

SHAREing & CAREing Holds Benefit, Auction

SHAREing & CAREing, the only community nonprofit organization to provide grassroots support services to breast and ovarian cancer patients and their families through counseling, educational forums and advocacy services in Queens and throughout New York City, held their 14th anniversary benefit and silent auction on Wednesday, November 19 at Riccardo's by the Bridge, Astoria. In keeping with a longstanding tradition, Joseph Pistilli, president, chief executive officer and chairman of First Central Savings Bank and chairman of the board of Pistilli Real Estate, acted as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. Basil Messados, Queens Medallion Brokerage Corporation president and CEO and Queens Medallion Brokerage Corporation Vice President Tony Georgiton were Guests of Honor for 2008. Bernard J. Biviano, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.P., director of peri-operative services and surgical critical care at the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, Debra J. Brennessel, M.D., F.A.C.P., Mount Sinai Services and Queens Hospital Center Department of Ambulatory Care program director and Internal Medicine Residency program director and Joseph Masci, M.D., Elmhurst Hospital Center director of medicine, were presented with the Physicians Recognition Award. Amelia d'Assuncao, M.A., R.N., NEA-BC, Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens director of nursing, and Joann Gull, R.N., Elmhurst Hospital Center chief nursing officer, received the SHAREing & CAREing Nursing Recognition Award. Frances Grace, publisher of Dish du Jour Magazine, Ltd., was the recipient of the Community Recognition Award for 2008. As has been the case in previous years, First Central Savings Bank received the Corporate Sponsorship Award for the event.

"It was a wonderful turnout," Anna Kril, SHAREing & CAREing president, declared. "Everyone went beyond



Photos Vinny DuPre

(L. to r.): SHAREing & CAREing Guest of Honor Tony Georgiton, vice president, Queens Medallion Brokerage Corporation, SHAREing & CAREing President Anna Kril and SHAREing & CAREing Guest of Honor Basil Messados, Queens Medallion Brokerage Corporation president and CEO.

(L. to r.): SHAREing & CAREing President Anna Kril, Dr. Arthur Gualtieri, member of the SHAREing & CAREing Advisory Board, Dr. Bernard J. Biviano, MD., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.P, Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens director of peri-operative services and surgical critical care and one of three recipients of the SHAREing & CAREing Physician Recognition Award, and Linda Perno, SHAREing & CAREing Benefit chairperson.

Elmhurst Hospital Center Director of Medicine Dr. Joseph Masci, M.D., a recipient of the SHAREing & CAREing Physician Recognition Award.

(L.) SHAREing & CAREing President Anna Kril and Joann Gull, R.N., M.S.N. Elmhurst Hospital Center Chief Nursing Officer, one of two recipients of the SHAREing & CAREing Excellence in Nursing Award.

Amelia d'Assuncao, M.A., R.N., NEA-BC, Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens Director of Nursing, the second of two recipients of the SHAREing & CAREing Excellence in Nursing Award.

(L to r.): SHAREing & CAREing President Anna Kril, SHAREing & CAREing Vice President Eartha Washington and Frances Grace, Dish du Jour Magazine, Ltd. publisher and recipient of the SHAREing & CAREing Community Recognition Award.

(L. to r) SHAREing & CAREing Founding Members Lucille Hartmann and Carol Scarano, Joseph Pistilli, First Central Savings Bank president and chairman of the board, master of ceremonies for the 14th annual SHAREing & CAREing benefit and silent auction, Mary Demakos, counsel to the president of SHAREing & CAREing, and Anna Kril, SHAREing & CAREing president and founding member.

(L. to r) standing: City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr., Former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr., Assemblymember Michael Gianaris, Paul Vallone, candidate for City Council in the Northeast Queens 19th District; seated (l. to r.): Democratic District Leader Gloria De Marco Aloise, Queens County Clerk Gloria D'Amico and Tena Vallone, wife of Peter Vallone Sr.

their means." Kril pointed out in her welcoming remarks printed in the event journal that participating in the organization's 14th annual fundraiser was crucial to its continued success. "At this moment, SHAREing & CAREing is facing a precarious financial situation, New York State and New York City funding has virtually dried up, therefore the need for private donations is extremely imperative," she noted. "Insurance companies routinely deny payment for chemotherapy treatments, lymphedema pumps and other much needed services. We are very proud that when we receive a request for help, we have been able to say 'yes'—always free of cost."

SHAREing & CAREing is the only community nonprofit organization which provides grassroots support services to breast and ovarian cancer patients and their families through counseling, educational forums and advocacy services in Queens and throughout New York City. As advocates, SHAREing & CAREing seeks to dramatically improve medical services to all women through early detection, treatment and information about living with the effects of breast cancer regardless of economic stratum.

The founder and executive board members of SHAREing & CAREing are breast cancer survivors and first-generation Americans who are bilingual and represent the multi-ethnic fabric of communities in Queens. For more than 10 years, SHAREing & CAREing has partnered with local physicians and hospitals to offer health forums and mammography screening, and provided unique counseling and culturally sensitive support services for women seeking information, and for those diagnosed with breast cancer. All services are free of charge. SHAREing & CAREing currently serves 6,500 women annually throughout the five boroughs.

For more information, call 718-777-5766.