



People Get Better With Us

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Institute for Community Living Honors Chirlane McCray, LaRay Brown, Irfan Hasan, Linda Rosenberg and Sean Chandler at Annual Gala

Honorees Recognized for Commitment to Building a Healthy New York for All

For event photos, click [here](#) (photo credit: Ben Asen)

(New York, N.Y.)—On Monday, May 20, 2019 at The Plaza Hotel, hundreds of friends and supporters of the **Institute for Community Living (ICL)** came together to celebrate the organization’s 32-year commitment to helping New Yorkers lead more independent and gratifying lives. This year’s gala, *Building a Healthier New York for All*, paid special tribute to people and institutions who work to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

ICL’s honorees were: **Chirlane McCray**, First Lady of the City of New York; **LaRay Brown**, President, Interfaith Medical Center; **Irfan Hasan**, Program Director for Health and Behavioral Health, The New York Community Trust; **Linda Rosenberg**, President and CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health; and **Sean Chandler**, safety, the New York Giants.

“ICL is proud to honor these extraordinary leaders and visionaries whose work improves people’s lives and provides inspiration to us all,” said **David Woodlock**, President and CEO of ICL. “I want to thank all of our honorees for their partnership in supporting the work ICL does and for their advocacy on behalf of marginalized communities.”

Proceeds from the gala will support ICL’s work with 10,000 New Yorkers struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities to be better, feel better and live better. ICL supports recovery by providing trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, person-centered, integrated physical and behavioral health care.



About the Honorees:

Chirlane McCray: As First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray has redefined the role of First Lady, managing a robust portfolio to advance an ambitious agenda in support of all New Yorkers. Nationally recognized as a powerful champion for mental health reform and dubbed one of TIME Magazine's 50 Most Influential People in Health Care for 2018, Ms. McCray created ThriveNYC, the most comprehensive mental health plan of any city or state in the nation. She also spearheads the Cities Thrive Coalition, with more than 200 mayors, county officials, and thought leaders from all 50 states, advocating for a more integrated and better-funded behavioral health system. A lifelong activist and writer, First Lady McCray continues to fight for gender equity and LGBTQ rights, support survivors of gender-based violence, and create a more inclusive NYC. She brings her deeply-held commitment to the mental health and well-being of people and communities to everything she does.

LaRay Brown: Brown is Chief Executive Officer of the One Brooklyn Health System, Inc., instrumental in its founding and responsible for the clinical and administrative integration of three health systems as well as the implementation of a \$664 million capital program. She also serves as President and CEO of Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn. Prior to these positions, Brown enjoyed a 28-year career with the largest municipal healthcare system in the nation, serving in various roles including Senior Vice President for Corporate Planning, Community Health, and Intergovernmental relations; and Corporate Officer at New York City Health and Hospitals. While there, Brown implemented comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs, developed community-governed Federally Qualified Health Centers, and oversaw the development of affordable and accessible apartments for the public hospital system's long-term-care and hospital patients. Brown served as a member of Governor Cuomo's health care transition and Medicaid Redesign teams, and she was on the Board of the New York State Health Foundation.

Irfan Hasan: Hasan directs The New York Community Trust's Healthy Lives grant program. Following September 11, 2001, Irfan also oversaw The Trust's September 11th Fund's \$51 million health and mental health grant program. Previously, as Vice President at Greater Boston Rehabilitation Services, he oversaw employment programs for people with disabilities. Irfan is a member of Governance Matters/CharitySTRONG's Board; co-chair of Philanthropy New York's Health Policy Work Group; a member of the American Public Health Association; and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. He served as a Mayoral appointee to New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Service Board; Board Chair of Disability Funders Network; a member of Grantmakers in Health's Behavioral Health Network; and Co-Chair of the United World College Student Selection Committee.

Linda Rosenberg: Rosenberg is President and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health which has become the nation's largest mental health and addiction education and advocacy association with 2,900 member organizations serving 10 million Americans. Under Rosenberg's leadership, the National Council helped secure passage of the federal parity law and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA); advanced the integration of behavioral health and primary care, leading to the creation of a Medicaid Health Home option; ensured passage of the Excellence in Mental Health Act; and introduced Mental Health First Aid in the U.S.A. Prior to the National Council, Linda was New York State's Senior Deputy Commission for Mental Health where she opened New York's first Mental Health Court;

implemented the state's assisted outpatient program, Kendra's Law; designed services and housing for the homeless; and developed and operated a Home and Community Waiver Program for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families.

Sean Chandler: Chandler finished his rookie season with the New York Giants playing as a safety for the team. Growing up in Camden, N.J., Chandler faced seemingly insurmountable challenges including years of homelessness and food insecurity. His extraordinary work ethic and dedication to football led him first to a successful career at Temple University, where he was credited for transforming the mindset of fellow players, and then to his dream job of playing in the NFL. In addition to his performance on the field with the Giants, Sean has made significant contributions to the local community by hosting local youth at training camp; attending a day of play for Lyndhurst's Special Angels Challenger Program and the high school football team; dressing up for Halloween to visit the children at Hackensack University Medical Center; coaching a football clinic for the Cardinal Hayes high school football team in the Giants' practice facility; and serving lunch during Thanksgiving week to Big Blue's neighbors at Eva's Kitchen in Paterson.

About the Institute for Community Living

ICL provides trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, integrated, and person-centered care through supportive and transitional housing, counseling, and rehabilitation services for adults, children, and families with mental health challenges and those living with developmental disabilities. We serve 10,000 people each year; every night 2,500 New Yorkers call ICL home. Our goal is to help people achieve better health and the most fulfilling life possible.

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