2016

HEARTSHARE
ST. VINCENT’S
SERVICES

Annual
Benefit

PROGRAM

OCTOBER 17TH, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN
2016 HEARTSHARE
ST. VINCENT’S SERVICES
Annual Benefit
TriBeca Three-Sixty
OCTOBER 17TH, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN
2016 HeartShare
St. Vincent’s Services
Annual Benefit
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Welcome
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Remarks
Dawn V. Saffayeh
Executive Director, HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services

Awards Ceremony Honorees

Andy Sukhu
The 2016 Fred and Nancy DeMatteis Award

Introduced by
Sean Ringgold

Melody Joanne Centeno
The 2016 Rising Star Award

Introduced by
Dalia Mechanic and Robert Serenbetz
Co-Chairs, Junior Board of Directors

Diamond Henry
The Reverend Monsignor Robert M. Harris
2016 Youth of the Year

Introduced by
Dawn V. Saffayeh

Master of Ceremonies
Sean Ringgold
Actor and
Board Member, HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services

Live Entertainment by
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Adityanand “Andy” Sukhu

Adityanand (Andy) Sukhu, founder and CEO of Y2K Credit Solutions and Y2K Debt Solutions (Debt Settlement Agency), is a consumer credit specialist and credit counselor. For the past ten plus years, Sukhu has single-handedly changed the lives of thousands of people from all different walks of life, regardless of whether he or she was a blue-collar worker or an A-list celebrity, giving them back their financial power.

By 2011, Y2K Credit Solutions skyrocketed and is now one of the top credit counseling companies in New York City. The company provides services throughout the entire country with locations in Great Neck, New York, Morristown, New Jersey, and Miami, Florida. The company currently has visibility within Chicago, Illinois, Houston, Texas and Newport Beach, California. As of November 1, 2016, the company will have visibility in all fifty states.

All business components were created by Sukhu, which separates Y2K Credit Solutions from its competitors. Sukhu’s keen thinking and innovative analysis has given his team of 20 a crucial advantage in streamlining and fixing consumers’ credit the correct and legit way. The end goal or the final result is for clients to be 100% debt free, in addition to increasing their credit scores tremendously. As an expert who examines consumer credit, trends, causes and effects of financial strain, Sukhu has been able to predict the needs of clients who are in financial and credit ruins. Within minutes of seeing a client’s credit report, Sukhu can provide comprehensive individual solutions. The first step is to educate clients. Once that is done, both short and long term solutions are presented. Sukhu teaches consumers what is in their credit reports, why it is there and what course of action should be taken.
Sukhu started out in the IT sector working for several companies, including Tele Data Communications, a subsidiary of the credit bureaus. Sukhu worked as a Project Manager, creating software for banks and indirect lending companies across the U.S. It was during that time a light bulb went off and he caught a credit “bug.”

Sukhu holds three college degrees, including a Bachelors in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Queens College, a Bachelors in Computer Science from Keizer College and a certificate for Project Management from Villanova University. However, his biggest and most proud accomplishment is being a father to his 16-year-old, college-bound son, Jarred Sukhu. As a role model in his community, Sukhu also makes time to mentor students. As of August 2016, Sukhu has been involved heavily with HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services where he mentors youth. In addition, Sukhu provides an internship program at his corporate office, where he currently educates two students, who also are on their way to college to expand their horizons.

When he’s not fixing credit, Sukhu can be seen on WPIX 11, Bronxnet and Perspective, and heard on I-Heart Radio, answering questions and offering credit-improving tips to his audiences.
Melody Joanne Centeno

Melody Centeno continues to be a rising star at HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services (HSVS). Earlier this year, Melody, a former HSVS American Dream Program Scholar, launched Foster Care Unplugged, an awareness organization partnering with key stakeholders to help young adults in foster care excel academically and socially. Through Foster Care Unplugged, Melody brings public awareness to the many challenges facing children in foster care, such as youth in foster care are less likely than their non-foster care peers to graduate from a four-year college and many youth in foster care experience homelessness.

As a New York State licensed Social Worker, Melody is even further equipped to understand and help children and youth who have experienced foster care. Melody’s experiences make her highly empathetic to the needs and struggles of children in foster care. Melody is one of eight children. Melody lived with biological family members struggling with terminal illness, substance abuse and chronic depression. Melody was placed into foster care at age 3 and lived in at least 10 foster homes.

Despite the lack of stability in her family life, Melody found support and comfort from the staff members and other youth in care at HSVS (at the time, St. Vincent’s Services). When Melody graduated from high school, she enrolled at Adelphi University and as a Scholar in the HSVS American Dream Program. In 2008, Melody earned her BS and later her MSW from Adelphi University, and recently became a Licensed Master Social Worker. Melody was an early participant in the American Dream Program, and credits the financial, academic and emotional supports of ADP with helping her achieve her dreams.
Throughout her career, Melody has worked at a domestic violence shelter, as a school social worker and as an Assistant Director at a pre-school in New York City. Melody soon will be bringing her expertise to a consulting firm specializing in early intervention for at-risk children and families. As previously mentioned, Melody recently launched Foster Care Unplugged to raise awareness for foster care children and youth.

Some of Foster Care Unplugged’s initiatives and projects that specifically benefited HSVS include:

- **THE FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER** (March-May 2016)
- **CAREER AND VOCATIONAL PLANNING PANEL DISCUSSIONS** (March 2016)
- **OPERATION FOOT SOLDIERS: YOUTH SNEAKER DRIVE** (March 2016)

Other projects include:

- **LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL ACTION**
- **OPERATION COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BRUNCH** (March 2016)
Diamond Henry

Diamond is a motivated, reliable young woman, and determined to become the “best version” of herself. She has worked hard over the past four years to become a better student and a role model in her community. Diamond is proud of her resiliency, and has overcome great challenges and obstacles to get to this positive place in her life. However, Diamond hopes to gain more self-confidence before she goes to college.

Diamond was born in Brooklyn, and came into foster care when her biological mother was deported back to Guyana. Diamond lived with her “real” mom until she was four years old, and then was adopted. Diamond was fortunate to grow up in a loving household, and also very thankful that she could grow up with her sisters. Diamond has many favorite childhood memories, but one captures her strong, happy connection with her family.

Diamond’s mom took Diamond and her sisters on a vacation to Disney World. They were so excited to be in Florida and see the Magic Kingdom. However, when they tried to go to the theme park, they realized their tickets said Disney LAND—in California! Diamond remembers that they all had a great laugh about it and enjoyed a fun week exploring the rest of Florida and relaxing in their hotel.

Diamond is truly thankful to have a supportive mom, but tragedy hit their happy family in 2015 when Diamond’s mom was hospitalized with a tumor and became very ill. She lost the ability to walk, and she could not take care of Diamond and her sisters. As a single mom, she had no one else who could step up and help her with her daughters, and Diamond and her sisters were placed back into foster care, but in different homes. Early last September, Diamond found a place of solace when she moved into her new foster home at HSVS’ New Brighton Group Home. She is happy she has found another caring family—and has been reunited with her sister.
This year, Diamond is entering her senior year of high school. She admits that she did not always have good grades. But when her mom became sick, Diamond realized that she may not always be able to depend on her mom for support. Diamond knew that she needed to focus on her grades, go to college and make a bright future for herself. Most importantly, Diamond knew that her change of plans would make her mom proud. Last semester, Diamond earned straight A's, and wants to keep working on her grades so that she can secure an academic scholarship.

Diamond's dream school is Villanova University, which she has visited multiple times as part of the Fresh Air Fund. Diamond plans to major in English and English Literature, and hopes to become an English teacher.

Diamond is excited that this year will open new doors of opportunity in her life. She continues to be inspired by her mom and her sister, and is thankful for their continued support. Diamond would like to thank her Aunty Harriette for supporting, encouraging and helping her with the Youth of the Year application. Diamond also wants to thank her mentor, Joan Baim, who helped Diamond realize her natural abilities and talents. Finally, Diamond wants to thank Ms. Talia who celebrated all of Diamond's accomplishments and made her feel special.

We are thrilled to name, and congratulate, Diamond Henry - our 2016 Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris Youth of the Year.
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services (HSVS) empowers youth, individuals and families to overcome the challenges of family crises, addiction, mental health and poverty. Working together, we open new doors of opportunity to help our clients achieve healthy, happy lives.

With four programmatic divisions - Foster Care & Preventive Programs, Integrated Health Services, Residential & Housing Programs and Youth Development & Community Programs – HSVS annually serves approximately 6,000 at-risk New York children, youth and families, including over 2,700 of the City’s most vulnerable youth.

This continuum of services enables HSVS to address clients’ unique circumstances and needs, equipping them with the tools and skills to achieve their dreams.

**Foster Care & Preventive Programs**
Foster Care & Preventive Programs, currently serving over 1,500, strengthen families in times of crisis. We collaborate with parents and provide the tools and skills necessary to build loving, happy family environments in which children and youth thrive.

**Integrated Health Services**
Integrated Health Services, serving 1,300, provide skills-based therapy and healthcare management to empower individuals to achieve wellness. We guide those in care to strengthen their family and social relationships, achieve personal goals and contribute more meaningfully to their communities.

**Residential & Housing Programs**
Residential & Housing Programs provide safe homes for those most in need. Our clients, given the security they sense in a safe, caring and stable living environment, combined with targeted support services, are empowered to overcome the challenges in their lives.

**Youth Development & Community Programs**
Youth Development and Community Programs, serving over 2,800, educate and nurture youth to empower them as they develop into successful adults. Through innovative services, we encourage our clients to participate in our community programs and our youth in foster care to develop positive and constructive relationships, expand their experiences and achieve their dreams.

Our acclaimed American Dream Program (ADP) is within this Division. As a privately funded program, ADP provides education, emotional support and career advancement programming to empower older youth to overcome their personal challenges and to excel as adults. The program helps them find their own paths, make plans and develop the skills to take on the challenges of their careers, education, finances and adult responsibilities with energy and confidence.
Congratulations to our 2016 Honorees

Andrew Sukhu
Melody Joanne Centeno
Diamond Henry

Many Thanks to the William M. Casey Foundation for its generous support

Ken and Nancy Nolan
CONGRATULATIONS TO
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services
AND
Mr. Andrew Sukhu
AND
All of Tonight’s Honorees

William M. Casey Foundations, Inc.
BEST WISHES

to

Ken Nolan
and the entire Board

Maureen Moore
Bob, Katie & Bobby Golden
Loeb & Troper salutes HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services and its honorees for helping to empower the City’s most vulnerable youth and families to achieve healthy and happy lives.
Best Wishes To

All The Honorees

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Congratulations to the Honorees and the Great Staff of HeartShare St. Vincent’s

Christopher Jones
Stephanie Louer
Thank you
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services
for the wonderful work you do
for the children & families
of New York City
&
Congratulations to the evening’s
Honorees

Renee & Sumner Anderson
We extend sincerest gratitude to the

HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services
Board of Directors and Staff

for their incredible efforts and quality achievements in providing for the children, youth and families in our care. You greatly honor HeartShare and its mission.

and

further extend our deepest thanks and congratulations to our 2016 Annual Benefit Honorees

Andy Sukhu
The 2016 Nancy and Fred DeMatteis Award Recipient

Melody Joanne Centeno
The 2016 Rising Star Award Recipient

Diamond Henry
The 2016 Monsignor Robert M. Harris
Youth of the Year Award Recipient

Bill and Donna Guarinello
On behalf of the staff, individuals, children and families of HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services, thank you to our Board of Directors and Junior Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our mission of improving the lives of others.

Congratulations to our 2016 Youth of the Year Diamond Henry

We are so excited to see what you will accomplish!

Dawn Saffayeh
We are proud to be associated with HeartShare St. Vincent's Services for its commitment to excellent service and support that enables children, adults and families to reach their fullest potential and lead meaningful lives as active participants in society.

Congratulations to honorees:

Andrew Sukhu

Diamond Henry

Melody Joanne Centeno, LMSW

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Congratulations

Diamond Henry

Recipient of the 2016 Youth of the Year

Ms. Henry is the 62nd youth to be honored with this Award since its inception.

Msgr. Robert M. Harris
Congratulations
to the 2016 Honorees
and thank you to
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for all that you do.

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Our warmest wishes to this year’s honorees,

and

For all of the life enriching programs you provide, we wish you continued success.

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Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris

"Thanks" for all you have done for HeartShare St. Vincent's Services.

Grace B. E. Schaeffer
Congratulations to this year's honorees & HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services for the tremendous work they do.

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