Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board’s Annual

Awards Event

Wednesday, May 17, 2023
6:00PM – 9:30 PM

Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course
870 Shore Rd
Bronx, NY 10464
VISIONS Would Like to Extend its Appreciation to:

The members of the New York City Council who support our programs in the Bronx

The New York City Department of Aging

The New York City Department of Youth & Community Development

The Office of the County Executive of Westchester

Plus, all of the foundations and corporations that support our services in the Bronx and Westchester

And lastly, a thank you to the outstanding work of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Westchester and Nonprofit Westchester
Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board Awards Event

Honorees

Maritza Fernandez
NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation

Evan Mittman
Castle Cap Advisors

Anthony Mormile
Orange Bank & Trust Company

Emcee

Gary Axelbank
BronxTalk, Bronx Buzz on BronxNet
VISIONS is a 96 year old vision rehabilitation and social service non-profit organization that provides services to over 7,000 individuals a year throughout the five boroughs of New York City, Westchester, Rockland, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley.

Our mission is to develop and implement programs to assist people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired to lead independent and active lives in their homes and communities.

We provide services in the home and in the community, at our Innovative Senior Center in Manhattan and at VISIONS Center on Blindness in Rockland County. All of our services are free.

The Role of An Advisory Board Member

The Advisory Boards are a vital component of VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Through the dedicated and committed work of their members, VISIONS is able to continue to provide excellent services for blind and visually impaired individuals throughout the NY metropolitan area.

An Advisory Board member should consider outreach to businesses, community groups, professional organizations, elected officials, health organizations, trade associations, civic organizations, media, advocates for people with disabilities, etc. Everyone can help “open doors” for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Responsibilities of An Advisory Board Member

1. Become familiar with the work of VISIONS and help promote public awareness of the needs and abilities of people with vision loss.

2. Reach out through organizations, businesses, and individual relationships to increase awareness about VISIONS and its free services to the blind and visually impaired.

3. Refer clients who are in need of services, and other individuals who are interested in VISIONS’ work.

4. Organize and support fundraising activities and contribute to VISIONS.

For further information about our advisory boards, please call Amy Gordon at (201) 819-8656 or email: amygor2@aol.com
Thank You to the VISIONS Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board

BOARD CHAIRPERSON:
Rosemary De Luca
Community Volunteer

Gary Axelbank
BronxTalk & Bronx Buzz, Bronxnet
Vanessa Baijnauth
Orange Bank & Trust Company
Dan Bernstein
Community Volunteer
Ed Birdie
Community Volunteer
Antoinette Calderon
Park Sterling Realty
Linda Cerbone
Community Volunteer
Gene DiNapoli
Community Volunteer
Diane Dudzinski
Don Blauweiss Advertising & Design
Lisa Dunkley
Math Star System
Barry Fitzgerald
F&F Insurance

Roberta Gjonaj
Community Volunteer
Laura Guerriero
Bronx Times Reporter
Lisa LoCascio
Community Volunteer
Jeannine Mendez
Astor Services for Children & Families
Delores O’Garo
Community Volunteer
Marion Sheppard
VISIONS Staff
Judy Stern
Signature Bank
Karin Suero
Latino Justice
Jeremiah Taylor
Community Volunteer
Doris Varlese
Optum

Amy Gordon, Senior Director of Fundraising Initiatives
Maritza Fernandez was born and raised in the Castle Hill section of The Bronx. She is currently a Supervising Public Health Advisor with The City of New York, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

Maritza has been with the Department since April of 1999 when she started as a Public Health Assistant in the school medical rooms. In 2003, she was moved to the Bureau of School Health Vision & Hearing that serviced school aged children in the 5 boroughs of NYC. Services were provided to public, parochial, charter schools as well as yeshivas. During the regular school year, she, along with her co-workers, conducted vision and hearing testing for children in Pre-K, K, and 1st grade.

Soon after, the hearing portion of the program was eliminated, and vision became the priority of the program.

Maritza’s goal is always to provide the best possible service to the children of NYC and to assist parents in any way possible. As she says, “It would put a big smile on my face when the children remembered us from the previous year visit.”

Maritza is the mother of 2 adult children, Isaiah, 27 and Ivelisse, 23, and is in a loving relationship with her fiance, Tyrell. Besides work and time with her children and her significant other, she is her mother’s caretaker.
As concerned members of the communities their members work in, The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation participates in qualified community-based charities who serve the housing, hunger, health, happiness, and humane needs of citizens everywhere.

The focus of the Foundation’s efforts are in Manhattan, The Bronx, Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange Counties.

Established in 2004 and relaunched in 2013, the Foundation has donated thousands of dollars to charities and non-profit organizations.

The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, donated a total of $36,500 to 23 charities and non-profit organizations in 2022.

In 2022, the Foundation raised over $100,000 and as it enters its 10th year of fundraising, the foundation is gearing up for another successful year of providing financial assistance to those organizations dedicated to helping the needy.

In addition to providing grants to area nonprofits, the foundation holds hands on volunteer events to the charities it serves.
At 19 years old, Evan was diagnosed with an incurable retinal disease and told he had only one year left to see. He was advised to learn Braille and invest in a seeing-eye dog. Driven to overcome this incredible obstacle, Evan graduated university using reel-to-reel tapes – as he could no longer read a book – and launched his first company soon after in the fashion industry. Evan grew the business from zero to over $150 million in volume, and forty years later sold it to a $16 billion multinational company.

After selling the business, Evan wanted to make a positive impact on the lives of young people, so he became a professor of fashion branding and licensing at Marist College and began his involvement with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors. “Nothing brings me greater joy than to coach the next generation of business leaders, share the things I’ve learned across my 30-year career, and watch others thrive with my guidance.”
Anthony Mormile has been in banking for over 39 years. He resides in Croton On Hudson, Westchester, but was born and raised in Little Italy of the Bronx known as Arthur Avenue.

Anthony is the Bronx Market Manager and Senior Vice President for Orange Bank & Trust. He was honored and privileged to open the first Orange Bank Branch in the Bronx, and will be looking to soon open a second Bronx branch. The aim is to establish Orange Bank’s reputation as a Premier Community Bank that improves the quality of life for residences and businesses in the Bronx. This is Anthony’s way of giving back to the Bronx for all it has given to him.

His many years in banking have allowed him to develop long-standing relationships with many families, businesses, and organizations in the Bronx. He is the Chairman of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce; Treasurer for Rain Total Care; Board Member for the Bronx Chapter of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors; Board Member for The Businesses Initiative Corp.

Anthony has been married for over 31 years to the love of his life, his wife Francine. They have two children, Antonio, who is 27 years old, and Juliana, who is 23 years old and is expecting her first child in July. He enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering for many of the Bronx Organizations. He is a member of Leewood Country Club and enjoys playing golf.

Anthony was recently honored with the Paul Harris Award from the Bronx Rotary Club and recently interviewed by the Bronx Times as the new Chairman of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he received his 15 minutes of fame appearing on a commercial for Orange Bank that will be shown on local Bronx Channels, featuring him walking through parts of the Bronx and engaging with many local Bronx Businesses.
Gary Axelbank is well known as the host of BronxTalk, the borough’s flagship talk show on BronxNet cable television. Since the program’s debut in October 1994, Gary has hosted 1,300 weekly editions of BronxTalk, including 84 political debates, more than 100 programs on education, and dozens of programs on crime and policing, youth, parks, healthcare, and a range of community issues. He’s also the host of The Bronx Buzz, BronxNet’s weekly reporter’s roundtable that debuted in March, 2016.

Each year since 2016, Gary has been recognized in City & State NY’s “Bronx Borough Influential 50” report as one of the most influential figures in the borough. Gary has been a producer of news features for WNBC-TV and a producer in the station’s sports department where his duties included coverage of major sports teams on NBC’s flagship station. He also was a producer on FOX Sports New York. He began his media career in 1976 as a radio disc jockey, working at stations in Maryland and Delaware, at WRNW in Briarcliff Manor, NY, and at WDHA in Dover, NJ. He’s also done stints at WWRL, New York.
We know he’s a GREAT BANKER.
But he’s an even BETTER BRONXER.

Born and bred, and Bronx-driven. That’s Anthony Mormile. Committed, like you, to help people throughout the Bronx and Westchester see what’s possible.

Congratulations Anthony. You make us all proud.

Anthony Mormile
SVP/Senior Commercial Loan Officer
and Bronx native

orangepbanktrust.com
The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation is proud to support VISIONS for the incredible care they extend to the blind and visually impaired.

Our Mission: As concerned members of the communities we work in, The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation participates in qualified community-based charities who serve the housing, hunger, health, happiness, and humane needs of citizens everywhere.

HGRealtorFoundation.com
CONGRATULATIONS TO VISIONS 2023 HONOREES

MARITZA FERNANDEZ
NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE

HUDSON GATEWAY REALTOR® FOUNDATION

EVAN MITTMAN
CASTLE CAP ADVISORS

ANTHONY MORMILE
ORANGE BANK & TRUST COMPANY

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES

ROSEMARY DE LUCA, CHAIR
BRONX & WESTCHESTER ADVISORY BOARD
Congratulations to all of tonight’s honorees, and congratulations to Mary McDonnell, president of the New Rochelle Lions, on the club’s 100th anniversary

Judy Goldman
Congratulations to all VISIONS Honorees and to our wonderful Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board — as well as our terrific Senior Director of Fundraising Initiatives, Amy Gordon

Nancy D. Miller, LMSW, VISIONS Executive Director/CEO
Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Honorees

Maritza Fernandez
Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation
Evan Mittman
and Anthony Mormile

Angela Ottomanelli

Edward J. Birdie
Member, Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board
WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT

VISIONS Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board’s Annual Awards Event

Congratulations to

Anthony Mormile
Orange Bank & Trust Company

and to all of this year’s distinguished honorees

simdev.com
CONGRATULATIONS AND A SUCCESSFUL 2023 TO

from your friends at

Rotary Club of the Bronx
Congratulations Honorees! Special Recognition To:

MARITZA FERNANDEZ
NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

HUDSON GATEWAY REALTOR® FOUNDATION

EVAN MITTMAN
Castle Cap Advisors

ANTHONY MORMILE
Orange Bank & Trust Company
Congratulations to VISIONS and this year's outstanding honorees

Michael A Pisacano, MD
Anna Djougarian, MD    Brian D Krawitz, MD    Sherief Raouf, MD
Jessica Fuentes, PA-C Juliana Boneta, OD    Moontaha Choudhury, OD

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Flagstar Bank N.A. salutes the honorees and the work that VISIONS does for the community.

Judith Stern
Group Director - Senior Vice President
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1C Quaker Ridge Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804

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FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES.

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts is committed to strengthening our local communities to ensure they remain strong and vibrant. We are honored to work alongside and support vital organizations such as VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and are grateful for their dedication and commitment to the work they do. Learn more at MGMRESORTS.COM/FOCUSED.

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts is proud to support the 2023 VISIONS Bronx - Westchester Advisory Board’s Annual Awards and salute all the honorees for their deserved recognition.
Congratulations to our distinguished honorees

Maritza Fernandez
Hudson Gateway Realtor Foundation

Evan Mittman

Anthony Mormile

And we celebrate VISIONS outstanding 96-year history of improving the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired

Don Blauweiss Advertising & Design
914.779.6846
www.blauweissadvertising.com
Congratulations and Appreciation to Awards Event Honorees:

Maritza Fernandez, Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, Evan Mittman, and Anthony Mormile, and to the entire VISIONS Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board

Your ongoing commitment to the mission of VISIONS continues to help people of all ages see what is possible!

With warmest regards,
Fran Freedman, MSW
Member, VISIONS Board of Directors and Lifelong Bronxite

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Congratulations to this years honorees
Join us on this Fun filled cruise Featuring Gene Dinapoli
On the NCL Getaway

Jan 27-Feb 6 2024
Congratulations to Anthony Mormile and tonight's other honorees

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Tri-Tech Mechanical LLC Congratulates Linda Cerbone Calabrese, Member of VISIONS Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board, and VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Another Successful Awards Event!

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Peter Krupa
pkbuiltlc@gmail.com
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Congrats Anthony!

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Kathy Zamechansky & the KZA Realty Group
Congratulate All of Tonight’s Honorees

Special Congratulations to My Good Friend
Anthony Mormile
for Receiving a VISIONS Award

You truly deserve this honor and recognition for your tireless efforts on behalf of the community — it is sincerely an honor to be your friend

Best Wishes for Continued Success to All

Full Service Commercial Brokerage and Consulting Firm
1200 Waters Place, Suite M114, Bronx, New York 10461
718-829-5775 / www.kzarealty.com
Congratulation Maritza Fernandez for Receiving VISIONS Award 2023

The honor is well deserved!
Thank you for all your hard-work and dedication to the health and well-being of the children in the Bronx.

Office of School Health
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Our Congratulations to Maritza Fernandez, Evan Mittman, and Anthony Mormile for being recipients of honors from VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired on this day May 17, 2023.

We appreciate your support for VISIONS which is an outstanding organization.

Our Sincerest Appreciation the Bronx-Westchester Advisory Board for Helping To Make the Event a Success.

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We Apologize, in Advance, for Any Errors in This Journal
Thank You to Our Outstanding Sponsors!

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Orange Bank & Trust
Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation

Bronze Sponsors
Rosemary DeLuca
Judith Rock Goldman

Supporter Sponsor
Empire City Casino
Flagstar Bank
VISIONS Facts

All of the services we offer are free of charge thanks to government & foundation grants, and private donations.

We offer services in 16 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese dialects, Russian, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Our programs are tailored to the specific needs of our participants, no matter how complex those needs are.

1 in 3 VISIONS staff members are blind or have a visual impairment.

88¢ of every dollar is spent on programs, with only 12¢ spent on administration and fundraising.

LESS THAN 8%

In 2021, VISIONS had a 7.87% staff turnover rate, lower than the NYC average for nonprofits!

VISIONS Workforce Program was ranked #1 in Job Placements for the 7th consecutive year. The New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) quality assurance review gave VISIONS Workforce Program a 10 out of 10 for providing excellent job placement services.

7,216 Participants Served in 2022

5,552 Community Services, Vision Rehabilitation & Workforce Development

1,180 VISIONS at Selis Manor Programs and VISIONS Center on Aging

484 VISIONS Center on Blindness and VISIONS Vocational Rehab Center
How to Support VISIONS

Make a Donation

Whether you give us an individual donation, or a lead to a Foundation Grant, or Corporate Sponsor that is aligned with our mission, every effort helps!

Ways to Donate:
1. Online, at: visionsvcb.org/donate
2. Donor Advised Fund
3. Gifts of Appreciated Stock
4. Qualified Charitable Distributions
5. Include VISIONS in your will*

*If you would like to consider naming VISIONS in your will, or making a testamentary gift, simply share the following information with your lawyer:

1. Legal Name: VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
2. Tax ID: 13-1624210
3. Address: 500 Greenwich Street, Suite 302
   New York, NY 10013

If you have any questions about ways to donate or know of individuals, foundations, or corporations interested in supporting VISIONS, please contact Russell C. Martello, Chief Development Officer at rmartello@visionsvcb.org.

Contact Us

VISIONS Headquarters:
500 Greenwich Street, Suite 302
New York, NY 10013-1354
Phone: (212) 625-1616

VISIONS at Selis Manor
135 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011
Phone: (646) 486-4444

VISIONS Center on Blindness
111 Summit Park Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Phone: (845) 354-3003

info@visionsvcb.org | www.visionsvcb.org
Thank you to VISIONS for the outstanding free services that you provide to those of us who are blind or visually impaired, and congratulations to my fellow honorees: Maritza Fernandez, Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation and Anthony Mormile.

Evan Mittman
Castle Cap Advisors