



## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

November 9, 2023

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the VNS Health 2023 Benefit – *Empowering Our Neighbors in Need*.

Founded in 1893 by Lillian Wald, VNS Health was a pioneer in the fields of social reform, nursing and public health, to provide health services, education and a safety net to the most vulnerable New Yorkers in lower Manhattan during a time when disease was rampant. Over a century later, VNS Health continues to help vulnerable and marginalized communities, including ethnic and racial minorities, veterans, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, the frail elderly and people with mental illness and physical disabilities. You can all be proud of the commitment and support you continue to offer to our most vulnerable.

In 2022, VNS Health – with your generous supporters and community partners – provided over \$65 million in charitable care and community benefit programs. I join with you all in celebrating such large support.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to this year's recipients of the *Lillian D. Wald Award*: Mike Valentine, Chief Executive Officer of Netsmart; Martha Wolfgang, Adjunct Faculty Member (retired) in Health Policy and Management at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; and Peter Hutchings, Board Member of VNS Health. I join with their friends and family in saluting them for a job well done.

Again, congratulations to today's honorees and best wishes to VNS Health for your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl E. Heastie".

CARL E. HEASTIE  
Speaker