




VNSNY Gala Raises \$1.14 Million for COVID-19 Response Fund

Visiting Nurse Service of New York Virtual Gala Raises \$1.13 Million for Coronavirus Response Fund and Charitable Care and Community Program

By VNSNY, Community Contributor 
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Nonprofit Galas everywhere are going virtual in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but for the [Visiting Nurse Service of New York](#), the nation's largest not-for-profit home and community-based health care organization, this year's November 12th virtual fundraising event had extra special meaning and impact.

In addition to raising more than \$1,136,944 (so far) to support VNSNY's [Coronavirus Response Fund](#) and [Charitable Care and Community programs](#), the special event, which was themed, "Care You Can Count On – From Those Who Count on You," included a tribute video honoring the thousands of VNSNY frontline health workers who put their lives on the line to care for New Yorkers in need during height of the COVID-19 crisis in NYC—and continue to do so every day. The work these heroes did helped alleviate the strain on overcrowded NYC hospitals by ensuring that COVID-positive patients could be discharged and safely recover at home under the care of skilled and trusted professionals.

[Click here](#) to see the moving video tribute.



See the entire VNSNY 2020 Virtual Gala at <https://www.vnsnygala.org/>

[VNSNY President and CEO Marki Flannery](#) and Andrew N. Schiff, M.D., Chairman of the VNSNY Board of Directors and the great-great-grandson of Jacob Schiff—who laid the philanthropic groundwork for VNSNY founder Lillian D. Wald to deliver on the mission of caring for New York's most vulnerable—offered heartfelt messages of appreciation and gratitude to VNSNY's generous donors and courageous frontline workforce battling for the lives of New Yorkers during this ongoing global pandemic. [Susan Fales-Hill](#), author, producer and head writer for the TV series A Different World, served as Virtual Master of Ceremonies for the 2020 Gala.

Another VNSNY Gala highlight was presentation of the prestigious Lillian D. Wald Award to [John R. Greed, Chairman, President & CEO of Mutual of America Financial Group](#). As the recipient of this philanthropic honor named for VNSNY's founder, Mr. Greed has a special connection to the [VNSNY mission](#) of improving the health and well-being of all New Yorkers, especially our most vulnerable and their families. In 1909, Lillian Wald, who is also known as the first public health nurse, forged a key connection with a major life insurance company to begin providing VNSNY's nursing services to its policyholders. This connection not only improved the health of those policy holders but also served as a platform that helped support VNSNY's work caring for other vulnerable New Yorkers. As the President and CEO of Mutual of America Financial Group, John Greed continues to uphold that link between insurers and the protection of vulnerable populations by providing essential retirement and investment services.

"The idea of actively promoting the welfare of others has always been close to our hearts at Mutual of America. We are proud to be part of an organization that was founded with the belief that every worker, including those who dedicate their lives to nonprofit social welfare organizations, deserves a financially secure future and dignified retirement," Mr. Greed said in his VNSNY Virtual Gala remarks. "Since then, through thousands of relationships with nonprofit organizations like VNSNY, we have been privileged to witness firsthand the life-changing work being done each day across the entire country—not only this year during a pandemic, but every year. This has inspired us and influenced who we are as an organization and as individuals. And while we are extremely proud of the retirement and investment services we provide, like VNSNY we are equally proud of our deep culture of caring, giving back and making a positive, meaningful difference in our local communities, and of our consistent track record of doing so, even when the spotlight was not shining as bright as it is today. With this shared purpose and culture of caring and making a meaningful difference, I am honored to accept the Lillian D. Wald Award."

Proceeds from the virtual event support [VNSNY's Coronavirus Response Fund](#) and the [Community and Charitable Care programs](#), which each year provide direct care and specialized support services to thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers, children and families, making VNSNY one of the largest and most innovative providers of home- and community-based services in the New York metropolitan area and throughout the United States.

To contribute or to view the full VNSNY 2020 Virtual Gala program, please click [here](#).