



September 16, 2015

New York Women's Foundation hosts annual Neighborhood Dinner

by ANNALISE KNUDSON

The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) hosted its 26th annual Neighborhood Dinner on Wednesday night, marking the debut of the event on Staten Island.

The dinner, hosted in a different borough each year, was held at Wagner College in Grymes Hill.

"It is the first time ever in Staten Island that the event is being held," said Mary Caracappa, a co-chair of the event, and Board of Trustees member at Wagner. "I think the foundation really wanted to get deeper into the community."

The event honored community leaders and business entrepreneurs of Staten Island.

The Neighborhood Leadership Award was presented to Diane Arneth, President and CEO of Community Health Action of Staten Island, Zeinab Eyega, Executive Director and Founder of Sauti Yetu and Reverend Dr. Terry Troia, Executive Director of Project Hospitality.

They were honored the award for their outstanding leadership in Staten Island and longstanding commitment to neighborhood-based work on behalf of women and families. According to Arneth, it was an "absolute wonderful honor."

The Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award was awarded to Maria Morales of Los Potrillos, a woman-owned restaurant that enriches the community and is committed to Staten Island.

Morales was "still astonished" that she was honored for the award. She never expected to receive it.

A posthumous Special Life Celebration Award was given in honor of the late Elizabeth Egbert, former President of the Staten Island Museum, for her cultural contributions to Staten Island.

The event also featured local Staten Island businesses such as Hemlock Theatre Co., Staten Island Arts, the Alice Austen House, Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness, 30,000 Degrees, Light House Museum, the Tibetan Museum and others.

"The foundation has been funding in Staten Island for 28 years," said Director of Individual Giving of the NYWF Madeline Holder. "This will really transform the community and help create long-standing relationships."

The New York Women's Foundation seeks to be a voice for women and a force for change – a cross-cultural alliance that catalyzes partnerships and leverages human and financial capital to achieve sustained economic security and justice for women, girls and families in New York City.

For more information about the Neighborhood Dinner and the NYWF, [visit their website](#).



Honorees Diane Arneth (second from the right), Maria Morales (third from the right), and Zeinab Eyega (fifth from the right), pose at the New York Women's Foundation Annual Neighborhood Dinner Wednesday night. (Staten Island Advance/Annalise Knudson)



The New York Women's Foundation held their Annual Neighborhood Dinner at Wagner College, Grymes Hill. (Staten Island Advance/Annalise Knudson)



Artwork on display at the New York Women's Foundation Annual Neighborhood Dinner. (Staten Island Advance/Annalise Knudson)



Guests mingling at the NYWF Neighborhood Dinner Wednesday night at Wagner College, Grymes Hill. (Staten Island Advance/Annalise Knudson)



A band performing at the NYWF Annual Neighborhood Dinner at Wagner College. (Staten Island Advance/Annalise Knudson)