



Office of Addiction Services and Supports

OASAS. Every Step of the Way.

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

CHINAZO CUNNINGHAM, MD
Commissioner

Dear Friends of VNS Health,

On behalf of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), it is my pleasure to congratulate VNS Health on your 2026 Benefit, Care That Connects Us.

For more than 130 years, VNS Health has been a trusted source of compassionate, innovative care for New Yorkers. From home health and hospice services to behavioral health and care management, your commitment to meeting people where they are reflects a simple but powerful truth: health and healing are strongest when care is person-centered, accessible, and rooted in community.

That vision closely aligns with OASAS' mission to strengthen New York's system of addiction services by ensuring that individuals and families have access to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports that promote health, dignity, and hope. Together, our organizations recognize that lasting wellness extends beyond clinical care—it is built through connection, compassion, and partnerships that help people thrive where they live.

This year's benefit also provides an opportunity to recognize Dr. Richard Park, recipient of the Lillian D. Wald Award, for his leadership and commitment to advancing the health and well-being of New Yorkers. His work reflects the spirit of innovation and service that has defined VNS Health since its founding by the groundbreaking Lillian Wald.

Thank you to the dedicated clinicians, caregivers, staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners whose compassion and expertise make VNS Health's work possible each day. Your unwavering commitment continues to improve lives and strengthen communities across our state.

Congratulations on another successful year of service, and best wishes for a memorable and inspiring 2026 Benefit.

Sincerely,

Chinazo O. Cunningham, MD, MS

Commissioner

NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports