

## For Immediate Release

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## Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic Honors New Yorkers Who Invest In New York City's Neighborhoods

New York City's nonprofits serve so many families and neighborhoods, but often don't get the credit they deserve.

This will change on June 30, when supporters will gather at Brooklyn Navy Yard for a special gala honoring the city's nonprofits. The gala will be held from 7 pm to 10 pm on June 30, at Steiner Studios, Stage 6, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The third annual "Salute to New York City's Nonprofits and the Neighborhoods They Serve: Promoting Wellness and Healthy Neighborhoods" will bring together the city's borough presidents as honorary chairs, as well as nonprofits, funders and supporters. The Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic also salutes the nonprofits of the Caribbean community as it celebrates Caribbean American Heritage Month.

The proceeds from the gala will provide technical assistance training to five grassroots organizations, one per borough, and will benefit: **Redeemed Outreach Ministries of Queens, Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn, Abyssinian Development Corporation of Manhattan, Bronx Children's Museum, and Central Family Life Center of Staten Island.** Proceeds will also enable the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic to offer free capacity building trainings to more nonprofits during the year.

"It'll be a spectacular event," says visionary **Valerie Oliver-Durrah**, president of the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, "From a rooftop cocktail reception to a dinner buffet and the awards ceremony, it will be a classic celebration of New York, the city and its people."

Multicultural entertainment, dance and musical performances will be provided by *Creative Outlet Dance Theater, Jammin' Jumpers Double Dutch Association, Piel Canela Dance Company, Sesame Flyers International Inc., Uptown Dance Academy* during the evening.

**Honorees for NTAC's Neighborhood Investor Award** include *Lisa Anderson*, Associate Director of Educational Programs, Auburn Theological Seminary; *Elkhair*

*Balla*, Managing Partner, Citiology.com; *Michael Flanigan*, Development Manager for External Relations, Medgar Evers College; *Angela B. Hollis*, President, Hollis Group; *Debi B. Jackson*, Producer, Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International®; *Hal Jackson*, Founder, WBLS, and Radio Icon, *Rev. Dr. Barbara Austin Lucas*, President/Founder, Women Organizing, Mobilizing, and Building, Inc. (WOMB); *Doris Quinones*, Executive Director, The Bronx Tourism Council; *Valerie I. Rainford*, Home Lending, Business Support Executive, JP Morgan Chase & Co.; *Coreen Simpson*, Designer & CEO, Cameo Designs Ltd.; *Gail L. Smith*, Chief Customer Officer, MetroPlus Health Plan; and *Verizon*.

**Special recognition through NTAC's first presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards** will be bestowed upon *Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.*, daughter of the legendary pastoral leader, Dr. William Augustus Jones, Jr. and Senior Vice President for Community Investment at United Way of New York City, for her leadership and contribution to educating others about the urgent need to become bone marrow donors, particularly among the African American community, and improving the quality of life, in general, for all New Yorkers, and *Dr. Marco Mason*, President of the Institute for PanAmerican Affairs and Chairman/CEO of the Panamanian Council of New York, Inc. for being a visionary who has advanced the welfare of Caribbean people and improved relationships between Caribbean and African American people.

Commenting on Mrs. Austin's Lifetime Achievement Award, **Gordon Campbell**, President of United Way of New York City remarks, "As a leader and as a human being, Jennifer is unmatched in her tenacity, commitment, and strength of character. She is passionate about improving the lives of children and families, and brings extraordinary intelligence, humor, and sensitivity to the job of building partnerships that can achieve the scale of change needed for a city as vast as ours. United Way is fortunate to count Jennifer as one of our own. I personally feel far richer for knowing Jennifer and having the privilege of working alongside her."

Commenting on Dr. Mason's Lifetime Achievement Award, Brooklyn Deputy Borough President **Yvonne Graham** remarks, "I am honored to be among those who are fortunate to benefit from the wisdom, tutelage and friendship of Dr. Mason. As my college professor and colleague in the founding and development of the 20-plus year old Caribbean Women's Health Association, Dr. Mason has touched not only my life, but through his work and generosity of spirit has touched the lives of many. The impact of his academic, philanthropic, cultural and community contributions is demonstrated through the achievements of those he has helped, the community institutions he has built, and the charitable causes he has supported. He is a champion for Caribbean and Pan-American affairs who fervently believes in strengthening families, empowering communities. Above all, he is a visionary who selflessly and faithfully, with insight and boldness continually seeks to advance the welfare of Caribbean people globally. I can think of no one more deserving of this lifetime achievement award."

**Sponsors** for the gala “Salute to New York City’s Nonprofits and the Neighborhoods They Serve” include **JP Morgan Chase, Macy’s, MetroPlus Health Plan, United Way of NYC, Verizon, and WABC-TV.**

**In-kind contributors** for the gala include Art by Iris V. Allen, Akwaaba B & B (*Brooklyn, New York*), b.Loved Pieces, Black Cameo by Coreen Simpson, Brooklyn Brewery, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooks Brothers, Catherine's Café (*Antigua*), Curtain Bluff (*Antigua*), Dreams for Kids, Inc., Elle Colonna Resort and Spa (*Antigua*), Half Moon (*Jamaica*), Hotel Bonadies (*Italy*), Johnson & Johnson, Le Chateau de Frenche *Day Spa*, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Madiba Restaurant, MHW, Ltd., Monique Techniques *Hair Salon*, Ocean Inn (*Antigua*), Olivino Wines, Panache LLC./Wodka, Queen Ristorante, Saks Fifth Avenue, The Victorian Mansion (*Brooklyn, New York*), Travellers Beach Resort (*Negril, Jamaica*), and Tribal Truths Collection.

For more information or to RSVP, please visit [www.jotform.com/form/10854804288](http://www.jotform.com/form/10854804288).

**The Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic** provides strategic direction, organizational oversight and technical assistance clinics to grassroots nonprofits and grantmakers. They create dialogues between funders, community-based and faith-based organizations to grow sound grassroots delivery of programs and services for neighborhood needs.

The Board of Directors are Rev. Sylvia G. Kinard Esq., Rev. Kanyere Eaton, Angela Hollis, Kimberley Hayes, and Gayle Gilbert.

**Valerie Oliver-Durrah** is the Founder and President.

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