Supportive Housing Network of New York

2023 AWARDS GALA

2023 OUTSTANDING TENANTS OF THE YEAR

Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living

GALA COMMITTEE

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WELCOME





Pascale Leone

Brenda Rosen

W/elcome to the Network's 2023 Annual Awards Gala: it's wonderful to have you with us this evening. It's been my privilege to serve this community as the Network's Executive Director for the past year, fighting alongside you to advance supportive housing across the state of New York. Our community continues to face ever-evolving challenges. But through it all, we haven't skipped a beat in advocating for our shared purpose and fulfilling our foundational mission, which is to continue developing a pipeline of the finest, state-ofthe-art supportive housing.

Tonight, the Network is excited to join with representatives from across the supportive housing community to celebrate this past year's wins. For starters, the Network convened ongoing important discussions among

providers, government partners, and other stakeholders around emerging issues, including our critical Intensive Services Roundtables, calling together 90 participants from 60 organizations to discuss how best to meet tenants' growing needs.

A record-breaking 1,500 plus community members attended our annual conference last June, including New York State Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene, Jihoon Kim.

This year we—along with our partners—also worked with the New York State Office of Mental Health to secure 10% contract increases for supportive/ supported housing statewide. Additionally, the first-ever state supportive housing preservation program released its term sheet, a significant policy policy priority for the Network. Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) representatives have been working with our members to ensure the program meets its 3,000-unit goals.

At the City level, we're thrilled to have played a pivotal role in securing significant Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) contract increases, which, for many, meant a doubling of service contracts—something members have referred to as a "game changer".

We're also thrilled to honor two *Outstanding Tenants of the Year* this evening.

Jimmy Rivera is a long-standing tenant at Project Hospitality's HASA supportive housing. Jimmy has "volunteered his heart out" since the late 1980s as a peer and recovery educator, outreach volunteer and overnight shelter volunteer.

Jerrisa White is a tenant at Access: Supports for Living's Temple Hill Apartments who came to supportive housing from foster care. She's a single mother of three children and has achieved amazing things - including becoming a medical assistant and successfully placing her five-year-old twins in schools that meet their needs.

On behalf of the entire Network staff and Board, we express our deep gratitude for the incredible work all of you do to embolden our community. We're honored to have you here tonight—as friends, colleagues, and champions—in recognition of our accomplishments and in support of our shared goal of ending homelessness in New York.

Thank you for joining us and welcome to the 2023 Annual Awards Gala!

Pascale Leone Executive Director

Brenda Rosen *Board Chair*

CONGRATULATIONSto everyone at SHNNY for all your great work.

B/D Capital Management



Our heartfelt appreciation to The Network for your unwavering dedication and tireless endeavors in championing supportive housing throughout New York. Your expertise, guidance, and unyielding commitment have not only reimagined our city, but also made it more inclusive, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of all New Yorkers. Your unique ability and skill to unite providers, government partners, and various stakeholders stands as the bedrock of our collective success, and we recognize that our mission could not be fulfilled without your invaluable support.

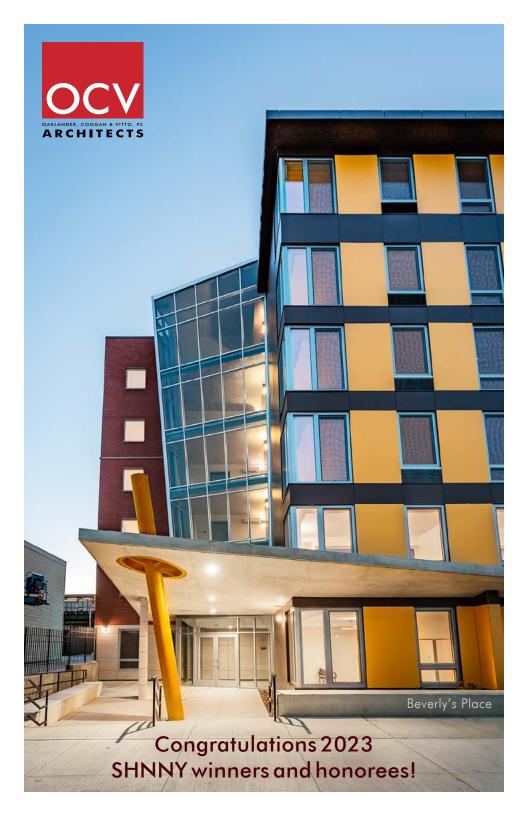
Tonight, we are thrilled to come together to celebrate and honor the two Outstanding Tenants of the Year:

Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality & Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living

May this evening mark the beginning of numerous joyful celebrations, surrounded by friends who continually remind us of the vital significance of supportive housing. Every individual deserves a secure place to call home, where the embrace of a genuine community offers the support and care capable of transforming lives.

At HSI, we eagerly await a future where everyone has a home that assures them safety, belonging, and access to essential resources. We remain committed to working alongside The Network, our peers, tenants, and other dedicated partners and friends to realize this vision.

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Outstanding Tenant of the Year **Jimmy Rivera**



Jimmy Rivera is the longest surviving tenant in Project Hospitality's HASA supportive housing, coming to the organization in the late 80's. He has "volunteered his heart out" ever since according to PH's President and CEO Rev. Terry Troia.

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, Jimmy moved to Staten Island in the 70's. After experiencing a lifetime of challenges, cycling in and out of incarceration, struggling with substance use, and experiencing chronic homelessness, Jimmy found Project Hospitality. And as he says: "I found a family. They helped me get my life back together."

After being diagnosed with HIV in 1991, Jimmy became a member of Project Hospitality's Positive Living Center, where he got involved with groups from spirituality to recovery and treatment. Said Rev. Troia, "He was like a sponge that just soaked up any goodness that was around him. He really grasped at every good opportunity before him."

Shortly thereafter he moved into the organization's very first permanent

supportive housing program and was able to complete his GED and reunite with his son, to whom he was fiercely dedicated; together they volunteered at Project Hospitality holiday events. Jimmy's involvement in a recovery group led him to the Peer Outreach and Education Team (POETS) program, where he learned the tools to change lives through sharing his story. He told his story to "anyone who would listen" – schools churches, LGBTQ groups, hospitals, and more. He also became an overnight volunteer in a church-based shelter for over ten vears.

In 2020, Project Hospitality opened its first undocumented immigrant overnight shelter and Jimmy became an outreach volunteer. Then, in 2022 he became the overnight program volunteer. There he keeps the shelter clean, prepares meals and most importantly ensures the safety of the clients he watches over every night. He has never missed a day of work since.

In 2022, Jimmy was inducted onto the Project Hospitality Board of Directors as a consumer representative and was the first Latino to serve in that position. Although Jimmy is currently living with throat cancer, he remains completely dedicated to serving others and loves his work.

For over thirty years of steadfast service and dedication to his family, his community, Project Hospitality, those living with HIV, struggling with substance use, or experiencing homelessness, we are honored and humbled to celebrate Jimmy as one of our *Tenants of the Year*.

THE POWER TO

strengthen our community

At the 2023 SHNNY Annual Awards Gala, we congratulate the Supportive Housing Network of New York for community outreach that's making a lasting difference in people's lives.

In a state with tremendous need, the Supportive Housing Network of New York is known for their tireless advocacy on behalf of vulnerable residents.

We're proud to share our goal of improving lives with you.

What would you like the power to do?®



Congratulations to the Supportive Housing Network of New York and Outstanding Tenants of the Year Jimmy Rivera and Jerrisa White



Increasing the supply of affordable and permanent supportive housing in New York

Outstanding Tenant of the Year **Jerrisa White**



Senior Case Manager Mariah Mallory, a longtime staffer at Access: Supports for Livings says, "When I think about how much supportive housing can help people, I think of Jerrisa." No wonder: since moving into her apartment at Temple Hill Apartments six years ago, Jerrisa has completed a Medical Certification program, has earned her driver's license, and has secured a good paying job as a medical assistant. Oh, and did we mention that she also gave birth to twin boys five years ago and another boy a year ago?

But it took some time to get there. Jerrisa had had a tough and traumatic childhood that made it difficult for her to trust, so when she came to Access directly from foster care with no supports, she was naturally wary of staff and their offers to connect her to programs that could help her. For the first year, she stayed mainly to herself.

But after the birth of her twins struggling to work, keep the boys in daycare and maintain her apartment she began to connect to one of the staff and started to participate in community activities. With support, she enrolled the twins in Early Intervention having become concerned about their language development. When these services—delivered virtually during the pandemic—proved unhelpful, staff helped her navigate the educational system and get them into a special-needs pre-k program where they have made great strides.

Because Jerrisa had had little help working through the 'dark days' of childhood trauma, staff connected her to a gifted young therapist, with whom she bonded.

In January 2022, Jerrisa gave birth to her third son, whom she says 'completed our little family.' But his birth inspired her to look for a job that not only paid well but provided room for advancement. So she looked into the ACCES-VR program. There she learned how to drive and is now saving up for a car. Not long after completing the Medical Certification program successfully, she landed a job as a fulltime medical assistant with great benefits

Beyond her amazing accomplishments, Jerrisa is described as a great neighbor, friend, community member and inspiration to others.

Says Mariah, "Whether it's making coffee for some of our older tenants during community breakfast, or donating candy or toys when we celebrate another child's birthday, Jerrisa is empathetic and compassionate. It's an honor to witness her growth and success."

For her determination, grace and fierce dedication to herself and her family, we are delighted to honor Jerrisa White as one of our *Tenants of the Year*.

For more than 40 years, we've worked toward one mission: to make home and community places of pride, power and belonging.

Enterprise is proud to sponsor SHNNY's 2023 Awards Gala and we congratulate Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality & Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living.

Baaba Halm

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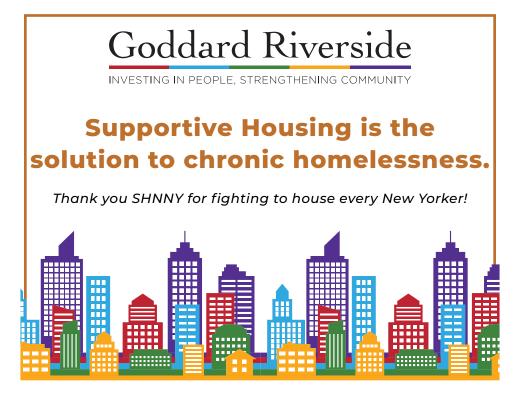
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to the Supportive Housing Network of New York
and 2023 Outstanding Tenants of the Year
Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality
Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living





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Thank you SHNNY for your leadership and innovation in creating housing solutions to help end homelessness in New York

We are proud to sponsor the The Supportive Housing Network of New York 2023 Awards Gala

Congratulations to the Honorees: Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality

Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living



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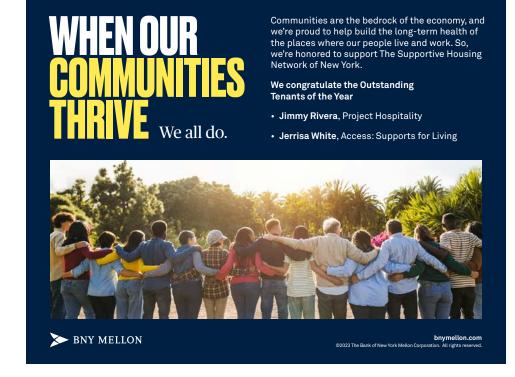
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Thank you SHNNY for your leadership towards building essential supportive housing throughout New York.



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JIMMY RIVERA, Project Hospitality

JERRISA WHITE, Access: Supports for Living









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2023 Awards Gala

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Jimmy Rivera,
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&
Jerrisa White,
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Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality and Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living



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Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality
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Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality

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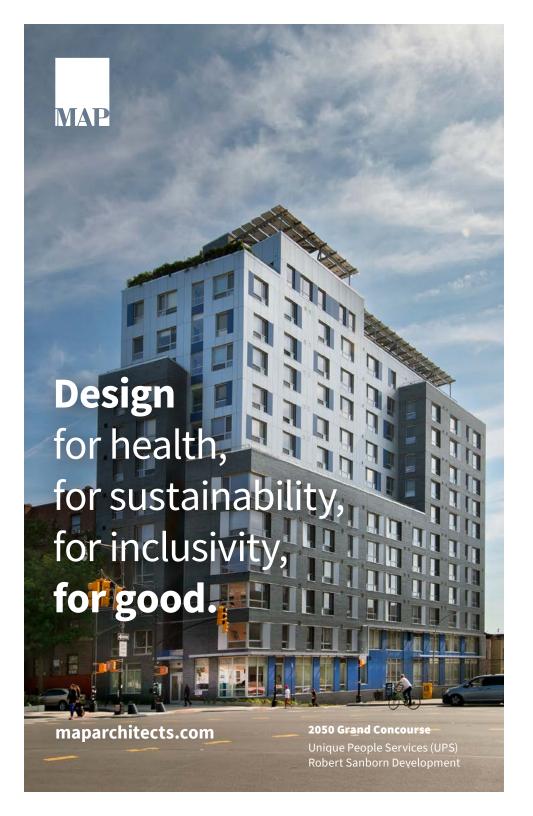
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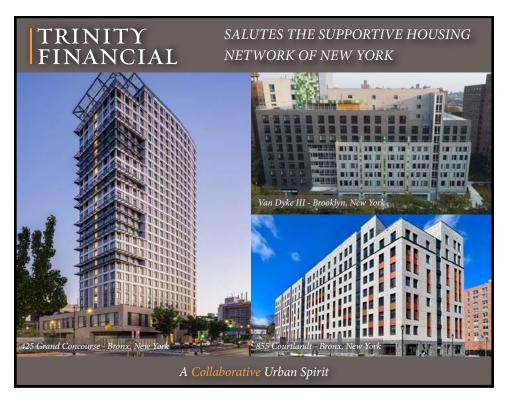


Nixon Peabody proudly joins

The Supportive Housing Network
of New York in celebrating the
accomplishments of the supportive
housing community over the past
year. We congratulate Jimmy
Rivera and Jerrisa White as the two
Outstanding Tenants of the Year.











CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING TENANTS OF THE YEAR, JERRISA WHITE AND JIMMY RIVERA!



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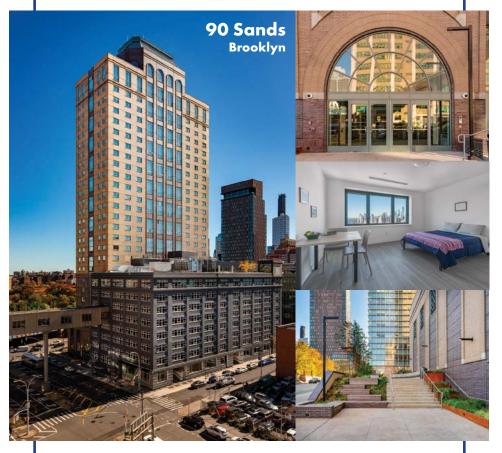


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Congratulations to the honorees.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 Outstanding Tenants of The Year

Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality &

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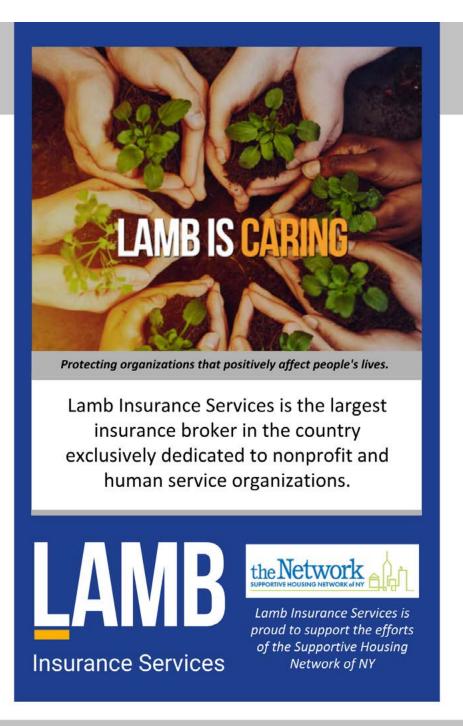
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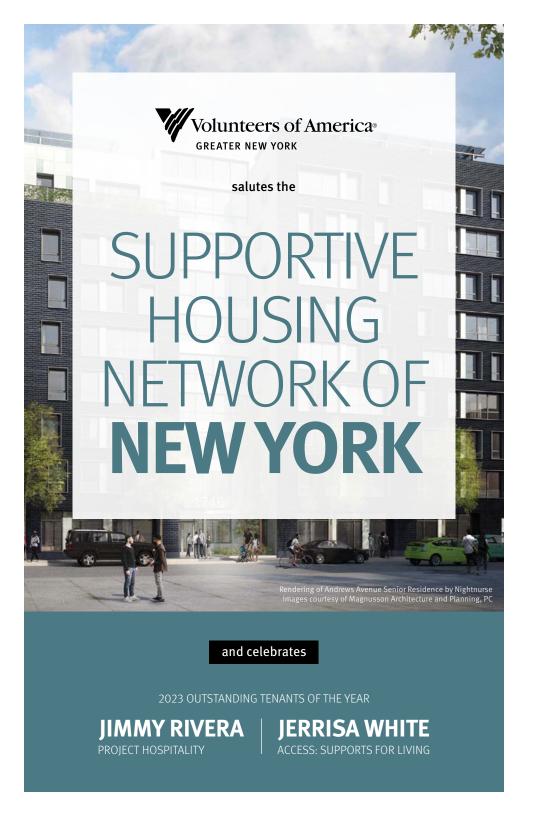
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We thank and congratulate this year's honorees:
Jimmy Rivera
Project Hospitality and
Jerrisa White
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Salutes *The Network* for its undaunting efforts to comprehensively champion the supportive housing sector's needs.



Jimmy Rivera, Project Hospitality
& Jerrisa White, Access: Supports for Living

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Congratulations
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Jimmy Rivera
and
Jerrisa White



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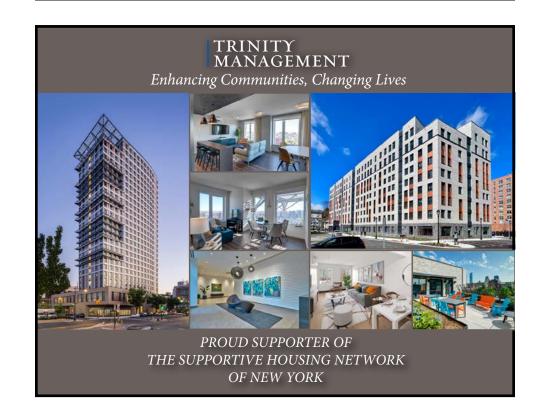


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Thank you to The Supportive Housing Network of New York for the work you do to make our whole community stronger.

Congratulations to this evening's honorees:

2023 Outstanding Tenants of the Year

Jimmy Rivera,

Project Hospitality

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Congratulations to all our amazing Tenant of the Year Nominees!

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Thank you to **Robert Calame** for designing the Gala materials.

Thank you to our members!

