



RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT

1,100 Honored at F·E·G·S Annual Awards Ceremony

“Live your life passionately, live your life to its fullest, but always remember to thank your family and friends who have supported you, and look for ways to help others around you,” said David Banks in his keynote address at the 23rd Annual Awards Ceremony of F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System, held recently at Manhattan’s historic Cooper Union. Banks, Principal of the Bronx School for Law, Government & Justice, spoke of the need to “keep focused, set clear goals, and ask questions.” He praised those in attendance, saying, “I pay tribute to the force that lives inside you. Listen to that spirit, which can make miracles happen.”

The ceremony honored the achievements of nearly 1,100 F·E·G·S clients. Each individual – from a student helped to complete school, a struggling émigré assisted in finding a job,



(L-R) Katy Mitrani, Field Human Resources Manager; Barbara Boscarino, Human Resources Manager; and Sean McClain, Administrator, Management Training for Pathmark Stores, Inc. accept the 2004 F·E·G·S Employer of the Year Award.

or a person with mental health problems who received help to live in a supported community environment – has a story of personal achievement that F·E·G·S celebrated and honored.

Pathmark Stores, Inc. Honored for Its Commitment to F·E·G·S Clients

Pathmark Stores, Inc. was recognized as *Employer of the Year* by hiring some 55 participants from the F·E·G·S ESP (Employment Services and Placement) program, a welfare to work initiative funded by the NYC Human Resources Administration. In accepting the award, Barbara Boscarino, Pathmark’s Human Resources Manager, noted, “This successful partnership with F·E·G·S provides Pathmark with qualified, work-ready people.”

Community Organizations Recognized

Two community organizations were also recognized for their outstanding efforts on behalf of F·E·G·S. For 20 years, The Conservative Synagogue of Riverdale has hosted annual Chanukah and Passover celebrations for almost 200 F·E·G·S clients with developmental disabilities who live in community residences in the Bronx. For the past ten years, the Men’s Club of Temple Hillel, in Woodmere, Long Island, has worked with



(L-R) Keith Drayer, President, the Men’s Club of Temple Hillel, Woodmere, and Yetta Weissman, Volunteer from The Conservative Synagogue of Riverdale are congratulated by Dr. Jonas Waizer, Chief Operating Officer, Behavioral & Health Related Services, F·E·G·S.

residents of F·E·G·S community group homes in Nassau County for individuals with developmental disabilities. Club members host holiday parties, plant trees and greenery at the residences, and plan recreational events throughout the year.

F·E·G·S Honors Outstanding Clients

Some 21 F·E·G·S consumers received Outstanding Achievement Awards that acknowledged the personal accomplishments of the individuals in overcoming major challenges that affected their lives. Several spoke about the ways in which F·E·G·S had helped them change the course of their lives. One consumer, Hadassah Ben Zvi, a Long Island mother of five young children, spoke compellingly about her experiences of loss, tragedy and renewal.



(L-R) Ruth Geismar, a volunteer with the F·E·G·S Adopt-a-Family program provided emotional support and guidance to Hadassah Ben Zvi and her children during a life-changing family crisis.

Through the emotional and tangible support she received through the F·E·G·S Adopt-a-Family program, she has been able to move on with her life. “I once was a regular contributor to UJA-Federation,” she said, “And then came the time when I needed help for me and my family. They put me in touch with F·E·G·S and I am very grateful for the help I have received.” Mrs. Ben Zvi benefited from counseling and job training at the F·E·G·S Hempstead Multi-Service Center, and has recently become a financial advisor.

Several other key awards were presented. The Samuel J. & Celia Linefsky Award went to Yeeimy Sambula, a senior at Grace Dodge High School, who participated in the F·E·G·S Teenworks program that encourages at-risk students to stay in school and complete their education. Ms. Sambula will study nursing this fall at North Carolina State University.

The Sidney H. Witty Award, named for a past F·E·G·S board member, recognizes F·E·G·S consumers who have achieved significant goals or who have gone on to further education or employment. They were: Antonio Sanchez, Moury Sriram, Pernetha Waddy, Ruth Weinreb, and Mary Young.

Outstanding Programs and Staff Honored

Two exceptional F·E·G·S programs were honored this year. The Skills Assessment and Job Placement (SAJP) program helps individuals who are applying for or receiving public assistance prepare for and find employment. The program assists some 8,000 people each year, and has placed more than 7,000 people in the past four years. F·E·G·S Long Island Volunteer Services coordinates the efforts of 250 volunteers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties who provide both emotional and hands-on support to hundreds individuals and families in need.



F·E·G·S consumers make up The Brooklyn Day Orchestra, which provided joyful musical interludes at the Awards Ceremony.

The Melvin D. Freedman Staff Award was presented to Alla Bazay, an émigré from the former Soviet Union, who is a Supervisor at the F·E·G·S Brooklyn Resource Center, for her dedicated service to our clients and agency.

F·E·G·S serves more than 9,000 people each day – 80,000 people each year – throughout Long Island and New York City with an extensive network of family services, behavioral health, developmental disabilities, rehabilitation, employment, educational, training, residential, and home care services. ■

F·E·G·S

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