The Supportive Housing Network of New York
2026 NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Nominate a tenant who has made an impact in their community and celebrate with us at our **2026 Annual Awards Gala on Monday, October 26th, from 6-9pm** at **Capitale, 130 Bowery, New York.***

Nomination deadline: Friday, August 21st: Submit via PDF application to: alee@shnny.org.

About the Award

Every year, the Supportive Housing Network of New York honors **1-2 supportive housing tenants** who have demonstrated leadership, personal growth, and made a positive impact on their supportive housing and/or wider community.

Selected honorees will be required to participate in the following:

- Work with the Network and our videographer in the **filming and creation of a 2-3-minute celebratory video** about them video that is screened at the gala and promoted on Network website and social media
- **Attend the Network's in-person gala** on October 26th, 6-9pm at Capitale, 130 Bowery, New York, NY and briefly accept their award on-stage after their video is screened.

Selected honorees will receive:

- Free admission to the 2026 Awards alongside their nominator and/or case manager
- A $250 gift certificate
- A physical award
- Recognition on the Network's website and social media in addition to at the gala
- Travel and lodging support for out-of-town honorees
- Free admission for both honoree and their nominator/case manager to the 2027 New York State Supportive Housing Conference

All nominees will be invited to a post-event breakfast celebration in early 2027 where they will receive a certificate of recognition.

Why nominate or encourage a tenant to apply?

This is a unique opportunity to:

- Shine a spotlight on a tenant's personal achievements.
- Celebrate transformative power of supportive housing.
- Inspire the broader community with their personal story and celebrate their impact.

Nomination Criteria:

- Nominees must:
  - **Be comfortable being filmed and featured in a 2–3-minute video**, including participation from trusted program staff, peers, or friends.
  - **Have lived in supportive housing for at least a year**, defined as: a permanent single-site residence or scattered site apartment program with on-site wrap-around services.
- Demonstrate how supportive housing has positively impacted their life.
- Have made a positive and inspirational mark, in ways that may include:
  - Demonstrated leadership within their building, local community, workplace, or school
  - Achieved personal milestones or growth since entering supportive housing
  - Showed resilience, creativity or initiative in the face of substantial challenges

Nomination instructions/requirements:

1. **Discuss opportunity/process with the tenant** and review past honorees to ensure interest:
   a. 2025: Helen Taylor and Jimmy Emmick;
   b. 2024: Maria del Consuelo Rodriguez and Sean Butterfield;
   c. 2023: Jimmy Rivera and Jerrisa White
2. **Confirm availability for:**
   - Filming a 2-3-minute video with peers and staff with Network videographer
   - Attending the gala on October 26th, 2026 from 6-9pm in NYC (no speech necessary)
3. **Submit the following to Ashanti Lee by Friday, August 21st to alee@shnny.org:**
   - **Completed Neighbor of the Year Nomination Application Form (Page 4)**
   - **A typed narrative** (maximum 500 words) written by the tenant, case manager, program director, or other trusted friend/partner, that:
     - Includes concrete examples of the individual's accomplishments, personal growth, leadership, community service or volunteer efforts
     - Explains the role supportive housing played in these accomplishments, along with descriptions/examples of reasons you'd like to celebrate the tenant
   - **Signed nomination consent form by tenant (Page 5)**
   - **One letter of reference** from a case manager, program director, or fellow tenant
   - A **photograph** of the tenant

Please note:

- Nominees must be supportive housing tenants
- Balance of state members are strongly encouraged to apply

- Previous nominees are welcome to re-apply.
- Due to space limitations, gala attendance is limited to selected honorees and their guests.

2026 NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION/APPLICATION

I. Tenant Information

Name: _____

Name of Residence: _____

Address: _____**City:** _____**Zip:** _____

Number of years as tenant: _____

II. Nominator Contact Information

Nominator: _____**Title:** _____

Provider/Agency: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

On a separate document, please share:

III. Narrative: Written by the tenant, a case manager, program director, or other trusted friend/partner:

Describe how supportive housing has helped you—or the tenant you're nominating—improve your life and achieve meaningful goals, with a special focus on community service and volunteer contributions.

Please include examples of:

- How the tenant has given back to their building, neighborhood, or broader community
- Personal growth and accomplishments since entering supportive housing
- Leadership, advocacy, or peer support efforts
- The role supportive housing has played in supporting these achievements

If possible, name individuals who have been part of the tenant's journey (e.g., neighbor, case manager, program director, friend) who could speak about their impact and take part in a short video if the nominee is selected.

2026 NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR CONSENT FORM

All tenants nominated must give their full consent. No nomination form will be accepted without the Tenant Consent Form.

I, _____ (*supportive housing tenant*), accept this nomination to be the Supportive Housing Network of New York's 2026 Neighbor of the Year. By accepting this nomination, I give my consent for the Supportive Housing Network of New York to contact _____ (*nominator's name*) to disclose personal information about my life experiences that have led me to succeed in supportive housing.

I give my consent for this information, including my photographic image, to be published in the Network's 2026 Annual Awards Gala program, the Network's website, social media channels, and in future marketing materials.

_____ _____

Tenant Signature **Date**