



CELEBRATION

RISE UP!

ANNUAL CELEBRATION
VIRTUAL EVENT

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

urinc.org/celebration2021



LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Greetings to all who have gathered virtually to share in the URI Celebration: Rise Up!

It is my honor to welcome our clients, staff, board members, supporters, partners and friends to

our second Celebration that takes place virtually, leveraging technology to connect and celebrate through cyberspace while adhering to safety guidelines. We look forward to gathering together in person again, but meanwhile are grateful for the opportunity to stay connected in this virtual manner.

I want to start by thanking our event host, the inimitable Jackie Fabulous, and our special guests: ABC news correspondent and television host John Quiñones, who tackles social justice issues in his work, and trailblazing sportscaster and radio host Joy Taylor, who is also a domestic violence survivor, advocate and URI Ambassador. A special note of appreciation to the extraordinary Sing Harlem! Choir whose voices, message and mission uplift us all.

The theme of the URI 2021 Celebration is Rise Up! and it is a theme that carries through our work, our clients and our

supporters who share our vision of a world free of domestic violence and homelessness. Tonight we celebrate a virtuous and interlocking circle of rising up. Through the rising up of partners, funders, government agencies, board members and more, URI rises up as an organization and delivers life changing safety, shelter, and services for those impacted by domestic violence and homelessness. This includes the many generous sponsors of the URI Celebration, including presenting sponsors A1 Equities and Heights Advisors.

Our dedicated staff rises up every day, pivoting these past 19 months to reinvent effective and safe service delivery through the challenges of the pandemic – a pandemic that exacerbated both homelessness and domestic violence. The URI staff provides shelter and direct services in more than 20 sites across New York City that accommodate up to 2,200 adults and children each night, and they impact some 40,000 lives, both children and adults, through programs that address prevention and intervention.

And, of course, our clients rise up to overcome trauma, rebuild their lives, and bring brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. While our clients come to us for support in overcoming domestic violence and homelessness, it is the clients who inspire



LETTER FROM OUR CEO

us – the staff and leadership of URI – as we witness their determination and resolution. URI provides the tools to empower our clients, but it is they who use these tools to rise up.

Tonight we will present three awards to honorees who represent the theme of rising up across the continuum of the URI journey:

- The **Trailblazer Award** is presented to PetSmart Charities, the leading funder of animal welfare in North America and an innovator in the intersection of people and pets and the human-animal bond. PetSmart Charities is a longtime supporter of the pioneering URI People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program. Aimee Gilbreath, president of PetSmart Charities, will accept the award.
- The **Triumph Award** is presented to two URI clients: Deedra Cheatham, a former client of the URI PALS program, and Lindsay Coker, a former client of the Programs for Homeless Families. Both have demonstrated personal commitment to rise up from trauma and build a safe future for their families.

The virtual 2021 URI Celebration: Rise Up! broadcasts live on October 20, but the recording will remain available for those who cannot join us, or those who wish to

revisit some of the inspiring moments and messages.

I hope this year's Celebration will reinforce the commitment of URI – our staff and clients – to rise up every day, and will inspire each one watching to find a way to rise up as well and help others rise even higher. You can learn more on our website www.urinyc.org.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel M. Fields
Chief Executive Officer
Urban Resource Institute



VISION

A world free of domestic violence, homelessness, poverty, and trauma, where individuals and communities are safe, stable, and thriving.

MISSION

To empower individuals, families, and communities, particularly communities of color and other disenfranchised populations, to end cycles of violence, homelessness, poverty, and trauma by increasing safety and resiliency.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Founded in 1980, Urban Resource Institute is the largest provider of domestic violence shelter services in the U.S., as well as a leading provider of shelter and services for homeless families. URI has the capacity to provide safe, dignified housing for 2,200 individuals a night, including adults, youth and children (and their pets) impacted by domestic violence and homelessness. Diversity and inclusion are core principles, and our doors are open to everyone.

In addition to safety and shelter, URI offers a holistic, comprehensive approach to ending domestic violence and homelessness through innovative programs addressing prevention, intervention and direct services. The programs include:

- **PEOPLE AND ANIMALS LIVING SAFELY (PALS)**, a pioneering program that offers co-living of domestic violence survivors and their pets. Only about 3% of DV shelters permit pets to live with their owners, yet 50% of victims say fear for their pets prevents them from fleeing to safety, and the human-animal bond is a vital part of healing. URI PALS remains the only shelter system in New York City to permit pets.
- **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** creates financial independence by building job skills and workplace readiness, as well as access to internships and employment opportunities for both domestic violence and homeless clients. Every URI client can access the program, which was created in response to the fact that 98% of domestic abuse survivors faced financial abuse.
- **RELATIONSHIP ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (RAPP) and EARLY RAPP** help prevent abuse by working with some 40,000 students a year in middle schools and high schools to teach them about healthy relationships through peer counselors, educators and social workers.
- **ABUSIVE PARTNER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (APIP)** works with perpetrators to break the cycle of domestic and intimate partner violence and prevent future abuse. APIP helps abusive partners take responsibility and accountability and provides the tools and resources to change their behavior and build patterns of healthy relationships.
- **CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES** utilizes a trauma-informed and client centered approach to provide comprehensive, direct services to clients including individual and group counseling, safety planning, and advocacy, working with the New York State Office of Victims Services. All victims of domestic violence are crime victims
- **LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (LEAP)** provides individualized on-site comprehensive legal advice, support and services to clients on a wide range of issues to help them achieve and maintain their independence and safety. LEAP also provides legal and rights-based training for residents and staff.



2021 HONOREES

Trailblazer Award *PetSmart Charities*



Aimee Gilbreath, President

PetSmart Charities is the leading funder of animal welfare in North America and a longtime supporter of the pioneering URI People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program, which provides co-living for domestic violence survivors and their pets and well as important research on the impact of pets in the domestic violence experience. Recognizing the power of the human-animal bond, PetSmart Charities is committed to “funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families,” including families facing times of trauma such as the clients of URI. The PetSmart Charities “Preserving Families Fund”

supports programs that keep people and pets together through times of crisis, with the aim of reducing pet-related barriers to accessing social interventions.

The PetSmart Charities support of URI PALS program over many years has funded research and program innovations that have helped URI become the nation’s leader in the intersection of domestic violence and pets. The PetSmart funding has supported URI thought leadership as well as shelter and comprehensive direct services that make URI still one of the very small number of domestic violence service providers that allow co-living of survivors and pets. Most recently, PetSmart Charities underwrote production of the 2021 URI *PALS Report: Breaking Barriers to Safety and Healing*, which is available for free download on the URI website, and the latest grant will support further research into the human-animal bond in times of crisis and effective interventions.

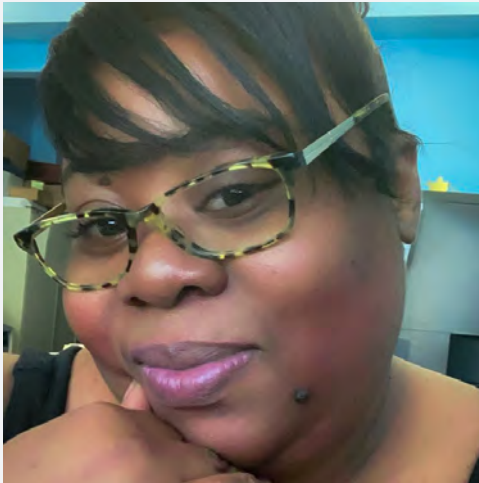


2021 HONOREES

Triumph Award

Deedra Cheatham

Former Client
URI Domestic Violence Program



Deedra Cheatham is a domestic violence survivor who found safety for herself and her children through the Urban Resource Institute People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program. After 15 years of abuse, Deedra sought a program that would permit her to flee her abuser along with her two young children, including her toddler son's beloved pet turtle, and was relieved when she learned the PALS program would accept the family and the pet. At the time, Deedra had a broken back and required a walker for mobility, but this did not stop her from bringing her family to safety.

The family spent a year in a URI shelter,

during which Deedra participated in a wide variety of URI programs to rebuild her life and built a network of support among her fellow residents, dubbed "the overcomers." She was able to secure permanent housing for her family (including the turtle!) and turned her passion into a career and became a grassroots political organizer.

Deedra is now Director of Constituent Services for New York City Council Member Stephen Levin, and after the important role that PALS played in her own life, she was instrumental in securing the recent passage of legislation working towards permitting pets in homeless shelters. Deedra has shown the power of one person to rise up in triumph to help themselves, their families, and their community.



2021 HONOREES

Triumph Award

Lindsay Coker

Former Client
URI Programs for Homeless Families



Lindsay Coker, a former client of the URI Programs for Homeless Families, is an inspiring example that while you may be without a home, you are never without hope. Lindsay arrived at URI in July 2020 with her two young daughters, and she has been especially committed to keeping the family together and becoming financially independent during some very challenging times. While still in the shelter, she recognized that she had to make her own future, and in the middle of the pandemic secured a job at Dunkin Donuts to get started.

Through hard work and the support of a regular Dunkin Donuts customer, who recognized her capacity to do more, Lindsay obtained a position as a Security Guard with the New York City Parks Department. During her brief time with the Parks Department, she has already received commendation and is poised to receive a raise in salary, and she is committed to pursue promotion and advancement. Determined to be a role model for her daughters, Lindsay saved her money, complied with all guidelines and tasks assigned to her, and was able to move with her daughters into her own apartment in Manhattan this past August. She looks forward to building a successful career and one day sending her daughters to college. Through a commitment to family and hard work, Lindsay found her way and has risen up and triumphed over homelessness.



HOST



Jackie Fabulous

Jackie Fabulous captured America’s heart as a semi-finalist on the 2019 season of “America’s Got Talent.” Jackie is a hilarious and affable stand-up comedian, writer, actor, producer, motivational speaker, and headliner who uses her jokes and sparkling nature to simultaneously entertain, encourage, and empower audiences while keeping them laughing, and easily navigating the comedy gamut from family friendly to naughty.

When Jackie is not on tour with her standup, you’ll find

her giving insightful keynote speeches and breakout sessions at corporate events and conferences, to sold out crowds. Jackie is a former lawyer who has lived an incredibly full life filled with love, tragedy, embarrassing moments, and hard lessons and she channels all of the above into relatable material and inspiring speaking engagements. More than just a funny lady, she is on a mission to inspire and empower women all over the world to Find The Funny In Their Flaws.

PERFORMANCE BY

Sing Harlem! Choir

Vy Higginson’s award winning Sing Harlem! is an outgrowth of Mama Foundation for the Arts’ free music programming in Harlem, New York, U.S.A.

Under the direction of Ahmaya Knoelle Higginson, the choir has grown to be a highly respected and influential force in the New York gospel scene, producing not only great vocalists, but top-notch global citizens. At its core, Sing Harlem serves as both a social impact initiative for young people that have graduated from Mama Foundation’s music training program, and as a commercial choir delivering acclaimed entertainment nationwide. Mama Foundation for the Arts identifies, trains, and employs young people in the arts. All proceeds from Sing Harlem! events and performances benefit the Mama Foundation for the Arts’ music training programs, which are provided to the Harlem community tuition-free. Mama’s mission is to present, preserve, and promote the fundamentals of Gospel, Jazz, and R&B for current and future generations.





SPECIAL GUESTS



John Quiñones

John Quiñones is the anchor of “What Would You Do?,” one of the highest-rated newsmagazine franchises of recent years. During his 35-year tenure at ABC News, he has reported extensively for all programs and platforms and served as anchor of “Primetime.” He joined ABC News in June 1982 as a general assignment correspondent based in Miami, providing reports for “World News Tonight with Peter Jennings” and other ABC News broadcasts. Prior to joining ABC News, he was a reporter with WBBM-TV in Chicago.

He has received numerous accolades throughout his career. He received an ALMA Award from the National Council of La Raza. He also contributed reports to ABC News’ unprecedented 24-hour, live, global Millennium broadcast, which won the George Foster Peabody Award. He earned seven national Emmy Awards for his “Primetime Live,” “Burning Questions” and “20/20” work and a Gabriel Award for a poignant report that followed a young man to Colombia as he made an emotional journey to reunite with his birth mother after two decades.

Joy Taylor

Joy Taylor is a sportscaster and television host who “kicked the doors down” on the boy’s club that is sports talk radio and is a fixture on the national sports media scene. After nearly two years hosting “Undisputed,” Joy traveled across the Fox Sports Studio where she currently co-hosts “The Herd” with Colin Cowherd. She also hosts a weekly YouTube show, “Joy Taylor Talks,” and hosts Thursday Night Football - “Scouts Feed” on Prime Video and Twitch. In September 2021 she became one of the few women to host her own sports radio program with the launch of “The Joy Taylor Show” on Fox Sports Radio.



Joy is a domestic violence survivor and outspoken advocate for the issue of domestic violence and abuse. Since 2020 she has served as an Ambassador for Urban Resource Institute, using her public platform to raise awareness and engage in dialogue on the issue of domestic and intimate partner abuse. In 2021 she launched her own foundation to further her commitment to helping others “rise up” from challenges similar to those she has faced.



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COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND

THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN

DEVELOPING THE PALS PROGRAM

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entire URI team for the great
work that they do.**

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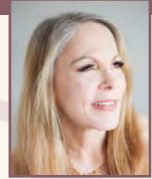
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