Welcome Message
From Joseph L. Riley
Executive Director/CEO GEC

Hi and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thank you all for joining us. Watching our virtual presentation and reading this journal are choices you have made. By making those choices you are demonstrating an interest in the Guild for Exceptional Children, and we are so thankful that many of you have decided to help support our mission of serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. GEC is lucky to have loyal supporters like you!

I also want to say a special thank you to all of our generous sponsors and our wonderful honorees. Having your support means the world to us at GEC and affirms what we already know...there are some very good people in this world!

You are likely already aware of this, as so many of us try to reconcile with a post pandemic society, but like so many businesses, COVID hit us hard.

Pre-pandemic, GEC was serving about 700 individuals and providing support to their families. We also employed 531 staff. We definitely lost a step due to COVID. Because of some program closures made necessary during the pandemic, and staffing losses, we are down about 20% from where we were, but are working very hard to build that back up. We recently relocated one of our day programs that had been closed since the start of the pandemic, from Marine Park to the Knights of Columbus building in Dyker Heights. We are looking to continue to reopen space and hire new staff.

Staffing has been a problem for many businesses post-COVID. It seems that so many people have left the workforce. Who can say why? Some people were not prepared for the toll that COVID would take on their family, some have underlying conditions that put them at risk, some people think that enhanced unemployment encouraged people to stay home. I think that the past year and a half have given people a chance to examine their life choices, to consider how they choose to spend their lives. Did I make the right choices in life? Am I living a good life?

When faced with that question I can’t help but turn to my favorite Holiday story (the holidays are right around the corner, after all!). In a Christmas Carol I think the most important scene is when Scrooge is confronted by the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley. Marley tells him that no amount of eternal regret can make up for a life’s opportunities misused, and goes on to tell him about the heavy chain he has forged for every self-serving decision he made. “But you were always a good man of business!” Scrooge replied. But then Marley wails “Mankind was my business, the common welfare was my business, charity, mercy, forbearance,
benevolence were all my business!” The theme of course being that making money is not the most important thing, **putting people first-serving others should always be at the forefront.**

**At GEC humankind is our business.** We are fortunate to have friends and supporters like you who hold the **same values.** During the pandemic we had many angels in the community who stepped up, local politicians and local citizens, who made donations of money, meals, & supplies to our agency. Our honorees all made special contributions during the pandemic, that gave hope and comfort to the people in our care and the people providing that care. Thank you!

**GEC is fortunate to have so many friends who make humankind their business!**

So, at the risk of sounding heavy handed, as the Holiday season approaches and we all try to struggle through the isolation the pandemic has left us with, **I am asking you to make charity, mercy, and benevolence part of your business!** Please continue to support the GEC in any way you can as we carry on our 63 year legacy of Building Better Lives for People with Developmental Disabilities, and thank you!

With Deep Gratitude,

Joseph L. Riley, GEC CEO
Welcome Message  
From Frank J. Sena PdD  
President GEC Board of Directors  

Dear Friends of the GEC,

Good evening and welcome to the GEC virtual Thanks for Giving Celebration and commemorative Journal. As Board President, thank you on behalf of all the Directors for attending and for all the support that you have given the GEC over the years.

We had hoped to be together in person but in planning this event were concerned that not all guests would be comfortable in person. Nevertheless, we are together online and do have an exciting program for you tonight including some heartwarming stories about truly wonderful people, as well as raffles and prizes to win. We also hope you will enjoy “paging” through this Journal and appreciating the testimonials and generosity of the many contributors.

The events surrounding the recent 20th anniversary of 9/11 gave me some food for thought as I began to frame my remarks for tonight’s celebration. As much as I did not want to relive those horrible events, two images always playback in my mind. I see one very large group of people concerned about themselves running from the danger of the collapsing towers and a much smaller group of people running towards the destruction more concerned for the wellbeing of others.

In our small way at the GEC we are celebrating our second group of people in another time of great danger who were concerned about the wellbeing of others.

During the darkest days of the pandemic, when the medical experts disagreed on everything, when politics clouded judgements, and before the vaccines provided light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel, there were again two groups of people. One large group sheltered in place doing all they could to protect themselves and their immediate family, and another smaller group who looked beyond their quarantine and found ways to help others in greater need. This second group had all of the same fears and anxieties as everyone else but had the spirit of God to reach out and find ways to help others in greater need at the GEC.

How fortunate are we tonight to recognize these remarkable people for their efforts! How fortunate are we to use whatever our meager language skills can offer in these pages to express our thanks! How fortunate will we be to meet them in person and offer a few words of acknowledgement!

Tonight, the entire GEC community recognizes and thanks: Marion Cleaver, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Allan Greenberg, Taylor Harlow, Debra Mirabella, Gary Mirabella and Susan Sahm for their efforts to assist the GEC during the darkest days of the pandemic.

Thank you and enjoy the program.
Dear Distinguished Honorees,

I want to congratulate you all for being recognized as a 2021 Distinguished Honoree by the Guild for Exception Children. The work you have done to support children and adults living with developmental disabilities is truly remarkable, and you should be extremely proud.

The Guild for Exceptional Children has been a cornerstone of the New York City community for decades, providing critical support to children and families in need. The stability and educational resources they offer to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families truly makes our community a better place for all.

Thank you again for going above and beyond to support the Guild for Exceptional Children and all they do to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities live productive lives.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress
November 1, 2021

Guild for Exceptional Children
260 68th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

Dear Friends:

I am so pleased to offer my congratulations to all of the volunteers and contributors who have been selected as the 2021 Guild for Exceptional Children honorees. It is truly a mark of distinction to be nominated for such an honor by an organization as dedicated to the community as the Guild. I, too, am proud to have a strong partnership with the Guild. My office has been pleased to provide pumpkins, coloring books and holiday toys to the amazing students there over the past several years.

After reviewing the contributions that each of you have made, both independently and collectively to the Guild, it is clear that you have earned the merit of this honor. Thank you for utilizing your skills and volunteering your time to improve the lives of the students, families, and faculty at the Guild and helping to keep everyone safe during an unprecedented time. The altruism that you have shown through your contributions to this organization during the COVID-19 public health crisis represent the very best in humanity; the ability to give under the most difficult circumstances is true benevolence.

Your service and commitment to the Guild for Exceptional Children is a remarkable gift to the community. Thank you for your commitment to serving those in need in southern Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes
Member of Senate
November 19, 2021

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the citizens of the 23rd Senate District, I would like to congratulate the Guild for Exceptional Children on the occasion of their Thanks for Giving Celebration, on this day, the 19th of November, 2021. Tonight we are celebrating the work of the GEC and their members who have gone above and beyond to support the children and adults living with developmental disabilities.

I would like to congratulate tonight’s honorees; Marion Cleaver, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Allan Greenberg, Taylor Harlow, Debra Mirabella, Gary Mirabella, and Susan Sahm. Congratulations again on this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Diane J. Savino
NYS Senator, District 23
November 19th, 2021

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my best wishes to all the outstanding members of the Guild for Exceptional Children on your Thanks for Giving Celebration Virtual Gala.

For over sixty years, the Guild for Exceptional Children (GEC) has provided residential services and valuable social opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. GEC is a community-based organization that prides itself on offering compassionate personalized services to all, with the ultimate goals of maximizing the potential of everyone that you serve. The past year and a half we have all faced an unprecedented pandemic. During this time our honorees have gone above and beyond in aiding the GEC. Whether it be through providing much needed PPE, organizing interactive virtual events, or securing funding to continue the amazing programs being offer, these honorees have stepped up and helped achieve greatness is an enormous time of need.

I also would like to congratulate your dedicated honorees, Marion Cleaver, Allan Greenberg, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Susan Sahm, Taylor Harlow and Debra and Gary Mirabella for their exemplary services and dedication to our community.

Again, continued success to all associated with the Guild for Exceptional Children now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
Member of Assembly
October 26, 2021

The Guild for Exceptional Children
260 68th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

Dear Friends,

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the whole community at the Guild for Exceptional Children on the occasion of your Thanks For Giving Celebration & 2021 Virtual Gala. Your work in our community, borough and city is worthy of recognition.

Your commitment to serving and enriching the lives of children, adults, and seniors with developmental and intellectual disabilities is beyond commendable. Your services from day programming, to professional support and job placement, to housing and in-home care have proven absolutely essential to your individuals and their families. And the selfless, supportive, fun-loving example you set for everyone in our community inspires us all to do what we can for our friends, neighbors, and those most vulnerable.

I also want to congratulate your honorees, several of whom are personal friends. Marion Cleaver & Allan Greenberg, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Susan Sahm & Taylor Harlow, and Debra & Gary Mirabella all exemplify the same spirit of service that enlivens GEC’s work.

For everything you provide to the people of South Brooklyn and beyond, I thank you. I am honored to join you in celebrating this great event. Please accept my sincere congratulations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

New York City Councilman, 43rd District
Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst
Ken Rosato is anchor of Channel 7's top-rated Eyewitness News This Morning and spent a decade anchoring Eyewitness News at Noon.

Ken joined the Eyewitness News Team as a freelance reporter in 2003 and was named morning and noon anchor in 2007. He came to WABC-TV from New York's WNYWTV, where he was a reporter and anchored the morning and midday news. Before that, he worked as a news anchor and reporter at WFOR-TV in Miami/Fort Lauderdale, where was nominated for a Suncoast Emmy Award.

Earlier, Ken worked as an anchor for WETM-TV in Elmira/Binghamton, NY where he was honored with a New York State Associated Press Award. He also worked as News Director and anchor at WLNY-TV and regularly appeared as a commentator on WLIW-TV's "21 Edition." On radio, Ken anchored the news on the nation's premiere all-news radio station, 1010 WINS and was News Director and main anchor at Long Island's WBLI-FM.

Ken received his BFA in Television and Radio from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and his MA in languages - he speaks five fluently, including Spanish and Italian, and has been honored five times with the New York Emmy Award.

The GEC extends our most sincere appreciation to Ken for his continued support as Master of Ceremonies for the past 8 years.
GEC's Exceptional Leaders

**Founder**
Julia Carosella*

**Founding Mothers**
Pauline Agro*
Olga DeFelippo*
Helen Dukes*
Mae Dougherty*
Edith Robertson*
Mary Sabatelle*

**Charter Members**
Olga DeFelippo*  Founding President
Senator Emeritus William T. Conklin*  Honorary President
Honorable Luigi R. Marano*  Honorary Vice President
Mary Sabatelle*  Treasurer
Julia Carosella*  Founder

**Past Presidents**
Olga DeFelippo*
Pauline Agro*
Anthony Raimondi
Peter Catalanotto*
Jeannette Cassone*
Mary Santangelo*
Calvin Fischetti*
Anthony Santoro
Anthony Cetta
Arlene Rutuelo

*Deceased
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GUIDANCE / EXCELLENCE / COMMUNITY
Building Brighter Futures Since 1958
Mission Statement

"To help children and adults living with developmental disabilities lead dignified and satisfying lives, reaching their fullest potential and assisting families in every step of their journey."

Vision Statement

"The GEC is dedicated to providing exceptional support and services that will enable children and adults to lead respected and fulfilling lives in their community."

The GEC salutes and honors Ken Rosato an "Exceptional" Master of Ceremonies. Thank you for your support and friendship throughout the years!
Our Services and Programs
Carrie Mastronardi Early Childhood Education Center
Pre-School and UPK

Residential Services
Jessie & William Conklin Residence: 310 67th Street
Joseph DeFelippo Residence: 216 Ovington Avenue
Gabriel P. Martini Residence: 311 Senator Street
Hon. Luigi R. Marano Residence: 541 72nd Street
Lucy Quinones Residence: 350 85th Street
Jeannette & Frank Cassone Residence: 7015 Colonial Road
Charter House: 27 Marine Avenue
Mary Santangelo Residence: 8910 Colonial Road
Olga's House: 619 73rd Street
Narrows Residence: 7001 Narrows Avenue
Harry English Residence: 443 72nd Street
Andrew Sichenze, Esq. Residence: 170 88th Street
Josephine Sedita Residence: 918 79th Street
Supportive Apartments

Programs
Mastronardi Day Habilitation Program
Hope C. Morrison Day Habilitation Center
Peter J. Mulligan Day Habilitation Program
Day Habilitation Without Walls Program
(operating from John Hughes Council,
Knights of Columbus)
Family Support Services
"Four Seasons“ Senior Day Center
Greenhouse & Horticultural Therapy Program(suspended
due to Covid 19)
Art & Ceramics Program
Social Recreation Programs
Wellness Center (suspended due to Covid 19)
Music Therapy Program
Many Thanks to Our Major Sponsors for Their Generosity and Support!

**Co-Event Sponsor**

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Many Thanks to Our Major Sponsors for Their Generosity and Support!

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Patricia Romano- Turkey Lottery Basket
Joseph Riley – Johnnie Walker Basket
Ann and Richard Scott – Ocean Walk Condo Stay
Marine Park Golf Course Certificates
Paul and Gerri Cassone – Gift Card
A Special Acknowledgement!

The Guild for Exceptional Children would like to thank those who attended the “Virtual Thanks for Giving Celebration,” participated in the Virtual Journal, contributed to the Raffle or made a donation of any kind.

Your generosity and support are deeply appreciated!
The GEC will at all times provide high quality, individually tailored and reliable services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

We STRIVE Each Day To Adhere To The Following Values:

**Service** –
We demonstrate each day that we recognize the importance and worth of the individuals in our care and the GEC exists solely to serve them, helping them live fuller and more productive lives.

**Teamwork** –
We recognize that the best results are achieved when all stakeholders work together to achieve a mutually valued and agreed upon goal. We strive to demonstrate the phrase: **TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE**

**Respect** –
We respect the individuality and diversity of the individuals in our care, as well as their families and our fellow workers. We strive to provide an atmosphere where ALL can learn and grow together. We respect the resources, facilities and equipment with which we have been entrusted and strive to work efficiently and economically.

**Integrity** –
We hold ourselves accountable to the individuals in our care and the families who have entrusted their family members to us. We strive every day to treat people we serve and those who work with us in a manner that we ourselves would like to be treated.

**Vision** –
We strive to help the individuals in our care lead lives where they are valued by others in the community and appreciated for what they can achieve and contribute. We strive to keep the “big picture” in mind at all times and attend to the details of care that contribute to the fulfillment of our Mission and create a “quality” experience for those we serve.

**Excellence** –
We provide top notch, person-centered, individually tailored services in clean, aesthetically pleasing and helpful environments and are dependable in our service delivery 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
We Would Like to Thank Our Donors for Their Generosity!

Linda Ann Allegretti
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Petrillo Family
Rosalie Renda
Jane & Anthony Scotto
Jean & Nicholas Serro
Louise Tuorto
Vicki & Jim Tweel
Daniela Vitale
Heaven’s Very Special Child

A meeting was held quite far from Earth!
It's time again for another birth.
Said the Angels to the LORD above,
This Special Child will need much love.
His progress may be very slow,
Accomplishments he may not show.
And he'll require extra care
From the folks he meets down there.
He may not run or laugh or play,
His thoughts may seem quite far away,
In many ways he won't adapt,
And he'll be known as handicapped.
So let's be careful where he's sent,
We want his life to be content.
Please LORD, find the parents who
Will do a special job for you.
They will not realize right away
The leading role they're asked to play,
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger faith and richer love.
And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for their gift from Heaven.
Their precious charge, so meek and mild,
Is HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD.

by Edna Massionilla
December 1981
The Guild for Exceptional Children Honors
in Memoriam
The Children and Adults
Who Were in Our Care
and
Their Parents Who Worked to Support the Mission

"Building Brighter Futures"
For Their Children
and
Future Generations
A Special Thanks
to
The GEC Development Committee for
Their Fundraising Efforts

Peter Ferraiuolo, Esq. Chairman
Geraldine Cassone
Anthony Cetta
Marion Cleaver
Marguerite Colantoni
Arlene Keating
Caroline Mansuetto
Joseph Riley
Rosina Linda Rubino
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Celeste Sena
Frank Sena, PhD
The Tree of Life

Sponsorship of a leaf or stone provides the donor with an opportunity to give an exceptional gift for all occasions. It is a permanent tribute to memorialize a loved one or commemorate a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. This beautiful bronze tree is prominently displayed in the lobby of GEC's main building. The net proceeds from the "Tree of Life" program help support the Building Fund.

For information on how you can sponsor a leaf or stone, please contact the Development Office at 718-833-6633 ext.228
Distinguished Honorees

Marion Cleaver and Allan Greenberg

Marion Cleaver has been on GEC’s Board of Directors for many years. Marion and her husband Allan Greenberg helped raise contributions, and PPE supplies for the GEC during COVID. Recently, Marion and Allan hosted and coordinated a Virtual Bingo game to benefit our organization. The GEC welcomes this opportunity to honor Marion and Allan for their “exceptional” dedication and support during these difficult times.

Marion: I became involved in the GEC over 20 years ago. My Aunt, Mildred, had been living with her mother and when she passed my sister and I began taking care of her. At the time, I had a two-bedroom apartment which I was sharing with a teenage daughter and Carol had a one-bedroom apartment. We tried having Mildred live in the house she had shared with her mother, of course with the assistance of aides, but the aides were not trained in assisting developmentally disabled individuals and she needed more than five hours a day of care. Fortunately we found the GEC and the GEC in the form of Olga’s house found Mildred.

Allan: I met Marion 21 years ago. Mildred was living at Olga’s house and I fell in love with this feisty, older woman, who loved bowling, art classes, dances, shopping in Rite Aid, parties and watches and lived in a warm, wonderful house – Olga’s house – which was staffed with incredible individuals.

Marion: I wanted to do more for the GEC when I retired. I became active in the membership, joined the Finance Committee (with my financial background from NYC), attended events, ran for the Board. We would contribute and partake in any and all fundraising activities.

Allan: And, of course, I was part of whatever she signed up to do!
Marion and Allan: Then, COVID-19 reared its ugly head. The Guild went on lockdown in April, 2020. The staff was staying in the residences 24/7 for a week at a time. We wanted to do something for the staff and the residents and decided to send dinner of their choosing on Thursdays which could be considered mid-week. Whatever they wanted, they got. Fortunately, Bay Ridge was a mecca of restaurants willing to deliver!

Allan: Although we weren’t allowed to visit the house, we were in constant contact and if something was needed, whether it was hand sanitizer, paper towels, whatever, if we could get it, we did. Marion did run out of the car to say “Hi!” to Mildred and her housemates the day we rode around Bay Ridge with balloons tied to the car and horns blaring – the GEC’s way of saying thank you to all the staff who had put their own lives on hold.

Marion and Allan: So, we are saying THANK YOU to the Management and Staff of the GEC for being a very special and caring group of people who are devoted to the organization and the individuals in their care. And we are also saying THANK YOU to our fellow honorees for their contributions to the organization during this extraordinary period.

*Marion & Allan*
John Cronin

John Cronin is a long-time GEC supporter and friend. For the past 11 years, John has been the co-chair of GEC’s Golf Outing. During COVID in 2020 and 2021 he actively reached out to his colleagues to support the GEC and raised major contributions for the event. We are sincerely grateful to John for being dedicated to GEC’s mission of care and are pleased to honor him tonight.

John Cronin obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from St. John’s University. After earning his degree, John worked as an auditor at Deloitte and Touche focusing on Investment and Private Equity Companies. His experience there further ignited his passion for business and propelled him to his next venture.

In 2003, John started Pride Transportation Services, Inc. to provide transportation for Pre-K and school-age children in New York. John’s contract management and close supervision expanded Pride from 20 buses to currently over 400 buses. In 2007, with the success and growth of Pride Transportation Services, Inc., he founded Bella Bus, Corp. providing transportation for day treatment and/or day rehabilitation services for individuals with developmental disabilities. With his focus on safe and reliable transportation, John added transportation for the New York City homeless to shelters and intake centers throughout the city. Bella Bus, Corp. currently run over 80 buses in the City of New York.

Another passion of John’s is working within the community, specifically with Adapt Community Network helping with their Santa Project Party, Family Fun Day, and Golf Event. He is also involved with Human First and the Shield Institute’s Bowling Nights. John is heavily active with the Guild for Exceptional Children; he is the Co-Chair of their Golf Committee and involved with their other fundraising activities.
Distinguished Honoree

Kelly Graham

Kelly Graham is a member of the business community who strived to bring about a strong sense of community during the pandemic. Kelly coordinated and raised funds to provide and deliver holiday meals to individuals who live in GEC’s 17 residential homes. We greatly thank Kelly for bringing “good cheer” and “delicious meals” for our residents to enjoy.

Kelly was born and raised in Bay Ridge Brooklyn. She is married to her husband Andrew for 21 years. The couple has twins named Emily & John. Her son John has Down Syndrome. Kelly stated, “my kids teach us new things every day.” Kelly and Andrew are so proud of their children. Currently, Kelly works with special needs children as a paraprofessional for the Department of Education. She is taking college classes in Early Childhood Education. In her spare time she likes listening to music, and make yummy chocolate treats. Kelly is very motivated to help others. She coordinates fundraisers for schools, people in need, and organizations.
Distinguished Honorees

Gary and Debra Mirabella

Debra and Gary Mirabella’s great concern for individuals living with developmental disabilities was clearly apparent during the pandemic. They generously donated masks, and other PPE supplies to help keep our individuals safe. As advocates of health and fitness the GEC is deeply grateful to Debra and Gary for providing complimentary virtual fitness classes for GEC’s program participants. In addition, Debra and Gary raised contributions to purchase tablets for GEC’s individuals. We thank them for making a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs.

For the past 4+ years, husband and wife Gary and Debra Mirabella have been helping people improve their health at THE MAX Challenge of Bay Ridge. Originally a Marketing executive in the insurance industry, Debra transformed her health and her life through the Max Challenge Program and is now dedicated to helping others do the same. Gary, a former Sales Manager has joined his wife in the mission to help people live their best life possible through daily fitness classes, nutrition counseling, and motivation and in any way they can.

Debra and Gary are proud of the fact that THE MAX Challenge brings people together. “It’s a warm and welcoming place where people from all walks of life come together and try to live their best life,” she said. They thoroughly enjoyed getting to know members of the Guild family in their daily Zoom workouts during quarantine.

The Mirabella’s aren’t just changing lives inside their center – they’re also helping the larger Bay Ridge community. In addition to their support of the Guild with virtual classes and financial donations from fundraisers in 2020-21, THE MAX of Bay Ridge raised over $25K for the Christian J Santo Legacy Foundation and over $28,000 for Bridge to Youth over the past few years. Both are local, 100% volunteer-based, non-profit organizations dedicated to supporting the developmental, social and physical needs of children.
Distinguished Honorees

Susan Sahm and Taylor Nieman Harlow

Though separated by 3,000 miles, Susan Sahm and Taylor Harlow came together to coordinate a “Go Fund Me” campaign to support GEC’s Director Service Providers who cared for GEC’s program participants and residents during COVID’s “Shelter in Place” days. We thank this dynamic duo for helping support the GEC during these critical times.

My name is Susan Sahm and I have been employed with the Guild for Exceptional Children for more than thirty-five years. My original interest in the special education population stemmed from my volunteer experience at the Mid-Hudson Valley Camp as a high school senior. It is there I saw the unique talents of individuals with developmental disabilities and my career path was slowly being launched. I pursued a special education degree from Saint John’s University while being employed part time as a direct support professional at GEC. My years of hands on work with this populace taught me a great deal about myself and the world around me. When I was working as a DSP at the Guild, it truly became my home away from home. I began to see the great need for clinical interventions and supports for this population and went on to pursue my master’s degree in clinical social work at Hunter College. Being a social worker in the residential department allowed me to help individuals with developmental disabilities on a macro level. I ensured entitlements, helped create and implement behavioral plans, in-serviced staff and facilitated groups with individuals. Currently, I work as an administrator in the residential department, where I ensure regulation compliance while creating and maintaining healthy, safe and familial environments for individuals to thrive in.

Taylor Nieman is the Co-Founder and CEO of Toucan. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Taylor graduated from Cornell University in 2013 and spent over a decade building and scaling some of Los Angeles’ most notable startups including Headspace, Pop, and Fair. These days, she is on a mission to make the world bilingual with Toucan, an industry-leading browser extension that teaches you a new language while browsing the web. The GEC thanks Taylor for helping raise needed contributions during the beginning months of COVID.
Congratulations to all the Staff at The Guild for the wonderful work you do!

Dr. Noel DeFelippo
Dr. Michele Visconti & Vivienne DeFelippo
We join in celebrating the work of the 2021 Honorees!

For their efforts on behalf of the GEC during the worst of times.

You are sincerely appreciated!

Frank, Celeste, and Elizabeth Sena
We honor, sincerely thank, applaud, and deeply appreciate the 2021 Honorees for their efforts on behalf of the GEC.

In memory of a truly exceptional man.

A loving Husband - Father - Grandfather - Supreme Court Justice

Gerard H. Rosenberg

The Rosenberg Family
Congratulations to GEC’s Honorees & Their Families

Thank you for all you do for the GEC.

The Gabriel Family
Gargiulo’s
RESTAURANT

Congratulations To All Honorees

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2911 West 15th Street  www.gargiulos.com
Best Wishes to
The Guild for Exceptional Children
on their
“Thanks for Giving Celebration”
&
Congratulations to the Honorees

Ralph Succar
President
Empire State Development LLC
9714 3rd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
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CSEA Local 766 members work hard every day to ensure the Guild for Exceptional Children keeps building brighter futures for all they serve in our communities.

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Marion Cleaver
John Cronin
Allan Greenberg
Kelly Graham
Taylor Harlow
Debra Mirabella
Gary Mirabella
Susan Sahm

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Congratulations to tonight’s honorees:
Marion Clever        Taylor Harlow
John Cronin          Debra Mirabella
Kelly Graham         Gary Mirabella
Allan Greenberg      Susan Sahm

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Congratulations to the GEC for your care and support of the most vulnerable members of society.

Congratulations Distinguished Honorees

Marion Cleaver          Taylor Harlow
John Cronin             Debra Mirabella
Kelly Graham            Gary Mirabella
Allan Greenberg         Susan Sahm

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Nothing in Life means anything unless someone cares, and the whole trick is to keep being that someone.

--Robert Brault

With appreciation to each of GEC’s honorees

Thank you for caring about our mission!

Patrícia Romano
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WORTHY HONOREES

MARION CLEAVER  ALLAN GREENBERG
JOHN CRONIN  KELLY GRAHAM
DEBRA MIRABELLA  GARY MIRABELLA
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THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO SUPPORT THE GUILD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. AN ACT OF KINDNESS CAN GIVE A PERSON (OR PEOPLE) THE STRENGTH NEEDED TO CARRY ON. THE WORLD NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO CHOOSE TO MAKE HUMANKIND YOUR BUSINESS!

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Judith E. Kraut
With Best Wishes and Congratulations to the GEC

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TO THE
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&
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To the
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Congratulations to the Honorees

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John Cronin              Debra Mirabella
Kelly Graham             Gary Mirabella
Allan Greenberg          Susan Sahm

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He Ain't Heavy, He’s My Brother (lyrics by B. Scott and B. Russell)

The road is long,
With many a winding turn
That lead us to who knows where
But I’m strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother

If I’m laden at all
I’m laden with the sadness
That everyone’s heart
Isn’t filled with the gladness
And love for one another

It’s a long, long road
From which there is no return
While we’re on the way to there
Why not share
And the road doesn’t weigh me down at all

He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother
So on we go
His welfare is my concern
No burden is he to bear
We’ll get there
For I know
He would not encumber me
He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother.

With heartfelt gratitude to the GEC Staff and Gala Honorees,
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Paul and Geraldine Cassone
Congratulations to our fellow honorees

Thank you to the GEC for being an incredible organization.
May your mission and care continue for many years to come.

Allan Greenberg & Marion Cleaver
Congratulations to the honorees and to the GEC staff for serving the needs of its program participants.

Anthony & Roseann Cetta
Congratulations to the Honorees and the Guild for 63 great years of service to our community

Nick & Lucy Siragusa
And the NDS Realty Corporation
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Florence Carlton
Nancy Carlton

Who served and were served by this exceptional organization.
In Loving Memory

Of

Arthur Leong

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The Guild for Exceptional Children

The Leong Family
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MARION and ALLAN

AND ALL OF THE

THANKS FOR GIVING CELEBRATION

HONOREES

“Every sunrise is an invitation for us to arise and brighten someone's day.” — Richelle E. Goodrich
Briscoe Protective is proud to support The Guild for Exceptional Children’s Families
Congratulations on all your tireless efforts in supporting the children of the Guild.

Please keep up the good work.

Harry Chalbis
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the family of Timothy Mullally and
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Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees!

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TO

THE GUILD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN, INC.

ON ITS

THANKS FOR GIVING CELEBRATION

We applaud the efforts and dedication of our honorees

Marion Cleaver
John Cronin
Kelly Graham
Allan Greenberg
Taylor Harlow
Debra Mirabella
Gary Mirabella
Susan Sahm

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Exceptional Children

We honor the families of those individuals who benefit so greatly from their tireless and endless love.

May the GEC continue their unfailing service to our community and for the exceptional work it accomplishes.

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Carlo Saraceni, GRAND KNIGHT
Year after year I am amazed at the work the **Guild for Exceptional Children** accomplishes.

Today gives me the opportunity to thank you for your enthusiasm for all the work you do.

Our son, Brian Schiffman, has proven himself to be a very skilled individual who has the capacity to do great things with his life.

He continues to make us proud as he faces new challenges and adventures. **We thank you for this.**

Thank you,

*Linda Vittoria*
Congratulations to all the honorees!

Best wishes to Marion Cleaver and Susan Sahm

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Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.
Booker T. Washington

To Marion Cleaver, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Allen Greenberg, Taylor Harlow, Debra Mirabella, Gary Mirabella, and our dear friend Susan Sahm

Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of the Guild for Exceptional Children. Your generosity, compassion, and resourcefulness helped us to weather these difficult times and enriched the lives of the individuals we support and our dedicated staff members.

With much admiration,
Stacy Miciotta, Director of Quality Assurance
Elaine DeBerardine, Director of Compliance
We are pleased to continue our support for

The Guild for Exceptional Children

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And Congratulations
To All Distinguished Honorees

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John Cronin
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TO MY DEAR FRIENDS

MARION CLEAVER AND ALLAN GREENBERG

ON BEING NAMED ONE OF

GEC’S 2021 DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

WITH ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION

Susan Flaschenberg

Congratulations for another year of Great Work!!

The Wong Family
Congratulations to all of the honorees....the GEC appreciates all you do to benefit the “EXCEPTIONAL” individuals we serve.

Arlene Keating
Board Member

Congratulations to all of the honorees.

I would like to say a special thank you to Deb and Gary Mirabella for helping to support all the day programs with technology during the pandemic and for providing our zoom program with a MAX exercise class each day. Their dedication and friendship to the Guild is truly special.

Thank you to all the honorees that have helped the GEC through this trying time.

Jennifer Herusso
Thank You
to this year’s Honorees
for your hard work and
dedication to the GEC

Compliments to the
GEC and the 2021 Honorees

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Congratulations to the distinguished Honorees especially
Marion Cleaver and Allan Greenberg
Best Wishes to the GEC for continued success in building brighter futures.

Eleanor Schiano

Congratulations to the GEC and all of the Distinguished Honorees.
Your hard work and dedication to so many families in need is truly inspirational.

With All Our Thanks and Gratitude,
The Chiaino Family
With Our Compliments to the GEC and the 2020 Honorees!

Congratulations to Marion Cleaver and Allan Greenberg on this well deserved honor.

Vicky and Gary Dreifus
Congratulations to the 2021 Honorees and to the GEC for years of services to families

Nicholas Cenatiempo and Maria and Stuart Engel

Best Wishes to the Guild for decades of fine work
Jerry and Janet Kassar
On behalf of the GEC Residential Department our heartfelt congratulations and thank you to Susan Sahm and Taylor Harlow for their extraordinary fundraising and generosity benefiting our programs during these most challenging of times.
Thank you, especially this year, to
All the Volunteers, Staff, Families and Friends who are
Every Single Day Are
The Light in the Darkness
The Beacon of Hope
and the
Great Visionaries of GEC’s Future!

Debbie Harrison and George Lopez

Special thanks to the Honorees
who selflessly thought of our most vulnerable and supported them and the GEC with their amazing generosity.

YOU ARE EXTRAORDINARY!

Michael and Mary Huston
Congratulations and best wishes to all the honorees
May God bless the GEC in its mission to care for children
and adults living with developmental disabilities

Caroline Mansuetto

Congratulations to the GEC
and their Honorees.
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Claude Denis
Congratulations to all the Honorees
God Bless Our Guild
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- Fred Rogers

Congratulations and thank you to our distinguished honorees:

Marion Cleaver, John Cronin, Kelly Graham, Allan Greenberg, Taylor Harlow, Debra Mirabella, Gary Mirabella, and my longtime co-worker and friend, Susan Sahm, for your kindness and generosity to those who are enrolled in services at GEC and the employees who support them.

Barbara Torres
Director of Family Support Services
Congratulations and best wishes to honorees

Marion Cleaver and Allan Greenberg

Your dedicated support throughout the years to all the residents of Olga’s House is deeply appreciated.

We also wanted to convey congratulations to the other honorees.

Olga’s House

It’s an honor to be part of GEC’s amazing mission.

Thank you to all the beautiful lives we are a part of.

Michael Amodio & Family