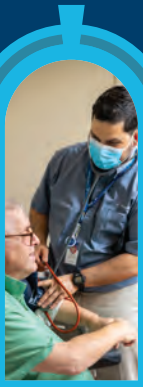
VNS Health
2026 Benefit





# CARE THAT *Connects* US



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026



**In celebration of**
**our extraordinary**
**NURSES**

**Who are the**
**heart and soul**
**of our Service**

*Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz*

VNS Health

2026 BENEFIT

# CARE THAT *Connects* US

HONORING

## Richard Park, MD

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, RENDR, AND

MANAGING PARTNER AND CO-FOUNDER, ASCEND PARTNERS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

## Kori Chambers

EMMY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST,

FORMER MAIN ANCHOR OF PIX11 NEWS,

AND FOUNDER, KORI CHAMBERS MEDIA

# Dear Friends

Welcome to our **VNS Health 2026 Benefit!**

We're delighted to have you with us as we celebrate this year's distinguished honoree, **Richard Park, MD**, with the **2026 Lillian D. Wald Award**.

The theme of this year's Gala, **Care that Connects Us**, speaks to something at the very heart of VNS Health. For more than 130 years, we have seen how care creates connections—between patients and caregivers, families and communities, and people and the services and support they need to live their best lives.

Every day, VNS Health brings expert, compassionate care to New Yorkers in their homes and communities. Last year, VNS Health provided over $66 million in **Charitable Care and Community Impact programs**, serving over 152,000 neighbors in need.

Tonight, you'll see one powerful example of that work in **The Promise Zone**, an initiative that reflects what Care that Connects Us means in action. This program is also a reminder that the impact we make together is possible because of the generosity and commitment of supporters like you.

This same belief in the power of care and community is reflected throughout the remarkable career of our honoree, **Dr. Richard Park**.

A board-certified emergency medicine physician, health care entrepreneur, and investor, Dr. Park has spent his career finding new ways to make high-quality health care more accessible. As founder and former CEO of **CityMD**, he helped transform a single medical office into one of the region's leading urgent care organizations, ultimately serving millions of patients across New York and New Jersey.

Today, Dr. Park continues that work as the CEO and Co-Founder of **Rendr**, the nation's largest primary-care-focused, multi-specialty physician group dedicated to serving the Chinese-American community, as well as the Managing Partner and Co-Founder of **Ascend Partners**, where he helps health care organizations grow their reach and impact.

That same commitment is at the heart of the **Lillian D. Wald Award**, which we are proud to present to Dr. Park. Named for VNS Health's pioneering founder, the award is presented annually to individuals whose work has made a significant contribution to the health and welfare of others.



Dr. Park, thank you for your extraordinary leadership, vision, and commitment in connecting people and communities with the care they need. We are honored to recognize you tonight.

We're also thrilled to welcome back our good friend **Kori Chambers** as our Master of Ceremonies for an incredible **sixth consecutive year**. An Emmy Award-winning journalist and one of New York City's most trusted voices, Kori is now the founder of **Kori Chambers Media**, helping executives, nonprofits, and mission-driven organizations tell stories that inspire action. As the proud son of a nurse, Kori understands personally the profound difference that compassionate caregivers make. We are deeply grateful to have him with us once again.

Finally, thank you for being here tonight—and for believing in the mission of VNS Health. Your generosity helps us reach people and communities who need us most and ensures that compassionate care remains within reach for New Yorkers across our city and state.

Together, we are strengthening the connections that make healthier lives and stronger communities possible. That is the promise—and the power—of **Care that Connects Us**.

With our deepest thanks,



Dan Savitt
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VNS HEALTH



Andrew N. Schiff, MD
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VNS HEALTH




**ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS**

NEW YORK STATE SENATE, 35TH DISTRICT

PRESIDENT PRO TEM ♦ MAJORITY LEADER


November 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome you to the VNS Health's **2026 "Care That Connects Us" Benefit Dinner**. I am truly honored to be part of this evening's celebrations and to recognize VNS Health's unwavering commitment to strengthening the health and well-being of our communities for over 130 years. We are deeply grateful for your continued dedication to delivering transformative, compassionate care and for the meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many.

I extend my gratitude and congratulations in recognizing 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***. Dr. Park's leadership, service, and commitment to advancing care in our communities embodies the spirit of this distinguished recognition. I applaud Dr. Park and his colleagues for their contributions, and for setting an inspiring example of service and leadership.

Tonight's celebration is also a testament to the generosity and commitment of the many supporters who make VNS Health's important work possible. Thank you for joining together in support of this remarkable organization and its mission. VNS Health is well-served by your involvement, and I thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of others.

Best Wishes,

Andrea Stewart-Cousins

*New York State Senator, 35th District*

*President Pro Tem, Majority Leader*


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STATE OF NEW YORK
**OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER**
110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12236

November 12, 2026

Dan Savitt, President & CEO
VNS Health
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the 2026 Benefit Gala hosted by VNS Health. Since 1893, VNS Health has delivered high-quality, cost-effective health care to the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Congratulations are due to this year's recipient of the *Lillian D. Wald Award*: **Dr. Richard Park,** CEO and Co-Founder, Rendr, and Managing Partner and Co-Founder, Ascend Partners. His leadership, service and accomplishments are truly worthy of your recognition.

Founded by nurse Lillian D. Wald to address the poverty, disease and despair she saw in Manhattan's Lower East Side in the late 19th century, VNS Health has grown from a group of a few nurses to become New York's largest nonprofit home and community-based health care group. With a team of over 11,000 employees, serving more than 150,000 patients in 2025, VNS Health has been an important asset to the community, helping individuals heal and stay in their homes by offering medical interventions, education, social programs and financial assistance. The theme of this year's gala is "Care That Connects Us," raising funds to help the group continue its mission of serving New Yorkers in need. The dedicated officers, board, staff, medical professionals and supporters of VNS Health are honoring cherished traditions and helping to build a healthier society for New Yorkers.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller




# 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,

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker



RITCHIE TORRES
15TH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

1414 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4361

540 E FORDHAM RD., UNIT 2A
BRONX, NY 10458
(718) 503-9610

## Congress of the United States
### House of Representatives
### Washington, DC 20515-3215

Dear Friends at VNS Health,

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to VNS Health on the occasion of your 2026 Benefit and to recognize more than 130 years of extraordinary service to New Yorkers. Since Lillian D. Wald founded VNS Health in 1893, the organization has remained true to her vision of ensuring that every New Yorker, especially our most vulnerable neighbors, has access to compassionate, high-quality care. Today, that mission is stronger than ever. VNS Health serves more than 100,000 patients, members, and clients each day, helping New Yorkers live, age, and heal in the comfort and dignity of their own homes and connected to their families and communities.

The scale and impact of their work is remarkable. With more than 11,000 dedicated employees, VNS Health provides care across 55 counties in New York State, delivering millions of hours of home health care and serving New Yorkers of every generation and background. From home health and behavioral health services to care for veterans, older adults, new parents, and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, VNS Health demonstrates what it means to put people and communities first. I am especially proud of VNS Health's commitment to the Bronx and the communities I represent. Your Nurse-Family Partnership supports first-time parents in the Bronx, while your behavioral health and community-based programs ensure that New Yorkers who too often fall through the cracks can access the care and support they deserve. Your commitment to serving transgender and nonbinary New Yorkers through the GAP Program is another powerful example of meeting people where they are with dignity and compassion.

The more than $66 million in support provided in 2025 through VNS Health's Charitable Care and Community Impact Programs is a testament to what can be accomplished when an organization, its supporters, and community partners come together to invest in New York's most vulnerable residents. I also congratulate Richard Park, MD, on receiving the Lillian D. Wald Award. Named for the visionary founder of VNS Health, this award honors individuals who embody a commitment to improving the health and welfare of others.

I hope you take pride in knowing that VNS Health continues to carry Lillian Wald's vision forward more than a century later. Your work makes New York healthier, stronger, and more compassionate. Congratulations to VNS Health, Dr. Richard Park, and everyone who has contributed to this extraordinary organization and its enduring mission. I wish you a successful and memorable 2026 Benefit.

Sincerely,

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

LIZ KRUEGER
SENATOR, 28TH DISTRICT
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NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

CHAIR, MAJORITY MEMBER
FINANCE
COMMITTEES:
RULES
BUDGET & REVENUE

August 10, 2026
VNS Health
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to extend greetings and best wishes to everyone participating in this year's VNS Health annual gala. This extremely important event helps support the wonderful and innovative work that VNS Health has been doing for the past one hundred and thirty years.

One of the most serious issues we face in New York City is the provision of health care. Organizations such as VNS Health are on the frontlines of the effort to ensure the availability of home and community-based healthcare for over 100,000 New Yorkers. VNS Health has been an invaluable asset to our city since 1893 and deserves the highest praise for its important work.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has participated in the important work of VNS Health for their commitment to the cause of healthcare. I look forward to continuing to work with VNS Health in their valuable efforts to ensure more New Yorkers can receive quality home and community-based healthcare.

Sincerely,

Liz Krueger

Liz Krueger
State Senator



SENATOR
GUSTAVO RIVERA
33TH DISTRICT

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY MEMBER
HEALTH
COMMITTEES:
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION
FINANCE
HIGHER EDUCATION
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MENTAL HEALTH

November 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to VNS Health and its honoree as you celebrate your 2026 Benefit.

It is my pleasure to congratulate this year's recipient of the Lillian D. Wald Award, Richard Park, MD, CEO, Co-Founder of Rendr, and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners.

For more than 130 years, VNS Health has given access to important health services, from home care to behavioral health and care management, to some of the most vulnerable of New Yorkers.

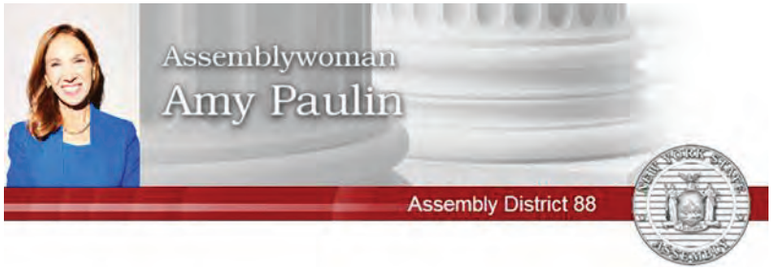
As Chair of the Senate Health Committee, I am committed to championing policies to ensure VNS Health continues to deliver great care to the thousands of people they serve every year as well as support this organization's dedicated healthcare workforce.

Thank you for your compassionate service to our communities for so many years, and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator
33rd Senate District, The Bronx

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grivera@nysenate.gov




November 12, 2026

Dear Friends of VNS Health,

It is my great honor to recognize the outstanding work of VNS Health on the occasion of their 2026 Care That Connects Us Benefit.

VNS Health has been committed to meeting the needs of New Yorkers for over 130 years. They are the largest nonprofit home- and community-based health care organization in the country, and today, more than 10,000 team members work together to make a difference in the lives of more than 100,000 patients, plan members and clients on any given day. VNS Health helps New Yorkers live, age, and heal in their homes, connected to family and community.

The work of extraordinary members of the community, as well as local organizations, provide essential support that allows VNS Health to uphold its mission. Therefore, in celebration of their commitment to provide health services, education, and a safety net to the most vulnerable New Yorkers, it is my great pleasure to recognize this year's honoree, Richard Park, MD, who is receiving the Lillian D. Wald Award for his significant contributions to the health and welfare of others.

Thank you to VNS Health and all its supporters for your tireless efforts on behalf of our community. I wish you all continued success.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Paulin
Member of Assembly



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FAX (607) 773-3688

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Albany, NY 12247
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leawebb@nysenate.gov

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

SENATOR
LEA WEBB
52ND DISTRICT

CHAIR
WOMEN'S ISSUES
COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
CITIES 2
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
MENTAL HEALTH
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

Dear VNS Health,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on your 2026 Benefit taking place on November 12, 2026 at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City. This year's Benefit theme is "Care That Connects Us," highlighting the importance of nurses in the healthcare profession.

Your commitment to service and health is evident. By bringing together community leaders, health care professionals, supporters, and advocates, as well as serving more than 100,000 patients, plan members, and clients across 55 counties, VNS Health stands as a symbol of what truly compassionate care looks like. With a staff of over 11,000 employees that speak over 50 languages, I see the strides VNS Health has taken to meet their diverse community's needs. VNS Health has over 130 years of history serving New Yorkers through innovative home- and community-based care. That dedication does not go unrecognized. Thank you for ensuring access to individual care regardless of financial circumstances.

I wish you a successful and inspiring 2026 Benefit. I hope that as VNS Health grows, you will continue to flourish your core values: Empathy, Integrity, and Agility. Thank you VNS Health for your enduring commitment to improving the health and well-being of New Yorkers.

Warmly,

Lea Webb
NYS Senator
52nd Senate District



GRACE LEE
Assemblymember 65th District

THE ASSEMBLY STATE
OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIR
Asian Pacific American Task Force

COMMITTEES
Banks
Children and Families
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Environmental Conservation
Insurance

MEMBER:
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force
Legislative Women's Caucus
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus
Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy Task Force

November 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to congratulate VNS Health on their 2026 Benefit, "Care That Connects Us."

Since its founding in 1893, VNS Health has served countless patients, clients, and health plan members with expert and compassionate care every single day. This includes being a leader in home and community care for decades, while aiding millions with high quality, cost-effective care, reaching vulnerable communities who find it hard to access the resources that they need. VNS Health provides crucial services to older New Yorkers that enable them to live, age, and heal in their homes, connected to their loving family and community. Their community centers and outreach programs help older adults in Chinatown remain in their homes while receiving care, as well as recreational opportunities such as exercise and music programs that keep them connected to the community.

In recognizing the importance of caring for our older community, I am grateful to VNS Health for strengthening the health and wellbeing of our senior community in Chinatown and New York City. With this year's theme, "Care That Connects Us," we are reminded that at a time when it can be harder than ever to find opportunities to connect with each other, the work that VNS Health does to provide not only healthcare to those who need it, but also help enable them to connect with the community, is more important than ever.

I also extend my congratulations to this year's Lillian D. Wald Award honoree, Richard Park MD, CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr, and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners. Thank you for your dedication to improving the health and welfare of underserved New Yorkers.

Best wishes on a successful Benefit and continued success.

Sincerely,

Grace Lee
Assemblymember
New York State District 65





THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JULIE MENIN
SPEAKER

November 12, 2026

Dear Friends:

As the Speaker of the New York City Council, I am delighted to extend my personal greetings to everyone gathered here tonight for VNS Health's Annual Benefit.

Nonprofits are the heart and soul of our communities, responding to urgent needs, complementing the work of city agencies, and helping to ensure no one in our city is ever left behind.

Their shared commitment to improving the lives of others embodies the very spirit of New York City – a city founded as much on courage as on kindness, where we care for one another and give the best of ourselves.

As they celebrate their Annual Benefit tonight, I would like to thank VNS Health and its dedicated team for the important work they are doing to provide high-quality, culturally competent home- and community-based health care to New Yorkers in need. Together, we are building a city where every community continues to be seen, served, and supported.

Congratulations as well to this year's honoree.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time tonight!

Sincerely,

**JULIE MENIN**
Speaker

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**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**
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NEW YORK, NY 10007
**TEL: (212) 788-6981**

**EMAIL:** District29@council.nyc.gov

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
**LYNN SCHULMAN**
COUNCIL MEMBER, 29TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

**CHAIR**
HEALTH
---
**COMMITTEES**
AGING
EDUCATION
CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTIONS
COMBAT HATE
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY
---
**SUB-COMMITTEES**
ZONING AND FRANCHISES

**Thursday, November 12, 2026**

Dear Friends,

It is my honor, especially as Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Health, to extend my warmest congratulations to VNS Health on the occasion of its 2026 Benefit, Care That Connects Us.

For more than 130 years, VNS health has been a lifeline for New Yorkers, delivering compassionate, high-quality care where it is needed most – in people's homes and communities. Founded by public health pioneer Lillian D. Wald, the organization has transformed the way care is delivered, helping New Yorkers live, age, and heal with dignity while ensuring that quality healthcare remains accessible to those who need it most. Today, VNS Health continues that extraordinary legacy by serving more than 100,000 patients, members, and clients each day and providing critical charitable care and community impact programs that strengthen communities across our city.

This year's recipient of the Lillian D. Wald Award, Dr. Richard Park, is truly deserving of this distinguished recognition. Through his leadership and commitment to expanding access to high-quality healthcare, Dr. Park has made a lasting impact on the health and well-being of countless New Yorkers. His work embodies the vision of innovation, compassion, and service that Lillian D. Wald championed and that VNS Health continues to uphold.

Congratulations to VNS Health, to Dr. Richard Park, and to everyone whose dedication makes this remarkable organization a trusted partner in caring for New Yorkers. I wish you a memorable evening and continued success in your mission of improving lives through compassionate, community-based healthcare.

Sincerely,
**Council Member Lynn Schulman**

**OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT**
10 RICHMOND TERRACE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

**VITO J. FOSSELLA**
**BOROUGH PRESIDENT**
718.816.2000

November 12, 2026

VNS Health
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the many generous supporters of VNS Health as they celebrate their 2026 Benefit, "Care That Connects Us."

As Borough President, I take a great deal of pride in recognizing organizations that care for the health of Staten Islanders. Since its founding in 1893 by Lillian D. Wald, VNS Health has provided a safety net for New York's most vulnerable population, following the core values of empathy, integrity, and agility.

The skilled and compassionate care provided by the staff of VNS Health has allowed countless Staten Islanders to remain safe and healthy in their homes and gives them the opportunity to stay connected to their families, friends, and neighbors.

I also wish to congratulate Dr. Richard Park, CEO and co-founder of Rendr, and managing partner and co-founder of Ascend Partners, as the recipient of the distinguished Lillian D. Wald Award for his significant contributions to the health and welfare of the individuals served by VNS Health.

Very truly yours,

Vito J. Fossella
Staten Island Borough President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300

431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
(212) 531-1609
www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President

November 12, 2026

Dear Friends:

I am proud to offer my sincerest congratulations to VNS Health, one of New York's most critical healthcare institutions.

VNS Health has long been a pioneer of home- and community-based health, setting standards that are now modeled nationwide and have led to more equitable access to healthcare. Since its founding, VNS Health has been an indispensable part of our city's healthcare fabric, from everyday care, to natural disasters, to viral outbreaks. At a time when healthcare is unaffordable and unreliable for so many, we are fortunate to have VNS Health working tirelessly to serve all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable patients.

It is also an honor to extend my congratulations to this year's Lillian D. Wald Award winner, Richard Park. Thank you for your dedication to VNS Health and New Yorkers' well-being.

On behalf of the Borough of Manhattan, I wish you success in the years to come.

Sincerely yours,

Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President



DONOVAN RICHARDS JR.
President

CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS
120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11424

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info@queensbp.nyc.gov

November 12, 2026

Dan Savitt
President and Chief Executive Officer
VNS Health
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Savitt:

Greetings to you and to all the friends and supporters of VNS Health on the occasion of the VNS Health 2026 Benefit, which has the theme of "Care That Connects Us."

This evening's event is a great opportunity to celebrate VNS Health for improving the health and well-being of patients, members, and families by providing expert, accessible, and cost-effective health care in their homes and communities. VNS Health also deserves to be commended for working with its supporters and community partners to provide over $66 million in charitable care and community benefit programs in 2025.

Tonight is also a great opportunity to salute your distinguished honoree, who is being presented with the Lillian D. Wald Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the health and welfare of others. I therefore offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Richard Park, MD, the CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners.

On behalf of the 2.4 million residents of Queens, "The World's Borough," I extend our sincere congratulations and thanks to you and everyone at VNS Health for your outstanding work. I hope all in attendance enjoy tonight's VNS Health 2026 Benefit, and I wish you and everyone associated with VNS Health continued success in all your worthy endeavors.

Sincerely,

Donovan Richards Jr.
*President*
*Borough of Queens*

NEW YORK STATE | Office of Mental Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

November 2026

VNS Health
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Friends,

I am tremendously pleased to recognize the continued accomplishments of VNS Health. An innovator for over 130 years, VNS is currently the largest not-for-profit home and community-based health care organization in New York State. Helping more than 150,000 patients, plan members, and clients daily to live, heal, and recover in their own homes, connected to and surrounded by family, friends, and their community.

Over the year, the transformative services offered by VNS Health including home and personal care, hospice and palliative care, and behavioral health care. These services are all provided incorporating the core values of empathy, integrity, cultural competence, and agility and impacts individuals across 55 counties in New York State.

In addition to providing support for individuals who wish to stay in their homes and receive care, VNS Health also offers services and outreach through Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Nursing Services (NORCs), Veterans Outreach, Nurse-Family Partnership, Community Centers, and LGBTQ+ Outreach & GAP Programs.

The commitment and dedicated efforts of VNS Health to improving the health and well-being of people through high-quality, cost-effective healthcare has made this organization one of our most important and valued partners. OMH depends on trusted partners such as VNS Health to fulfill our own mission of promoting the mental health of all New Yorkers with a particular focus on providing hope and recovery.

Congratulations to VNS Health on their many years of invaluable service to the community! I wish you great success on the VNS Health 2026 Benefit, "Care that Connects Us."

Sincerely,

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD
Commissioner

44 Holland Avenue, Albany NY 12229 | omh.ny.gov



NEW YORK STATE | 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
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Department for the Aging

**Dr. Lisa Scott-McKenzie**
Commissioner

**2 Lafayette St.**
**New York, NY 10007**

**212.AGING NYC**
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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,

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



## LILLIAN D. WALD AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

**April Anthony** (2018)

**Ann and Mark Baiada** (2024)

**Peter G. Bergmann, Esq.** (2007)

**Adam S. Boehler** (2021)

**Richard S. Braddock** (2000)

**Frank J. Branchini** (2013)

**Douglas D. Broadwater** (2014)

**Bert E. Brodsky** (2017)

**Samuel C. Butler** (2012)

**Kathy Hirata Chin** (2017)

**Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick (Ret.)** (2025)

**Peter R. Dolan** (2001)

**Eugenie F. Doyle, MD** (2022)

**Steven M. Durels** (2019)

**Claire M. Fagin, PhD, RN, FAAN** (2013)

**Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen** (2016)

**Mary Pat Gallagher, MD** (2008)

**Stephen V.R. Goodhue** (2004)

**Albert H. Gordon** (1979)

**John R. Greed** (2020)

**Barbara and Donald Jonas** (2007)

**Attallah Kappas, MD** (2010)

**Robert M. Kaufman, Esq.** (2011)

**Dr. Gerald Laubach** (1983)

**Arthur Levitt, Jr.** (1986)

**Robert V. Lindsay** (1982)

**Ruth Watson Lubic, RN, CNM, EdD** (2003)

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**Samuel L. (Tony) Milbank** (2018)

**Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN** (2002)

**Roger Morley** (1979)

**Juliet Patterson** (2012)

**Charles Peebler, Jr.** (1992)

**Jeffrey M. Peek** (2005)

**Carl H. Pforzheimer III** (2004)

**Emily and John Rafferty** (2021)

**Carol Raphael** (Special Recognition 2009)

**Irwin Redlener, MD** (2003)

**Beatrice Renfield** (2002)

**Corinne H. Rieder, EdD** (2016)

**Leon Root, MD** (2008)

**John W. Rowe, MD** (2009)

**John M. Schiff** (1978)

**Andrew N. Schiff, MD** (2015)

**H. Marshall Schwarz** (2000)

**Steven P. Shelov, MD, MS** (2008)

**David B. Snow, Jr.** (2011)

**Tara I. Stacom** (2014)

**John R. Stafford** (1992)

**Ramon Tallaj, MD** (2025)

**Mike Valentine** (2023)

**The VNSNY Volunteers** (2015)

**Thomas Von Essen** (2001)

**Mark Wagar** (2010)

**Rawleigh Warner, Jr.** (1980)

**Stephen A. Warnke** (2022)

**Thomas R. Wilcox** (1978)

**Martha Wolfgang and Peter Hutchings** (2023)

**John E. Zuccotti** (2006)



In the 1890s, in the midst of what would become known as the Gilded Age, two women in matching dark blue uniforms, each carrying a small black bag of first aid supplies, were a familiar sight on the teeming streets of Manhattan's Lower East Side. Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster had both recently graduated from the New York School of Nursing and were living in a neighborhood populated mainly by immigrants—families who found themselves living in cramped walk-up tenements, struggling to maintain their health as they tried to dig their way out of poverty.

One day in 1893, the young daughter of an immigrant student in Lillian Wald's home nursing class asked Wald to attend to her mother, who lay suffering with an untreated hemorrhage back in her small tenement room. The experience shook Lillian to her core, and at that moment she decided she would devote her life to caring for the poor and vulnerable.

The two nurses began providing nursing services to the community, dispensing healing and advice while wearing badges reading "Visiting Nurse Under the Auspices of the Board of Health." So was born the organization that would one day become the VNS Health.

Recruiting other nurses to assist in their endeavors, Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster headed out on their daily neighborhood rounds, which included educating residents about disease transmission and personal hygiene and providing medical care for illnesses, with all fees based on the patient's ability to pay. Thus, the term "public health nurse" was established by Wald. Additionally, Wald was instrumental in creating the first public school nurse position, and in 1900 she convinced the New York Board of Education to let a schoolteacher hold the first-ever class for children with learning disabilities or physical handicaps. She also initiated the first school lunch program in 1905, and in 1912, after years of lobbying, persuaded the U.S. government to establish the Federal Children's Bureau, charged with investigating and reporting on all matters pertaining to the welfare of children among all classes of people. Wald also believed that every person was entitled to equal and fair health care regardless of their socio-economic status, race, gender, or age, and went on to cofound Lincoln House to extend health care to black New Yorkers and joined Florence Kelley and Henry Moskowitz in founding the National Association for Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. Wald was elected the first president of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in 1912 and remained a leader and innovator in public health throughout the rest of her life.

Today, VNS Health continues to embody this idealistic woman's wish to nurse the sick and destitute, as we work to fulfill Lillian's vision through a wide range of programs and activities. We are proud to be carrying out her legacy, and to be part of the broader public health and social support network that she helped to establish.

The Lillian D. Wald Award is presented annually to those who have made significant contributions to the health and welfare of others.







## Richard Park, MD

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, RENDR
MANAGING PARTNER AND CO-FOUNDER,
ASCEND PARTNERS

Dr. Richard Park is the Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Ascend Partners, a growth-oriented healthcare private equity firm based in New York City. Dr. Park is the founder and former CEO of CityMD, a leading urgent care company that has treated over 8 million patients through its 150+ locations in New York and New Jersey. Under his leadership, CityMD grew successfully from a single-site startup medical office in 2010 to almost $500mm of revenues in 2019 through de novo site openings and medical practice acquisitions. Dr. Park is a board-certified emergency medicine physician with deep healthcare operating experience, and is a successful serial entrepreneur and investor who has worked with companies from conceptualization through execution and multiple exits. Prior to founding CityMD in 2010, Dr. Park was an Attending Physician in the Emergency Department at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. As a physician educator, he served as Associate Program Director and was voted Teaching Attending of the Year by the residents from 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. Dr. Park is also a co-editor of McGraw Hill's Intensive Review of Emergency Medicine.

At Ascend Partners, Dr. Park plays a central role in advancing the growth and impact of the firm's portfolio companies. He serves as CEO of Rendr, the nation's largest primary-care-focused multi-specialty physician group dedicated to the Chinese-American community, and as Executive Chairman of Seoul Medical Group, one of the leading independent physician associations serving Asian-American communities with a significant presence in California and other states. He also contributes his expertise as a board member of Essen Health Care, Rendr, and Seoul Medical Group.

Dr. Park earned his B.S. in Economics from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his M.D. from Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

# Menu

## APPETIZER

Citrus Shrimp

Mâche, Grapefruit, Pickled Fennel, Edamame, Radish, Romesco

## ENTRÉE

Rosemary Grilled Filet

Lemon Potatoes, Creamed Spinach, Chimichurri

## DESSERT RECEPTION

Lemon Meringue Pie Pop

Dark Chocolate Raspberry Truffle

Pumpkin Pie Ravioli

Chocolate Cheesecake Lime Cup

Espresso Boca Negra Cake

Banana Pudding Parfait

Classic Ice Cream Sandwiches with Sprinkles

Seasonal Fruit Martini



# Program

## WELCOME

Kori Chambers

EMMY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST,
FORMER MAIN ANCHOR OF PIX11 NEWS,
AND FOUNDER, KORI CHAMBERS MEDIA

## REMARKS

Drew Schiff

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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## AWARDS PRESENTATION

Richard Park, MD

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, RENDR, AND
MANAGING PARTNER AND CO-FOUNDER, ASCEND PARTNERS

## VNS HEALTH GALA VIDEO

## DINNER, DANCING, & DESSERT RECEPTION

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES



# Kori Chambers

EMMY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST,
FORMER MAIN ANCHOR OF PIX11 NEWS,
AND FOUNDER, KORI CHAMBERS MEDIA

Kori Chambers is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, former main anchor of PIX11 News, and founder of Kori Chambers Media, a communications and content firm that helps executives, nonprofits, and mission-driven organizations tell compelling stories that inspire action.

While on television, Kori became one of New York City's most trusted voices — anchoring at PIX11 News for 13 years and delivering live coverage across some of the city's most consequential moments. Today, through Kori Chambers Media, he channels that same storytelling instinct into strategic communications and content production, helping organizations build visibility, connect with communities, and create real impact.

Kori is thrilled to return as emcee of the VNS Health Gala for the sixth consecutive year. A proud son of a nurse, Kori knows firsthand the difference compassionate caregivers make in the lives of the people they serve.



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VNS HEALTH 2026 BENEFIT

Thursday, November 12, 2026

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on this well-deserved honor.

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*Congratulations*

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**We congratulate this evening's honoree:**

**Richard Park, MD**
CEO and Co-Founder, Rendr, and Managing Partner
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**Richard Park, MD**
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Congratulations to this year's distinguished honorees, whose contributions reflect the very best of VNS Health's extraordinary mission.

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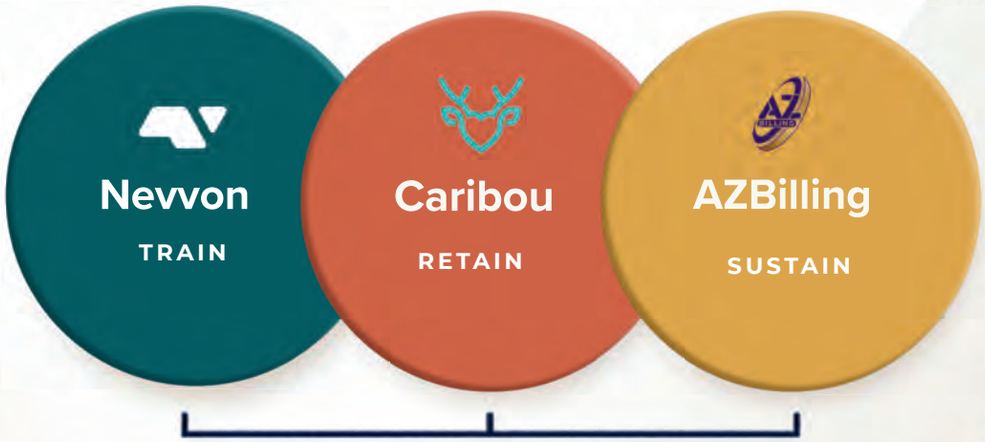
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WE CHERISH OUR STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH VNS HEALTH AND
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Congratulations

*to*

Richard Park, MD

on this tremendous honor.

***

I salute you and the
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*Phyllis Mills*

Mount Sinai Health System
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# VNS Health
# 2026 Benefit Dinner

and congratulates

## Richard Park, MD,

Recipient of the Lillian D. Wald Award.

**Brendan G. Carr, MD, MA, MS**
Chief Executive Officer
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2026

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# Care that Connects Us

Honoring

Richard Park, MD
CEO and Co-Founder, Rendr
Managing Partner and Co-Founder,
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*Honoring*
Dr. Richard Park
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On behalf of our senior patients, we thank and congratulate Dr. Park for his leadership, his vision, and his care for our community. Because of you, our elders receive care with dignity.
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**VNS HEALTH**
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**Thursday, November 12, 2026**

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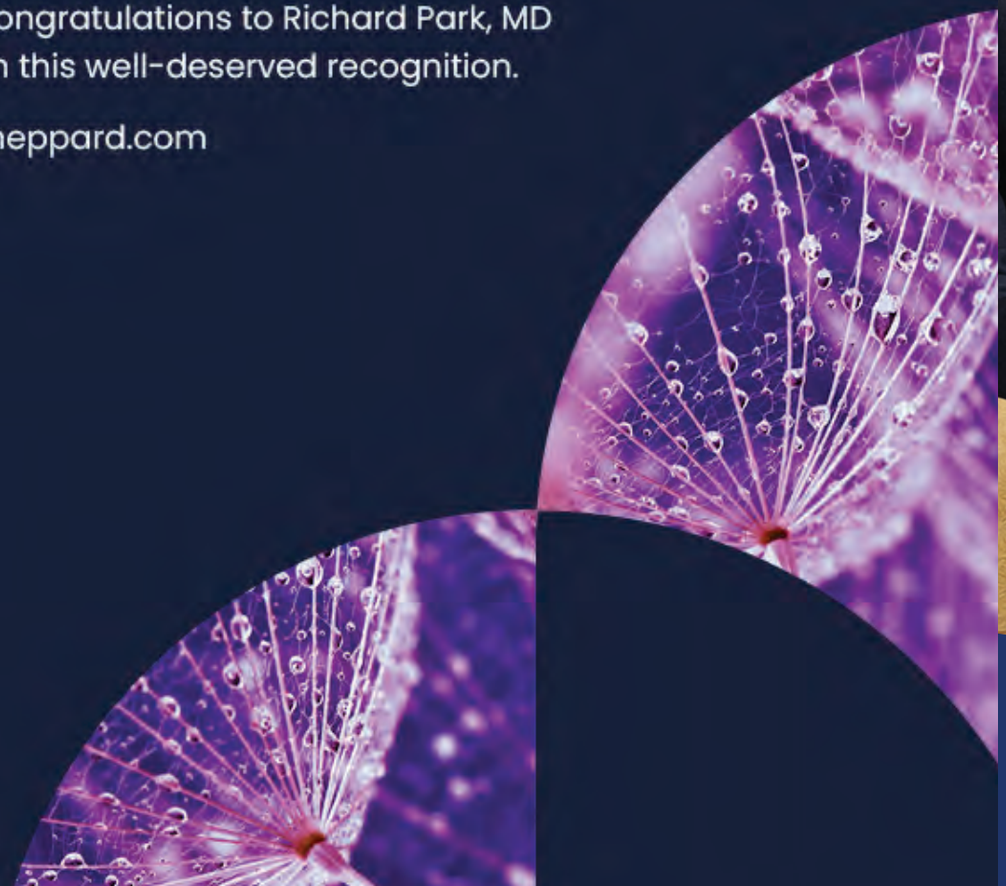
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Congratulations to Richard Park, MD
on this well-deserved recognition.

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# Richard Park, MD

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF RENDR

ON BEING
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## VNS Health 2026 GALA

In recognition of his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to expanding access to quality, culturally responsive healthcare.

As CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr, Dr. Park continues to make a lasting impact on New York City's Asian communities.

*Congratulations*

ON THIS WELL-DESERVED HONOR.

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**to an organization that's an even longer-lasting landmark than this one.**



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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO

# DR. RICHARD PARK

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# Congratulations



**Richard Park, MD**

*CEO and Co-Founder of Rendr*

## *for being honored with the* Lillian D. Wald Award

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