



The 2011 F·E·G·S Program of the Year Award was given to the F·E·G·S LIFE Programs, which offer comprehensive peer support services provided by and for mental health consumers. Accepting the award, Holly Beck, Coordinator (first row, second from right) and Taryn Miller, Director, LIFE Programs; (left) Ron Kaplan, Associate Vice President, Behavioral Health Services, Suffolk, administrative staff and peer advocates.



Celebrating Determination, Achievement and Success

Annual Award Ceremonies & Graduations Honor F·E·G·S Participants and Community Partners

A time-honored tradition is carried on proudly at F·E·G·S, recognizing individuals who have achieved significant personal goals and attained greater independence through their participation in a wide variety of F·E·G·S programs.

The F·E·G·S Annual Awards Ceremony, held at New York's historic Cooper Union, and the graduation at the Bronx Lab School, of which F·E·G·S is a founding partner, reaffirm the power of the human spirit and the capacity of individuals to overcome extraordinary odds in the face of adversity.

Celebrating Rehabilitation and Recovery



Rachel Bass received the Eleanor Metz Scholarship Award presented to her by Gary Metz.

Special awards and scholarships – created through the generosity of former Board members, F·E·G·S colleagues, and associates – were presented to F·E·G·S program participants who attained rehabilitation, recovery, educational, employment, or career-related goals.

- **Rachel Bass** has overcome many obstacles in her life, facing health challenges with poise and skill. Diagnosed with muscle myopathy and deaf since birth, Rachel has never let her physical challenges define her. Her many interests include playing the piano, swimming, yoga, and skiing. She graduated high school with honors and is now on the Dean's list at Nassau Community College, pursuing a degree in social work. Rachel will attend Gallaudet University.

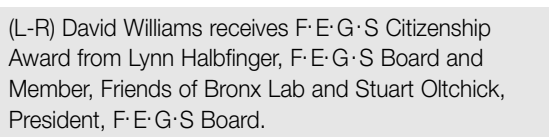
- **Tracy Wyche** came to F·E·G·S WeCARE – a NYC Human Resources Administration initiative – as a widow who was reentering the job market. A new resume, computer skills upgrading and interview preparation were key to her obtaining a part-time bookkeeper position with Prep 4 Bedbugs, a Bronx pest control company that was launched when its owner lost her own job. Today, she works full time and plays an important role in company hiring – where she actively recruits other WeCARE participants, changing their lives just as hers was changed.

- **Jerry Wells** completed a treatment program and, through the New York State ACCES-VR (formerly VESID), was referred to F·E·G·S's Porter Training Program and upon completion was placed in an F·E·G·S Preferred Source NYSID Contract at a warehouse position at the New York City Human Resources Administration, where he has been promoted twice. He now supervises five other employees.

- **David Williams**, a 2011 graduate of the Bronx Lab School and recipient of the F·E·G·S Citizenship Award for "serving as an exceptional representative of the Bronx Lab School to the greater community", plans to attend Fordham University this fall. Among his many activities were membership on the Student Council, the Bronx Lab Jazz Orchestra, president of the Dream Act Club, whose goal is helping undocumented students attend college, and an internship at Senator Charles Schumer's office. The F·E·G·S Award was among the more than two million dollars in scholarships earned by this year's Bronx Lab senior class, which achieved a better than 90 percent graduation rate that continues to build upon its record as one of New York City's most successful small schools. F·E·G·S is a founding partner of Bronx Lab in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, the Institute for Student Achievement (ISA), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



(L-R) Michael Fahey, Coordinator, F·E·G·S Work Services Division; Nelcida Hernandez, Assistant Supervisor, F·E·G·S Work Services Division; Jerry Wells, Supervisor, NYSID Preferred Source Contract with NYC/HRA; Stephen Krown, Associate Vice President, Contract Development, F·E·G·S Work Services Division; and Bob Hammel and Tom Faranda, NYSID Marketing Representatives.



(L-R) David Williams receives F·E·G·S Citizenship Award from Lynn Halbfinger, F·E·G·S Board and Member, Friends of Bronx Lab and Stuart Olchick, President, F·E·G·S Board.

survivors of sexual abuse and family violence. The LIFE Programs, funded by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Community Mental Hygiene, were recognized for its many years of providing innovative and impactful services by and for persons with mental illness. *(pictured at top)*

Community Partnerships Honored

F·E·G·S's many partnerships with employers and organizations provide expanded and vital opportunities. Partner of the Year awards were presented to:

- **The Schervier Nursing Care Center** in the Bronx, which has welcomed student interns from F·E·G·S's Education and Youth Services for the past four and a half years, creating a deep bond between the young interns and the elderly residents.

- **The Montefiore Medical Group**, which partnered with F·E·G·S's Caregiver Support Services (CSS) to provide a continuum of care to elderly patients in the Bronx, resulting in a 50 percent increase in CSS enrollment in just six months.

- **Equinox Fitness Clubs**, recognized as Employer of the Year, hired many participants from F·E·G·S's Back to Work (supported by the NYC HRA) program; several have been promoted to management positions. F·E·G·S Employment and Workforce programs work with hundreds of employers annually, providing qualified, work-ready individuals to companies throughout New York City.



(Center) Grace Bova, Director, Volunteer Programs, Schervier Nursing Care Center, receives F·E·G·S Partner of the Year award from Courtney F·E·G·S Vice President, Education & Youth Services and Peyton Craig, Internship Coordinator.

Building Dignity and Independence

"The individual consumers and community partners we have honored reflect a comprehensive network of services that reaches more than 10,000 people each day," noted Ira Machowsky, F·E·G·S Executive Vice President. "For more than 76 years, F·E·G·S has been a vital part of the New York community – providing counseling and health services, teaching business and life skills, building confidence, and nurturing a sense of personal dignity and independence that truly changes lives forever." ■



Edwan Tsang received an Achievement Award for his success as a participant in a Manhattan program for individuals with developmental disabilities.