



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

November 12, 2026

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the VNS Health 2026 Benefit – *Care That Connects Us*.

Founded in 1893 by Lillian D. Wald, VNS Health was a pioneer in the fields of social reform, nursing and public health by providing 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 remains a trusted partner in delivering high-quality care to marginalized communities in vulnerable conditions with empathy, integrity and agility. Core values that we all should strive to embody in our everyday lives.

Thanks to your community partners and supporters, VNS Health provided \$66 million in charitable care and community benefit programs in 2025.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to this year's recipient of the *Lillian D. Wald Award*: Richard Park, MD, CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners. The *Lillian D. Wald Award* is presented each year in recognition of those who have made significant contributions to the health and welfare of others. I join with his family and friends in saluting his dedication to the betterment of not just his community but the entire State of New York.

Again, congratulations to tonight's honoree 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