

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS, ADVOCATES AND ALLIES TO BE HONORED AT THE INAUGURAL
2019 'PASSION FOR LIFE' AWARDS SPONSORED BY SUTTER HOME WINES

Passion for Life: Together We Win. Together We Fight.
Awards Dinner Celebrates Survivors Who Have Emerged Victorious

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(October 21st, 2019 – Brooklyn, NY) Two Brooklyn organizations – TOP Community Development Corporation and Haitian-American Community Coalition – have joined forces to honor sexual and domestic violence survivors and breast cancer survivors, advocates and allies with special recognition awards at the ***Passion for Life: Together We Fight. Together We Win. Awards Dinner*** on **Thursday, October 24th, 2019 from 6:00pm – 10:00pm** at **TOP Civic Center** in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. The evening begins with an advocacy cocktail reception sponsored by Sutter Home Wines, dinner program, and silent auction experience, including personal stories and testimonials from survivors in our community.

The following individuals were nominated by the community at large and will receive special recognition awards which represents their dedication and commitment to helping survivors of domestic violence and breast cancer in New York City:

Cecil Noel, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence will receive the 2019 Passion for Life Visionary award in honor of her dedication to ending sexual and domestic violence in New York City.

Michelle Kaminsky, Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau at Kings County District Attorney's Office has been selected as the 2019 Passion for Life Leadership award recipient, for her ongoing commitment and leadership in Brooklyn making sure her office is addressing people that are most marginalized because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, ethnicity, or disability status.

La'Keshia Jackson-Gordon and Ganesa Taylor, Founders, of ***Pink S.H.O.E.S., Inc.***, a local nonprofit breast cancer awareness organization who has turned adversity into triumph by creating positive change in the community for young women, will receive the 2019 Passion for Life Inspiration award.

New York City Council Member Farah Louis, representing the 45th District of Flatbush/E. Flatbush/Midwood/Marine Park/Flatlands/Kensington, and a domestic violence survivor and champion, will offer a very special keynote address to the honorees, survivors, advocates and allies who will be in the room.

"Passion for Life" was inspired by the New York City Council's DOVE (Domestic Violence and Empowerment) initiative which supports the neighborhood-based provision of domestic violence services in New York City. The NYC Council supports more than 70 community-based organizations, which includes HCC and TCDC, that provide prevention and empowerment workshops, comprehensive service referrals and legal advocacy to survivors of domestic violence.

Sutter Home Family Vineyards is a longtime champion in the fight against breast cancer. As one of America's first wine companies to make a commitment to breast cancer research, treatment and education, Sutter Home Wines has contributed more than \$1,415,000 to the cause over the past 19 years. The wine brand marked its sixth year of partnership with National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.® with a limited-edition Rosé bottle that dons a pink ribbon in support of their shared cause, which will be featured at the *Passion for Life Awards Dinner* on Oct. 24th, 2019.

Funds raised from 'Passion for Life' will help support both organizations' outreach and programmatic efforts for supportive counseling and social services for survivors of intimate partner violence and also those diagnosed and living with breast cancer so they may focus on healing, raising their families, returning to the workplace, and ultimately, promoting equity among all people.

More information can be found on our websites: www.topcommunitydevelopment.org and www.hccinc.org.

For more information on 'Passion for Life' please send an inquiry to passionforlifebk@gmail.com

RSVP seating for the 'Passion for Life' awards dinner are currently available <http://passionforlifebk.eventbrite.com>

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About Haitian-American Community Coalition (HCC)

Founded in 1982, the Haitian-American Community Coalition (HCC) is a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit community-based service provider (and originally a network coordinator of eight Haitian community centers in the New York Metropolitan Area that help U.S. Haitian immigrants gain self-sufficiency). While the primary focus is Caribbean- and African Americans, all community members are welcomed. A 37-year service history has established HCC as a spokes-organization and information source on Haitian communities in the U.S. and Haiti for Federal, State and City agencies, hospitals, universities, public schools, and research groups. In 2018, HCC served over 17,000 clients through immigration/refuge assistance, ESL and literacy, citizenship education, housing placement, job readiness, health and wellness education, PLWHA housing, HIV/AIDS education prevention, a variety of AIDS-related case management, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, domestic violence prevention and education, teen pregnancy prevention, drop-out prevention, cultural enrichment, youth services, family counseling and education, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center, and much more. Services are provided in English, French, Haitian Creole, and Spanish. For more information, please visit www.hccinc.org

About TOP Community Development Corporation (TCDC)

TOP Community Development Corporation is a Non-Profit 501(c) (3) organization founded in May 06, 1997. Our mission is to be part of the solution to the problems that plague our community by creating programs and offering services that will give individuals the resources to towards empowerment. Our vision is to see the lives of individuals and families in our community be uplifted, empowered and change for the better. **TCDC** Core values are dedication to the undeserved in our community and their needs, which is comprise of African American, Caribbean, Hispanics and Haiti. We embrass their diversity while ensuring that **TCDC** is dedicated to proving efficient, confidential and quality services. **TCDC** Adhere to outcome base practices as we create solutions to the community problems and needs, through our Dove program which Crisis intervention, case management, educational workshop and referrals. Our youth program addresses college counseling, financial literacy, career planning, Standardized test prep, assistance with ELA/Reading /Math; to name a few. TCDC partners with all Federal, State/City and local community CEBO's. Top Community Development Corporation currently serves individuals that reside in Flatbush and East Flatbush and the surrounding communities in Brooklyn, New York. However, we are not limited to only serving clients that reside in these areas, we will help anyone who can benefit from our services. We serve men, women, children and senior citizens. For more information, please visit www.TopCommunityDevelopment.org