged populations. Many PRT practitioners are only accessible to patients paying out-of-pocket, thus restricting access to the most vulnerable — who not coincidentally experience the highest rates of chronic pain. Our innovative program brings these groundbreaking interventions into the medical establishment, enabling us to accept public insurance and open the door to these populations. Working alongside our physician colleagues also facilitates a change in the larger conversation around pain — highlighting the biopsychosocial aspects and bringing an integrative approach that empowers both patients and clinicians.

We have great hopes to increase our reach as our program grows and we continue to bring relief to patients experiencing debilitating symptoms and providers searching for ways to help them.

Nancy Easton, Founder & Executive Director
Wellness in the Schools
 31 West 125th Street/5th Floor, New York, NY 10027
 (212) 724-2130 | www.wellnessintheschools.org



Wellness In The Schools (WITS) is a national nonprofit that teaches kids healthy habits to learn, live and thrive. Our partnerships with public school districts allow us to promote nutritious food and active play to support students' overall well-being.

Our core programs - **Cook for Kids** and **Coach for Kids** - place trained culinary and fitness professionals into schools to ensure access to nourishing food and active play for children in public schools. In the Cook for Kids program, we develop scratch-cooked, plant-based, and culturally inclusive recipes, train school cooks on the preparation of those meals, and provide regular tasting and nutrition education opportunities for children and their care givers. The Coach for Kids model provides movement breaks throughout the school day, Family Fitness Fun Nights, WITS Play Days and WITS Fit Bits, to improve focus and behavior.

Founded in 2005, WITS has been dedicated to promoting wellness nationwide as a vital part of student achievement across communities. We believe that healthy habits learned early sets the foundation for lifelong well-being and academic success.

Jonathan McLean, Chief Executive Director
CASES
151 Lawrence Street, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
(212) 553-6300 | www.cases.org



CASES was created in 1989, building on two groundbreaking programs started by the Vera Institute of Justice. One connected young people facing felony charges to jobs and education instead of prison, and the other introduced community service as a more meaningful response to low-level crime.

Since then, CASES has grown into a citywide nonprofit helping New Yorkers avoid unnecessary jailtime so they can build brighter futures. Our programs take a holistic approach—from preventing young people from being arrested, to supporting adults returning home from prison, to offering treatment and care instead of incarceration.

We specialize in serving people living with serious mental illness who are often pushed into the criminal legal system instead of getting the care they need. CASES licensed mental health programs include award-winning alternatives to incarceration, mobile treatment teams that meet people where they are, education and employment programs, and our outpatient Nathaniel Clinic which provides mental health services, substance use treatment, and primary care all under one roof.

Each year, CASES serves more than 12,000 youth and adults across New York City. From our offices in Harlem, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx—and inside city courthouses—we connect people to community-based services that support stability, recovery and opportunity.

At CASES, we believe real safety comes from care, not punishment. Our work makes it possible for people to heal, grow and succeed in their communities.

Christina Hanson, Executive Director
Part of the Solution
2759 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York 10458
(718) 220-4892 | www.potsbronx.org



Part of the Solution (or POTS) is a loving community in the Bronx striving to serve all who come to our doors. From meeting immediate needs to offering long-term comprehensive services, we partner with each individual to empower them to reach their potential.

Rooted in the strength of history, community and diversity since 1982, POTS reflects the complexity of New York itself. We intentionally create a warm, welcoming environment where New Yorkers—old and new—can build trust, open up, and access the support they need to thrive.

Each year, POTS supports over 34,000 clients through a robust array of programs—a food pantry, community dining room, legal advocacy, case management, showers, mail services, and workforce development. With a wraparound model and deep roots in the local community, our service model prioritizes a dignified experience, and any service we provide is a starting point for deeper engagement and lasting change for individuals and our society.

POTS' programmatic pillars are supported by comprehensive intake processes that help us understand each individual or household's needs and determine the full scope of support we can provide.

We measure impact by applying our own methodology, focusing on how our clients reach increased stability in five areas: education, health, finance, housing and day-to-day essentials. Our Stability Index establishes standards for individual progress in each area. This model helps us adapt our services for clients in crisis, replicating successful strategies with the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Alethea Taylor, Executive Director
Hour Children, Inc.
36-11 12th St., Long Island City, NY 11106
(718) 433-4724 | www.hourchildren.org



During one of our recent family visits, a mother sat across from her child and watched with awe as he wiggled a loose tooth. It was the first time she had seen him lose a tooth, a small but meaningful moment they might have otherwise missed. Moments like this are why **Hour Children** exists: to uphold the parent-child bond during and after incarceration, and to create space for families to heal and rebuild together.

Hour work is rooted in dignity, justice, and the transformative power of keeping families connected even during incarceration. At the core of Hour's mission is the belief that every child deserves to maintain a loving, stable connection with their parent, even when circumstances make that difficult. Instead of focusing on an idealized family structure, we work to preserve essential bonds, promote healing, and create opportunities for children to feel seen, supported, and safe, while also standing beside mothers as they rebuild their lives.

We offer comprehensive services that meet families where they are, from in-prison nursery programs and supportive housing to after-school tutoring and summer enrichment for children. Each year, we support over 1,000 women and children. This all-encompassing approach helps in transforming cycles of trauma and poverty into stories of resilience and hope.

Hour Children's mission is simple but powerful: to stand beside every mother and child—from the hour of arrest to the hour of reunification and beyond—to ensure that families stay connected and have the support they need to thrive.

Reuben Ogbonna Executive Director
The Marcy Lab School
882 3rd Ave 11th floor
www.mar cylabschool.org



The Marcy Lab School is redefining what's possible in higher education. Founded in 2019, Marcy offers a free, one-year Fellowship in Software Engineering and Data Analytics for underestimated young people seeking a rigorous, experiential, and financially accessible alternative to college.

Our program combines technical mastery with intensive leadership development, ensuring graduates are not only job-ready but prepared to thrive as leaders in their careers and communities. Fellows learn cutting-edge skills, build professional networks, and gain direct access to employment opportunities typically reserved for college graduates.

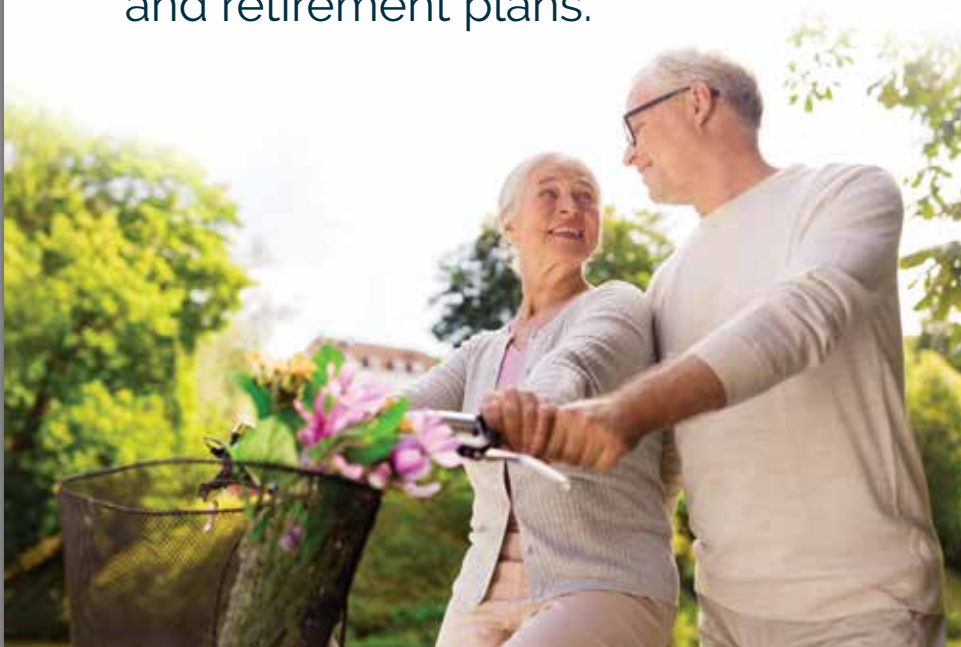
The results speak for themselves. To date, Marcy has served more than 250 Fellows, who have gone on to work at companies such as JPMorgan Chase, Bloomberg, Squarespace, Asana, Spotify, and The New York Times. Graduates earn an average starting salary of over \$100,000, collectively generating more than \$20 million in wages for their families and communities since our founding.

By equipping underestimated students with the training, support, and access they need, Marcy is proving that economic mobility does not require a four-year degree. Instead, it requires bold innovation, values-aligned partnerships, and a belief in the limitless potential of our city's young people.



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~Masaru Emoto



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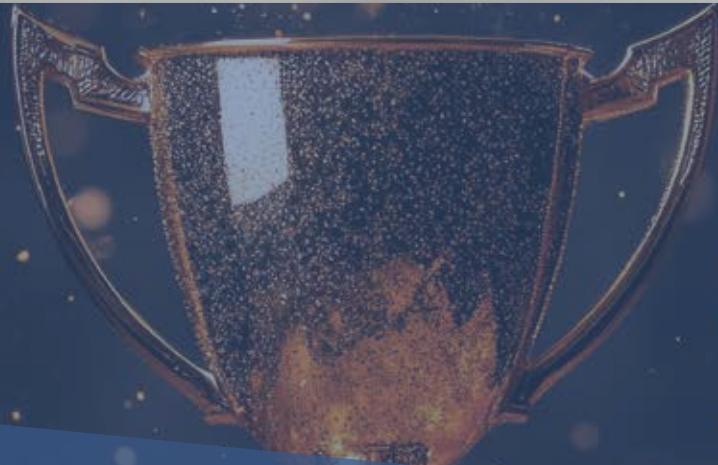
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