



Dr. Lisa Scott-McKenzie
Commissioner

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August 14, 2026

Dear Friends,

The theme of this year's VNS Health Benefit – *Care That Connects Us* – reflects our shared commitment ensuring New Yorkers have the support they need to continue living in their communities and homes.

For more than 130 years, VNS Health has provided home and community-based care to New Yorkers. Your continued commitment to supporting older adults helps them remain independent, connected to their families and communities, and supported in the places they call home.

I would like to congratulate Richard Park, MD, CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners, as the recipient of the Lillian D. Wald Award. This award recognizes his contributions to the health and welfare of others and carries forward the legacy of VNS Health founder and public health pioneer Lillian D. Wald.

Thank you to VNS Health for your continued commitment to older New Yorkers. I wish you a memorable 2026 Benefit and building on our work helping older New Yorkers age with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Scott-McKenzie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "M".

Dr. Lisa Scott-McKenzie
Commissioner
New York City Department for the Aging