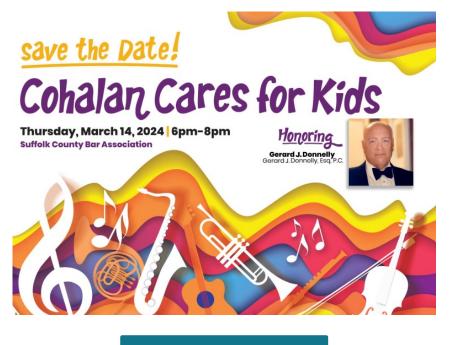


A New Chapter EAC Network's Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Save the Date Cohalan Cares for Kids 2024 Still Time to Get Tickets!



Tickets & Sponsorship

Don't miss EAC's Cohalan Cares for Kids 2024 event at the Suffolk County Bar Association on **Thursday, March 14, 2024**, **from 6-8 PM**. Join us for a night of music, dancing, raffles, food, and more. This years' honoree is esteemed Suffolk County lawyer, Gerard J. Donnelly, Esq., PC. All proceeds benefit and bring awareness to EAC's Suffolk County Children's Center at Cohalan Court, a quality childcare facility, located within the court building, where children play and learn while parents or guardians tend to their court business.

Inside February's Chapter

SAVE THE DATE COHALAN CARES FOR KIDS STILL TIME TO GET TICKETS!

HONORING BLACK HISTORY TED TALK PLAYLIST

> SPOTLIGHT: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' GERI A. GREGOR, CPA & DIOSALMA MELGAR, PC.

CHARITY CHAMPION BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS ROBERT MCBRIDE FIGHTS 4 EAC

AWARDS EAC PRESIDENT & CEO, NEELA MUKHERJEE LOCKEL 2024 POWER WOMAN OF QUEENS

AND THE WINNER OF THE FIRE ISLAND HOUSE FUNDRAISER IS...

GRANT SPOTLIGHT M&T BANK AMPLIFY FUND STATE FARM SUFFOLK COUNTY The Suffolk County Courthouse Children's Center at Cohalan Court



SAVE THE DATE EAC's 34th ANNUAL GOLF FOR GOOD

Donate & Make a NY Impact!

Volunteer & Intern Opportunities

Explore EAC Services



An Inspiring Ted Talk Playlist Honoring Black History

Cultural contributions, philosophies, sacrifices, strategies, triumphs, & adversities from the African American thought leaders shaping our nation.

Playlist Sneak Peak



T. MORGAN DIXON AND VANESSA GARRISON

The most powerful woman you've never heard of



CLINT SMITH The danger of silence



CAMILLE A. BROWN A visual history of social dance in 25 moves



Insightful Talks offering a fresh perspective on Black identity | TED Talks

Celebrating Black History Month 2024

Listen

Spotlight: EAC Board of Directors



Geri A. Gregor, CPA

EAC's Executive Board Spotlight

Congratulations to Geri A. Gregor's Advancement as the New Co-Chair of EAC's Board of Directors

"Over the years EAC Network opened my eyes to all kinds of hardships and troubles that thousands go through, every day. It hits close to home knowing what people are struggling with... so close to home. I am continuously amazed at EAC Network for its determination to help those in the stickiest of situations, and I am proud to be a part of it." -Geri A. Gregor, CPA., Co-chair, EAC Network's Board of Directors

Geri A. Gregor, CPA recently advanced from EAC Board of Directors 1st VP to Co-Chair. She is now sharing the executive position with John R. Durso, President of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW. EAC is proud and privileged to have this duo at the helm. They're the perfect combination of compassion, courage, contribution, and commitment.

When she's not helping New Yorkers in need at EAC, Gregor manages and directs the **Grassi & Co.**, CPA firm in areas such as business advisory services, forensic and litigation support, and risk management.

Extremely active in the business networking and philanthropic arenas, Gregor serves on multiple boards and earned an impressive list of business and humanitarian awards and recognitions.

Thank you, Geri, for your hard work, dedication, and uplifting spirit.



Welcome A-Board, Diosalma Melgar, PC.

"My decision to become a community legal advocate not only changed the course of my life, but, more importantly, the well-being of my community." -Diosalma Melgar, PC., Board Member, EAC Network's Board of Directors

In 2010, after years in tech, Diosalma Melgar, PC. realized the injustices that were affecting the immigrant population and left her career as Director of Curriculum Development, becoming a legal advocate for the Latino immigrant community in Western Suffolk County.

After getting her law degree, she represented victims of immigration attorney fraud, freed detained prisoners, and educated the Spanish-speaking community in legal matters. Melgar represents a range of clients including first-time homebuyers, immigrants fighting for their

American dream, landlords or tenants seeking amicable resolutions, incapacitated individuals trying to maintain their autonomy while gaining a voice through guardianship and does pro bono work for low-income immigrants through her firm, **The Melgar Law Firm**. She even founded and runs her own charitable initiative, *Comida Para Todos*, which is hosted by a group of Seventh-Day Adventist Churches throughout Suffolk County as well as feeds and clothes thousands of families.

Having served in various leadership roles for schools, charities, and nonprofit organizations, EAC Network's Board of Directors is the perfect place for her.

Welcome to EAC, Diosalma. We are honored and fortunate to have you on the team.

Charity Champion Board Member Emeritus Robert McBride Fights for EAC

Thank you to EAC's Board Member Emeritus, Robert "The Mighty MC" McBride, President and CEO of **McBride Consulting & Business Development Group** and EAC Network's Board Member Emeritus. He won **Long Island's 18th Fight 4 Charity.** At 63 years old and a first-time boxer, McBride raised over \$70,000 for EAC Network, Operation Healing Forces, Winters Center for Autism, and The Genesis School. While he may be new to the ring,

"I can take a couple of lumps for them, that's for sure. They are very worthwhile charities that all deserve the money," McBride said.



McBride and Gibson shake and hold Long Island's Fight 4 Charity trophies after the November 20th fight at the Huntington Hilton.



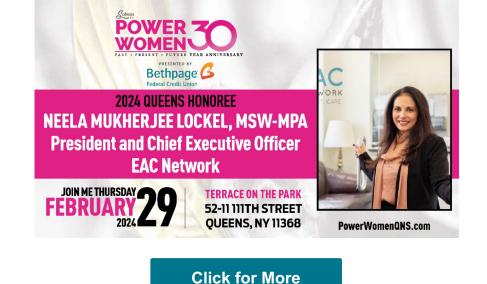
Robert McBride (Right) donates a portion of his winning to EAC Network's CEO and President, Neela Mukherjee Lockel MSW, MPA (Middle) and Chief Development Officer, Robert Strickoff, MS (Left) at McBride's Long Island Offices.



McBride's fans cheer him on as he fights in the ring at Long Island's 18th Fight for Charity.

EAC's President & CEO Neela Mukherjee Lockel MSW, MPA A 2024 Power Women of Queens

Congratulations, Neela. The EAC team is proud you're our leader. An inspiring woman, role model, & valuable CEO; you're also an inspiration, friend, & teacher.



AND THE WINNER OF THE FIRE ISLAND HOUSE FUNDRAISER IS...

Power

EAC'S FIRE ISLAND HOUSE RAFFLE And the Winner is... Nicole Caldararo



"I am a domestic violence survivor. EAC Network provided my son and his father a safe, comfortable environment to meet and continue to have a relationship for many years. They do tremendous work, and I'm incredibly grateful. Every year I donate money to several charities, and always include EAC. Domestic violence effects all economic and ethnic backgrounds. I never thought it could happen to me; a college educated, upper middle-class woman. But it did. Thank you EAC." — Nicole Caldararo

Thank you, Rodney & Dana Ragen of 334 Walk LLC & Double R Contracting for donating one of your premium Ocean Beach, Fire Island summer homes and making EAC's first live streamed virtual fundraiser an absolute success.

And thank you, Nicole Caldararo for supporting and believing in EAC. Your participation helped make a positive & uplifting impact on the New Yorkers benefiting from EAC's services.

Grant Spotlight

M&T Bank's Amplify Fund



EAC Network is delighted to announce that we've been awarded an M&T Bank Charitable Foundation grant! The Amplify Fund supports community-based organizations with a track record and purpose to increase racial and economic equity in marginalized communities.

This funding helps drive EAC's mission to foster a more compassionate and just society. We're a network of vital programs and resources that ensures every New Yorker has an opportunity to achieve a better life.

- We **Empower** New Yorkers and the communities we call home.
- We **Assist** with access to complex service systems.
- We Care for individuals, families, and communities in need.

The Amplify Fund specifically helps EAC's **Long Island Parenting Institute** (LIPI) provide the vital classes and skills that positively impact children, promote protective factors, enhance the future well-being of families as well as instill a cycle of positive and effective parenting for generations.

Thank you, M&T Bank, for the support!

Learn About EAC's Parenting Institute

The State Farm Good Citizenship Grant



The State Farm Good Citizenship Grant awarded EAC \$30,000 to support **The Teen Driving Equation program**. In 2023, the program impacted 3,339 Long Island teens by cultivating and enforcing positive driving skills and responsibilities, promoting seat belts, excessive speed and passenger distraction awareness, and instituting a DWI/DWA/Zero Tolerance contract. Speakers at special and outreach events present a comprehensive curriculum on safe driving practices and share personal experiences about driving distractions.

> Learn About EAC's Teen Driving Equation

Suffolk County Supports EAC's Opioid Efforts



Suffolk County, through the Department of Health Services, awarded EAC's **Transitional Case Management Substance Use Disorder Program (SUD)** funds to fight opioid addiction.



Save the Date

34th Annual Golf for Good



EAC's 34th Annual Golf for Good is a legendary annual event being held this year at Manhasset's North Hills Country Club on **Monday, May 20, 2024**. This year's Honoree is Paul M. O'brien, Esq. of **Burner Prudenti Law, PC** and The Corporate Citizenship Award goes to the Ragen Family, owners of **Double R Contracting** and **334 Walk LLC**.

The day kicks off at 10 AM on North Hills' lush vistas, fairways, and rolling terrain. Don't miss this celebrated golf experience benefiting New Yorkers in need and the communities we call home.

Registration & Sponsorship



Unsubscribe development@eac-network.org

Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent bydevelopment@eac-network.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!