We are proud to sponsor the Supportive Housing Network of New York’s 2019 Annual Awards Gala. Working together, we can transform people's lives and the communities in which they live. Trust us to work with you for your affordable housing needs.
Welcome to the Supportive Housing Network of New York’s 2019 Awards Gala. Tonight, we celebrate our 31st year advocating—alongside more than 200 partner organizations—for supportive and affordable housing in New York.

2019 has been rewarding. This year we launched a preservation project to protect and preserve existing single and scattered site housing. As a result of our efforts and those of our partners, 14,000 existing units of scattered site housing are now safe from skyrocketing rent in NYC under rent stabilization and rent law reforms in Albany. We also advocated for and received additional funding for New York State’s supportive housing program under the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Because of the hard work of our colleagues in the Network and our allies in the community, we are now closer than ever to achieving the goal of 35,000 new supportive housing units as promised in the City’s NYC 15/15 Initiative and the State’s Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative.

In June we hosted the 19th Annual New York State Supportive Housing Conference. With a record number of over 1,800 people registered this year, it was the most successful conference to date, in both content and participant enthusiasm—and the largest convening of the supportive housing community in the country.

We're grateful for the work all of you do to further this movement and we're honored to have you here tonight—as friends, colleagues, and advocates—in recognition of our accomplishments and in support of our shared goal of ending homelessness in New York.

But in particular this evening, we are thrilled to welcome and honor New York City Council Member Stephen Levin as our Government Partner of the Year, for his leadership and commitment to supportive housing; and Linda Glassman, Deputy Commissioner, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, as the Unsung Hero of the Year, for her lifelong advocacy on behalf of homeless people.

We are also delighted to honor Bronx Pro Group, a for-profit neighborhood-based firm dedicated to community development through affordable housing investments and its non-profit partner, Services for the UnderServed as Partnership of the Year, for working together to create seven affordable/supportive housing developments, with more than 500 supportive housing units.

Finally, our very special guests of the evening are The Bridge tenant, Doniqua Earl, who experienced trauma in childhood foster care, but who persevered through the help of supportive housing services at the Herkimer, and who now holds a nursing certificate and faces a promising career; and Daniel Broome, tenant of Boston Road, who long struggled with drug addiction and spent five years living on the streets. Since moving into his new home, and with the help of Services for the UnderServed and Breaking Ground, Daniel has become filled with infectious joy and laughter and is a leader and mentor at his residence.

We’re excited to celebrate all this and more with our supportive housing community. Welcome to the 2019 Awards Gala!

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At every step of his career, Stephen Levin has truly talked the talk and walked the walk as one of supportive housing’s most effective champions. Elected to New York City Council in 2009, he represents the diverse communities of Greenpoint, Vinegar Hill, Dumbo, Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill, and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Williamsburg. Stephen has used his position strategically to proclaim supportive housing’s transformative power in communities and has earned a reputation of credibility and steadfastness.

Stephen was among the first in government to seriously ramp up the cause for a new NY/NY Agreement in City Council, holding a hearing about supportive housing’s benefits and participating in the Network’s conferences. In 2015, just after Mayor de Blasio announced his landmark NYC 15/15 commitment, Stephen led a rally at City Hall both to celebrate and to call on the Governor to match the city commitment. He then helped lead a City Council hearing and press conference to further amplify the need.

More recently, as Chair of the General Welfare Committee, Stephen held a hearing on the progress being made on NYC 15/15, which led to the addition of $100 million in last year’s budget to accelerate the development of congregate supportive housing.

Critically, Stephen’s commitment to supportive housing starts in his own backyard. He has long been a vocal supporter of Breaking Ground’s work in his district, most recently the addition of over 500 units of supportive and affordable housing beginning in 2020 with 90 Sands Street.

“Council Member Levin has shown us time and again that there is always a way,” said Brenda Rosen, President and CEO of Breaking Ground. “We are extremely grateful for his staunch support of The Schermerhorn, his visionary role in helping us to acquire 90 Sands Street, and his leadership in fighting to create more supportive housing for vulnerable New Yorkers.”

Stephen is leading the movement to build community and political support for supportive housing, co-authoring an op-ed with Council Member Rafael Salamanca last year and this year helping bring Los Angeles’ Everyone In campaign to New York City.

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson said, “Council Member Stephen Levin has been a fierce advocate for our most vulnerable New Yorkers and the need for supportive housing. He is a valuable partner in finding solutions for the homelessness crisis. I cannot ask for a better colleague and friend.”

For his outstanding integrity and commitment to supportive housing across the city, the Network is honored to name Stephen Levin Government Partner of the Year.
Persistence, shared values, and celebration of each other’s strengths—this is how close relationships are often described. This year, the Network honors two organizations that have cultivated these very things to build homes, earning them the inaugural Partnership of the Year Award.

“It was like love at first sight,” said Donna Colonna, CEO of Services for the UnderServed (S:US).

The organizations officially “met” in 2000, when Samantha Magistro, Managing Director of Bronx Pro Group, attended an S:US housewarming. Samantha was struck by S:US’s incredible work. After tours of each other’s properties, “it was clear that we had the right ingredients for a good partnership.” Their first joint venture (JV) was also Bronx Pro Group’s first: 1070 Washington Avenue.

“They were steeped in and respected by the community,” was one of Donna’s earliest observations about Bronx Pro Group. The two partners bonded over a shared, deep commitment to the Bronx community, which paved the way for subsequent JV projects at 3361 3rd Avenue and 2264 Morris Avenue.

“The organizations officially “met” in 2000, when Samantha Magistro, Managing Director of Bronx Pro Group, attended an S:US housewarming. Samantha was struck by S:US’s incredible work. After tours of each other’s properties, “it was clear that we had the right ingredients for a good partnership.” Their first joint venture (JV) was also Bronx Pro Group’s first: 1070 Washington Avenue.

“You can have a partnership where you’re just building buildings, and that’s great,” said Donna. “But we could tell from the start that this was going to be more than that.”

Bronx Pro Group and S:US have inspired us with a partnership as strong as the bedrock beneath the Bronx. We are thrilled to honor them with the Partnership of the Year Award.
Doniqua Earl carries a light within her that brightens every room she enters – a light she has cultivated through decades of hardship. After a grim life in foster care, Doniqua began a new chapter at The Bridge’s Herkimer Street Residence in November 2016. Initially wary of trusting anyone, she slowly began to believe that staff would stick by her and empower her with whatever she needed to become her best self. Soon, her wit, wisdom, hope, and generosity toward others were in full force, benefiting everyone around her.

“My dream is to shine, to be a survivor, and to be there for other people any way I can,” Doniqua said, describing her ambitions to pay it forward because of how much she has thrived at the Herkimer.

Even when she was withdrawn and guarded, “you could tell there was a fire behind her eyes,” said Danielle DeLaurenzo, Area Director at The Bridge. Doniqua’s history in foster care began when she was four years old and involved repeated uprooting between unstable and abusive living situations. She experienced years of physical abuse, neglect, and self-harm. But Doniqua has turned these very experiences into assets of empathy and advocacy in her new ambitions to care for others. “She has not only been an example to other residents, she has also taught staff through her experiences how to support clients on a more individual level,” Danielle said.

“She’s done everything possible to demonstrate how resilient she is,” said Liana Roman, Young Adult Case Manager at the Herkimer.

While doing the hard, brave work of diving into her own past to understand her trauma, Doniqua has taken advantage of every opportunity available to her. She pursued and completed training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, recently passing her licensing exam; she is now enrolling in an EKG certificate program to bolster her medical ambitions. She also taught herself how to ride a bike, is getting a driver’s license, and is planning for college. She is an active volunteer in nursing homes through New York Cares, saying, “Just being there for someone who has no one else, no family – I can relate to that. There’s always something I can talk about.”

Doniqua has become a model and an advocate for her peers at home, personifying transformation and turning her life experiences into points of connection with others around her. In light of her bravery, hope, and magnanimous spirit, we are honored to name Doniqua a 2019 Tenant of the Year.

Outstanding Tenant of the Year
Doniqua Earl
The Bridge
Daniel's story “exemplifies victory over the many traumatic events people face in the severely underserved community,” said Celso Castillo, Jr., Daniel’s Wellness Coach through Services for the UnderServed (S:US), a partner with Breaking Ground running 1191 Boston Road where Daniel lives. Once surrounded by a family, his life was slowly ravaged by a long struggle with drug addiction, which at one climactic moment contributed to his falling off a roof six floors up. The impact shattered the bones in both his legs, leading to a double amputation and a 19-month hospital stay. Upon his release, Daniel spent over five years on the streets without a stable home, sleeping in hallways and door frames, suffering third-degree burns, and continuing to battle addiction.

But among the most significant moments in Daniel’s life is when, after years of hiding from a local Breaking Ground street outreach team, he realized “they were offering me a second chance.” With their assistance, Daniel moved off the street and into 1191 Boston Road in 2016.

His transition into a full life at the residence was “a beautiful transformation,” according to Dimas Tollinchi-Castro, Assistant Program Director of the residence through S:US. Daniel admitted to being surprised that “they didn’t kick me out, when a lot of other people would have.” Before long, with the support of staff, “like a butterfly” Daniel became a public and welcome figure around the hallways and common spaces, cracking wheelchair-related jokes like, “I’m a stand-up guy!” and “OW! My feet!” to passersby before smiling broadly at them.

Daniel has been repeatedly recognized by his community for his leadership and dedication both to others and to self-improvement. He plays an instrumental role in the residence in the way he encourages others in their personal goals. Daniel is actively involved in a Writer’s Club – even winning the National Library of Poetry’s Critics Choice Award. “He’s like a brother,” said Martin Weeks, a close friend, neighbor, and member of the club, “and seeing him every day is something I look forward to.”

“I’ve been through so much, and to think about where I am today… I go to bed with a smile on my face,” Daniel said. “If I can do it, anybody can do it.”

For his tenacity and humor in the face of hardship, Daniel is more than deserving of the title of 2019 Tenant of the Year.
Services for the UnderServed (S:US) congratulates Bronx Pro Group, an amazing partner in developing communities we care about.

We applaud Daniel Broome, Tenant of the Year. You are an inspiration to us all!

Linda Glassman is the epitome of an unsung hero: a visionary, often behind the scenes, in the fight to end homelessness for New York’s most vulnerable for over 40 years.

For the last 11 years, Linda has led the field through her role at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). She is currently Deputy Commissioner for Housing, Refugee Services, and Disability Determinations, overseeing the hugely important Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP), which has helped fund over 16,000 units of supportive housing.

Some of the state’s most critical supportive housing programs have Linda’s tenacity and strategic mind to thank for survival, including the NYS Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), for which she played a key role securing funding over the last several years. In 2011, she and her staff masterminded the restructuring of OTDA’s supportive housing service programs, merging the former Supportive Housing for Families and Young Adults program with the former SRO program.

“All of us at OTDA are excited that Linda is receiving this honor and grateful to her for her countless amazing accomplishments over the years of service to New York State,” said NYS OTDA Commissioner Mike Hein. “She is a thoughtful, compassionate, and tireless leader, fully committed to the idea that supportive housing is fundamental to helping people experiencing homelessness get on a path to stability and independence.”

Before entering government work, Linda was a trailblazer in the nonprofit world, taking on the cause of some of the most vulnerable populations across the state. She served as Executive Director of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York and, after that, as the first Executive Director of the Albany-based CARES, Inc. for 15 years.

“Linda is a driving force for helping persons experiencing homelessness and unstable housing across New York State,” said Perry Junjulas, Executive Director of the Albany Damien Center. “Her support of grassroots organizations such as ours since the start of the epidemic continues to change lives to this very day.”

Linda played a key role in the statewide implementation of Continuum of Care programs beginning in 1994. She was an indispensable part of building New York’s first-ever Interagency Council on Homelessness and in 2008 was entrusted with creating her agency’s Center for Specialized Services, which at the time included its entire homeless housing and prevention portfolio.

“For a career of championing the most difficult causes and seeing them through to success, the Network is proud to name Linda Glassman The Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero of the Year.”
Mega Contracting Group congratulates this year's honorees:

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We also wish to recognize this year’s most deserving honorees:

**Government Partner**
Stephen Levin

**Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero**
Linda Glassman

**Partnership of the Year**
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A special note to all the nominees for Tenant of the Year ~ We wish you the best of luck and sincere congratulations!

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Partnership of the Year
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We would like to thank all of our members for the amazing work you do every day

Laura, Joelle, Maclain, Nina, Lauren, Kimberly, Tierra, Stephen, Rebecca, Cynthia

Congratulations to the Honorees:

Stephen Levin
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2019 Tenants of the Year

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Congratulations to Supportive Housing Network of New York
And its 2019 honorees Stephen Levin, Linda Glassman, And Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed

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Congratulations
Supportive Housing Network of New York
and to tonight’s Honorees

Stephen Levin
Linda Glassman
Bronx Pro Group &
Services for the UnderServed

for your dedication and hard work. Best Wishes to the
Tenants of the Year
on this well-deserved acknowledgment.

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Wishing everyone a wonderful Time at The 2019 Awards Gala!

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SHNNY’s 2019 Network Gala

_Congratulations to all the honorees!_

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Learn more about our range of housing programs.

866-888-7880
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We believe stable housing is an essential foundation for a healthy, independent life.
Congratulations to tonight’s honorees! We proudly support the Supportive Housing Network of New York.

Congratulations to The Supportive Housing Network of New York on another year of substantial progress towards ending homelessness.
We proudly support
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Congratulations to the 2019 Awardees
Stephen Levin
Linda Glassman
Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed
And the Tenant of the Year

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CONGRATULATIONS!

The Network and all tonight’s honorees

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Volunteers of America salutes

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STEPHEN LEVIN
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Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero

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Deputy Commissioner,
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Partnership of the Year

BRONX PRO GROUP &
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We would also like to recognize the 2019 Tenants of the Year

Congratulates

THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NEW YORK

In celebrating their

2019 AWARDS GALA

Special Congratulations to all the Honerees

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CONGRATULATIONS to the Supportive Housing Network of New York on its 2019 Gala and this year’s Honorees.

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Congratulations to the 2019 Award Recipients

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THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NEW YORK FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 HONOREES

Stephen Levin
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Linda Glassman
Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed

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Congratulations to The Supportive Housing Network of New York and all the honorees!

Thank you to SHNNY for helping us to open our two new supportive housing facilities in Bedford-Stuyvesant which will bring us to 89 total permanent housing units for families and individuals.

We are so grateful for your support.

PROVIDENCE HOUSE
703 Lexington Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11221
www.providencehouse.org
We are proud to continue our support of The Supportive Housing Network of New York and this year’s Awards Gala.

Congratulations to the 2019 Honorees:

**Stephen Levin**

**Linda Glassman**

_Bronx Pro Group & Services for the Underserved & Tenant of the Year, including Doniqua E._!
Congratulations to the Supportive Housing Network of New York Gala honorees!

Stephen Levin
Government Partner

Linda Glassman
Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero

Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed
Partnership of the Year

Empire celebrates those who serve others.

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Congratulations 2019 SHNNY winners and honorees!

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BRC proudly salutes
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Congratulations to the 2019 honorees!
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Congratulations
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In celebrating Supportive Housing Community’s Greatest Achievements and Most Ambitious Advocates

Government Sector Partner
Stephen Levin
New York City Council Member, District 33

Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero
Linda Glassman
Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Partnership of the Year
Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed

Congratulation to all Supportive Housing Tenants of the year

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www.shnny.org

Thank you to Robert Calame for designing and Starcraft Press for printing the Gala materials.
As a supporter of The Network, we congratulate the recipient of the Government Sector Partner Award

Stephen Levin
New York City Council Member,
the recipient of Tim O’Hanlon Unsung Hero Award

Linda Glassman
Deputy Commissioner,
NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance,
the recipients of the Partnership of the Year Awards

Bronx Pro Group & Services for the UnderServed
and congratulations to the

2019 Tenants of the Year.