

Party Pictures Frontline to Future: Celebrating the Heroes of Health in New York

New York Social Diary, November 28, 2025

In a year where barriers to care are growing, the Annual VNS Health Benefit Gala on Thursday, November 13th, celebrated the dedicated home health care and civic heroes working day in and day out to make care more accessible for all New Yorkers. The event theme, “**Here When You Need Us,**” underscored the thousands of frontline professionals dedicated to the nonprofit’s mission.

The gala successfully **raised more than \$1.1 Million** to support VNS Health’s charitable care and community impact programs. These vital programs include free at-home care for first-time moms, multi-lingual hospice support, substance use programs, and services to help veterans and their families navigate the health care system.



Kori Chambers WPIX 11 Anchor and MC for Gala.

This year’s prestigious **Lillian D. Wald Award** recipients were the **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick (ret.)**, of Counsel, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and **Ramon Tallaj, MD**, Founder and Chairman of the Board, SOMOS Community Care. They were recognized for their significant contributions to health and welfare, and their dedication to eliminating disparities in underserved communities.

Judge Ciparick, a former Senior Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, has spent her career striving to secure the elimination of racial and ethnic disparity in the court system, while paving the way professionally for Latinos in New York and beyond. **Dr. Tallaj**, founder of SOMOS Community Care, oversees more than 2,500 culturally diverse physicians who care for more than one million highly underserved patients in the New York City area.



Honorable Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, 2025 Lillian D. Wald Honoree, Neil Calman (Greenberg Traurig), Susan Kwon (Affinity by Molina Healthcare), and George Hulse (EmblemHealth).



Dr. Ramon Tallaj, Lillian D. Wald Honoree; Pedro Castillo, and Dr. Paul Tallaj.

The evening also shined a spotlight on VNS Health's innovative **Nurse Residency Program**, which prepares a new generation of nurses, like graduate Alysson Arikian, to serve patients and their families in their homes. Founded by public health pioneer **Lillian Wald**, VNS Health is one of the nation's largest nonprofit home- and community-based health care organizations. For over 130 years, VNS Health has helped people live, age, and heal where they feel most comfortable in their own homes by offering a full range of health care services and solutions to meet the diverse and complex needs of those they serve.



Christa Kleinschmidt, Uvannie Enriquez, and Bernadette Khan (NewYork-Presbyterian).



Mary and Maxwell Davidson, VNS Health Board of Directors.



Isaac Itzkowitz, Elliot Schreiber, and Ben Mandelbaum (SPS Community Solutions).



Dr. Ramon Tallaj, Anny Soriano, John Burke, EVP and Chief of Health Plans, and Jeannette Lopez.



Hannah Pearson (Homecare Homebase) and Page Johnson (DragonFly Health).



*Carol Pompey, VNS Health Home Health Aide, and
Cynthia Neita, VNS Health Home Health Aide and 1199 SEIU Union Representative*



Esther Conteh RN, VP Care Management, Health Plans and Alyson Roberts (HealthEdge).



Gloria DiFeo, Strategic Account Development; Bob Orlando, VP Software Engineering and Product Development, Sci-Tech Business Administration; Naseebah Khan, Director, Business Development Operations; and Michael Michaely, VP, Sales and Partnership Development, Personal Care



Keith Patterson, EVP and Chief Financial Officer, VNS Health and Natalie Patterson.



Alice Rainford, RN, MSN, Education Manager, Nurse Residency Program.



Kori Chambers, Deborah Sale, Board of Directors; Joseph Gallagher, Director of Operations, Support Services; Judge Carmen Ciparick; Dr. Ramon Tallaj; John Burke, EVP and Chief of Health Plans, and Dan Savitt, CEO & President



Jim Rolla, SVP Personal Care; Nausheen Rokerya, VP Associate General Counsel; Leah Griggs Pauly, SVP, Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer; and Tara Noto, VP, Behavioral Health.

New York Social Diary covers New York society. It discusses events in New York, including parties, gallery openings and other social events. Coverage includes prominent New Yorkers, including politicians and celebrities. Sections include Social Diary, Party Pictures, Calendar, Social History, The List/Cameo, House, Dining, Philanthropy, Art Set, Travel, Across the World, Gallery, Guest Diaries, Classifieds, Shopping Diary and Archives. It reaches an audience of 46,770 through articles and social reach.