



# THE EXTRA MILE AWARDS LUNCHEON

Friday, May 15th, 2026



The Brownstone  
351 W. Broadway  
Paterson, New Jersey 07522

# Thanks To Our Event Sponsors!

## COLLEGE OF ADULT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



May 15, 2026

The Paterson Alliance Board of Directors is proud to recognize this year's Extra Mile Award recipients and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Paterson's nonprofit community.

Every day, organizations and leaders across our city work tirelessly to strengthen neighborhoods, support families, expand opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Paterson residents. Through collaboration, service, and advocacy, our members continue to demonstrate the power and impact of the nonprofit sector.

The Paterson Alliance was founded on the belief that by working together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant, and more equitable Paterson. This year's honorees embody that mission through their dedication, leadership, and commitment to going above and beyond in service to others.

On behalf of the Paterson Alliance Board of Directors, we extend our sincere congratulations to all of the 2026 Extra Mile Award recipients. Thank you for the difference you make each day in our community and for inspiring all of us through your service and leadership.

### PATERSON ALLIANCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Rosie Grant, President**  
*Paterson Education Fund*

**Ashley Lewis, Vice President**  
*Passaic County Habitat for Humanity*

**Brenda Belmont**  
*Gilmore Memorial Preschool*

**Joshua Chananie, Treasurer**  
*Sax, LLP*

**William Bryant**  
*Fidelity Investments*

**Anny Alonzo, Secretary**  
*New Destiny Family Success Centers*

**Carlos Lopez**  
*M&T Bank*

**Richard C. Williams, Immediate Past President**  
*St. Paul's Community Development Corporation*

**Rana Sabagh**  
*Islamic Center of Passaic County*

**Kara Rabbitt,**  
*William Paterson University - College of Adult and Professional Studies*

**Jim Walsh**  
*Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children*

**Assad Akhter**  
*YMCA Board, VP*

**Bryan Murdock**  
*Montclair State University*

**Marisa Dias**  
*JP Morgan Chase Bank*



Dear Paterson Alliance Members, Partners, and Friends,

Each year, the Extra Mile Awards give us a chance to reflect on the people who show up for our community with heart, commitment, and purpose. This year also reminds us to look ahead toward the future we are building together.

The challenges facing our community require collaboration, shared strategy, and strong partnerships. At the Paterson Alliance, we continue to strengthen our role as a connector between local organizations and statewide advocacy efforts. We are working to ensure that the voices of Paterson residents and nonprofits are represented in conversations that shape policy, funding, and resources across New Jersey. From environmental justice to children’s health and economic stability, we are helping connect local needs to statewide solutions.

Over the past year, we have expanded partnerships with high schools, colleges, and universities. Through our Apprenticeship Program and collaborations with higher education institutions, we are creating more opportunities for students to gain meaningful, paid experience while supporting Paterson’s nonprofit community.

We have also increased our virtual programming to provide more accessible training, workshops, and learning opportunities for our members. These programs help organizations strengthen leadership, build capacity, and stay connected across our growing network.

Another major milestone ahead is the launch of the 2026 Paterson Kids Count report. This effort helps us better understand the realities facing children and families in our city while guiding future action around education, health, and economic stability.

Our network of more than 120 organizations continues to be a powerful force for good. The individuals we honor today reflect the very best of Paterson. They go the extra mile because they believe in this community and its future.

Thank you for your partnership, leadership, and commitment to collective impact. Together, we are building a stronger and more vibrant Paterson for generations to come.

With gratitude,  
Shanikwa Lemon  
Executive Director, Paterson Alliance

## 2026 Extra Mile Awards Program

**12:00 noon**  
Luncheon and Musical Interlude  
*Paterson Music Project*

**12:10 pm**  
**Welcome**  
Rosie Grant  
*Board President, Paterson Alliance*

**Blessing**  
Pastor Carolyn McCombs

**Opening Remarks**  
Shanikwa Lemon  
*Executive Director, Paterson Alliance*

**Video Tribute to 2026 Honorees**  
**Introduction of 2026 Extra Mile Award Honorees -Part I**

**Keynote Address**  
Assemblyman Kenyatta Stewart

**Special Musical Performance**  
Paterson Music Project  
*“Life in the Silk City”*

**Video Tribute to 2026 Honorees**  
**Introduction of 2026 Extra Mile Award Honorees -Part II**

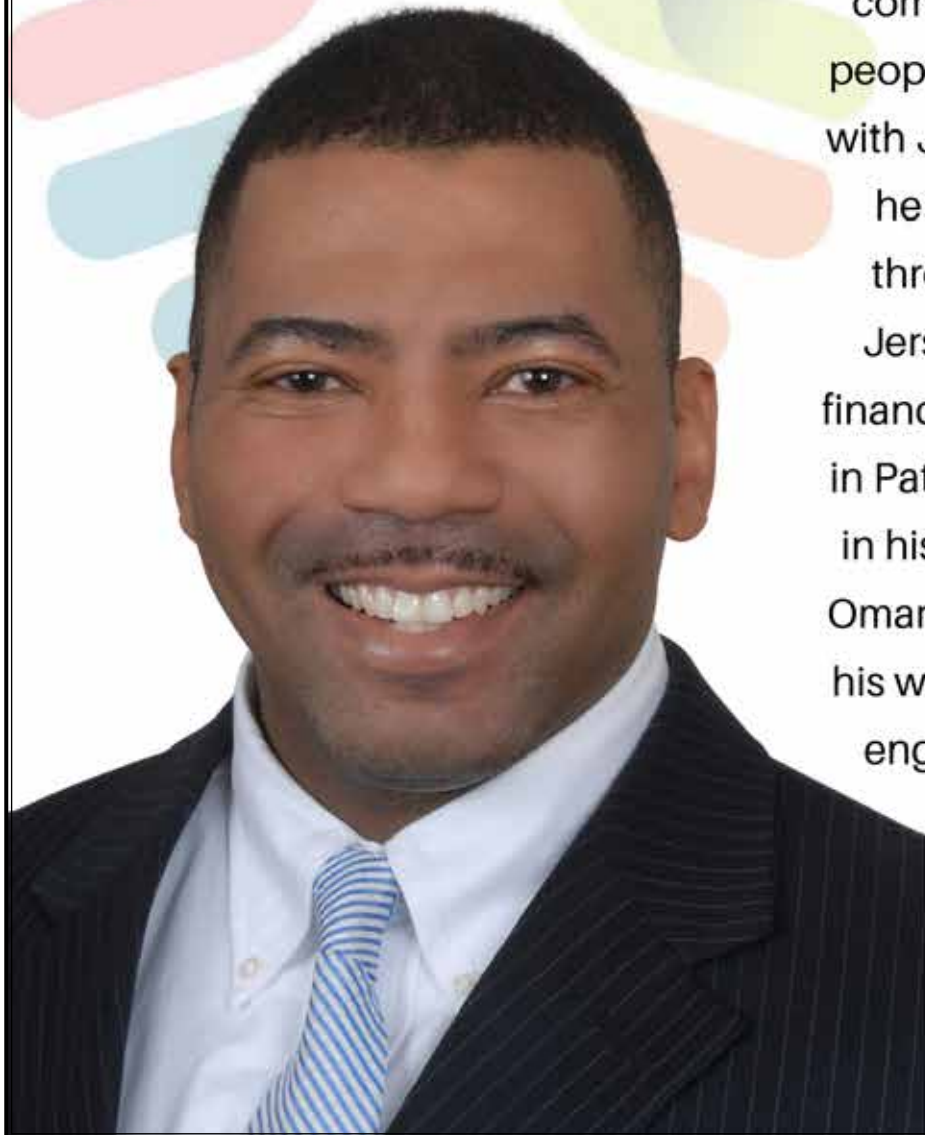
**Closing Remarks**

**Networking**

# Omari Frazier

## Paterson Alliance Appreciation Board Service Award

Omari has worked in the financial industry for the last 24 years with experience in relationship management, client satisfaction, community development, and people leadership; most recently with JPMorgan Chase. Although, he has done impactful work throughout the state of New Jersey during his years in the financial industry, his recent work in Paterson holds a special place in his heart. On a personal note, Omari enjoys spending time with his wife, kids, family, friends, and engaging in physical fitness.

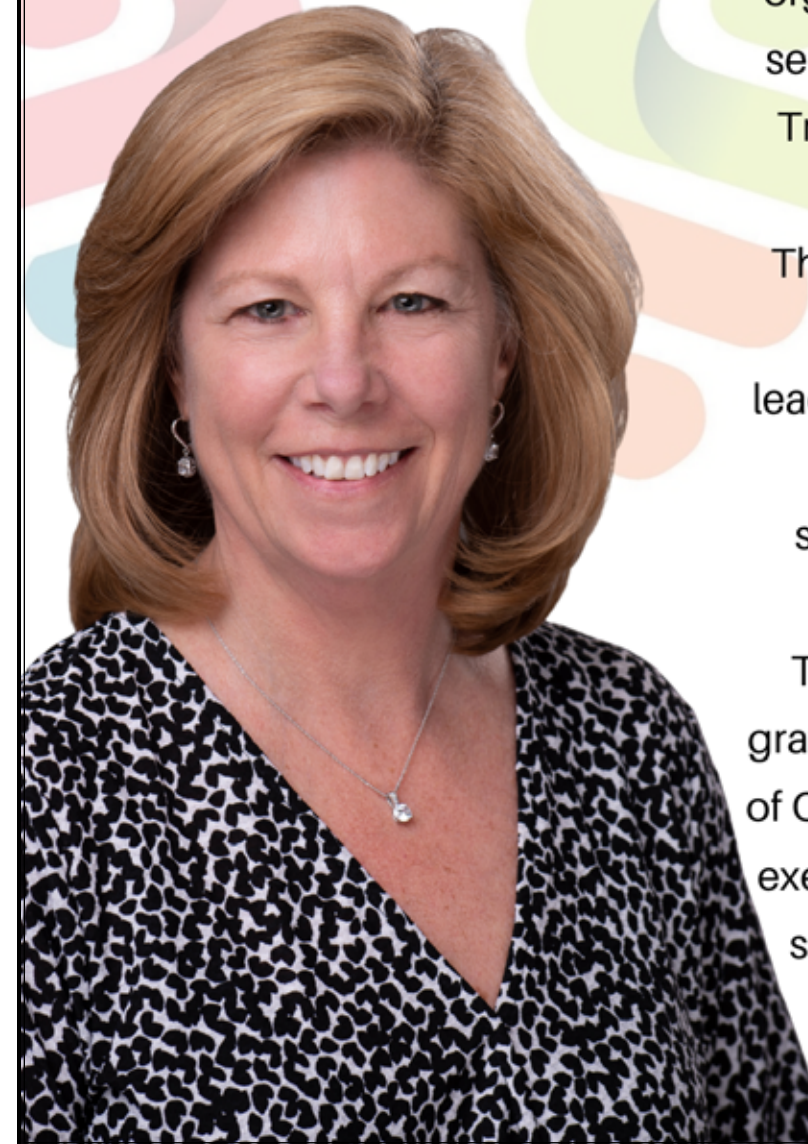


# Lauren Frary

## Paterson Alliance Appreciation

Lauren Frary is a respected nonprofit leader and strategic advisor with more than 36 years of experience in leadership, fundraising, and organizational strategy. She currently serves as Executive Director of Rising Treetops at Oakhurst and continues her consulting work. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for collaborative leadership, strong fiscal oversight, and helping organizations grow sustainably while staying mission-focused.

The Paterson Alliance is especially grateful for Lauren's service as Director of Operations during the organization's executive leadership transition, where she mentored, trained, and helped guide the next generation of leadership.



# Malcolm McClain

## Paterson Alliance Appreciation Award

**GERALDINE R.  
DODGE**   
**FOUNDATION**

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has been a longtime supporter of the Paterson nonprofit community. The Foundation invests in organizations and initiatives that strengthen neighborhoods, expand opportunity, and advance equity for residents and families. Through its commitment to community-centered change, Dodge continues to support efforts that create lasting impact across Paterson.

Representing the Foundation is Malcolm McClain, Director of Housing Choice. In this role, he oversees the Foundation's housing portfolio, supporting organizations that expand access to safe, affordable housing and homeownership as a pathway to closing the racial wealth gap.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 001  
TRENTON  
08625  
(609) 292-6000

MIKIE SHERRILL  
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2026

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, it is my pleasure to recognize and commend the Paterson Alliance as you celebrate the 2026 Extra Mile Awards Luncheon, honoring individuals whose dedication and service continue to strengthen the Paterson community.

The Paterson Alliance's longstanding commitment to uniting and empowering nonprofit organizations and community partners is clearly reflected by this momentous occasion. By recognizing those who go above and beyond in service to others, the Alliance not only celebrates individual achievement, but also advances its mission to foster collaboration, civic engagement, and collective impact throughout the greater Paterson region.

This year's celebration stands as a testament to the dedication, leadership, and generosity of the 25 nominees being honored with the Extra Mile Award. Their commitment to serving others and improving the lives of those around them represents the very best of public service and community leadership, while ensuring that Paterson remains a vibrant and caring community for generations to come.

Best wishes for a memorable and successful celebration, and congratulations once again to all this year's deserving honorees.

Sincerely,

Mikie Sherrill  
Governor

*Congratulations*

**Sara L. Ruiz**

*Recipient of the Extra Mile Award*



The PCHFH staff also extends our heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's Extra Mile Award recipients for their dedication, leadership, and service to the community.



Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Paterson  
[www.CCPaterson.org](http://www.CCPaterson.org)

Congratulations to all  
2026 Extra Mile Awards Honorees  
and  
Gloria Bodker,  
Director of Friendship Corner II



   @ccharitiespat



Congratulations, Lisa Brenenson, and thank you for your support of our students and programs.

**Continue your journey with us to advance your educational and career goals!**

William Paterson University's College of Adult & Professional Studies provides high-quality, career-building programs at an exceptional value to prepare you for a range of professional roles.

## Professional Certifications

Professional Certificates & Training offers a variety of upskilling, reskilling, and training opportunities to help you to your next career milestone.

COLLEGE OF ADULT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



## Degree Completion & Adult Learning

Degree Completion and Adult Learning (DCAL) works with returning adults to assure a smooth university experience and to help accelerate your path to degree completion.



For more information about certificates and trainings

## WP Online Student Support

WP Online Student Support offers academic advisement and financial aid guidance in a supportive environment for William Paterson University online learners.



For more information about the College of Adult and Professional Studies



**2026 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

**Paid Summer Experience for Paterson Highschool Juniors & Seniors working with Paterson Non-Profits!**

**Requirements :**

- ▶ Rising Paterson High School Juniors or Seniors
- ▶ Attend Paid Orientation June 29- July 1, 8:30-5pm
- ▶ 7 Week Summer Schedule  
25 hours work week  
\$15.92 per hour pay rate  
July 6- August 14, 2026



**STUDENTS REGISTER HERE:**



**HOSTING AGENCIES APPLY HERE:**




**Please contact Shanikwa Lemon for more information by email to [SLemon@PatersonAlliance.org](mailto:SLemon@PatersonAlliance.org) or call 973-519-3655**

# 2026 EXTRA MILE HONOREES




**Ezequiel Edge**  
Chosen Generation Community Corporation



**Johanna Cuervo**  
Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children



**Jamie Ponce**  
NY Cosmos



**Kevin Park**  
Families For Families




**Christian Mundo**  
CUMAC




**Yolanda Maldonado**  
Paterson Task Force for Community Action



**Errol S. Kerr**  
Paterson Education Fund



**Natasha McCutchen**  
St. Paul's Community Development Corp.




**Jasmine Martir**  
2ndGenMusic Legacy, Inc.




**Adelaida Mojica**  
4Cs of Passaic County, Inc.




**Darien M. Allen**  
Paterson Task Force for Community Action




**Varouj Oghali**  
United Way of Passaic County



**Brenda McKoy**  
Gilmore Memorial Preschool




**Umme Choudhury**  
Health Coalition of Passaic County



**Sara Ruiz**  
Passaic County Habitat for Humanity




**Paul Mejia**  
St. Luke Community Development Corp.




**Sara Duricko**  
Montclair State University




**Darren Boch**  
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park




**Maria Duran**  
Circle of Care for Families & Children of Passaic County



**Rosemary Pascual-Diaz**  
Camp YDP




**Pauline R. Brown**  
Grandparents as Parents Alliance Inc.



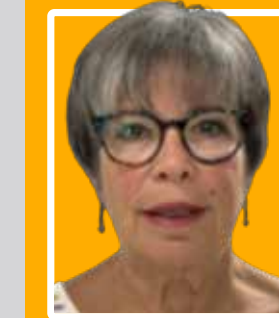
**Lisa Brenenson**  
William Paterson University



**Gabby Foushee**  
NJCDC



**Alrye Osborne**  
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center



**Gloria Bodker**  
Catholic Charities

# 2026 EXTRA MILE HONOREES



**Ezequiel Edge**  
Chosen Generation Community Corporation

**Ezequiel Edge,  
Chosen Generation Community Corporation**

Ezequiel "EZ" Edge is a dedicated peer recovery advocate committed to uplifting individuals facing addiction, hardship, and personal struggles. Through his work with Chosen Generation Community Corporation, EZ uses his lived experience to support and encourage others on their journey toward healing and stability.

Through street outreach, peer recovery support, drug checking initiatives, and podcasting, EZ connects directly with individuals in need, helping them recognize their value and potential. He is passionate about motivating others to move beyond difficult circumstances and toward hope, purpose, and growth.

Known for his authenticity and compassion, EZ understands that recovery impacts not only individuals, but also the families and communities that support them.

Through his dedication and outreach, he continues to make a meaningful impact throughout the community.

**Kevin Park,  
Food Pantry Associate & Moving Manager,  
Families For Families**

Kevin Park is a dedicated and compassionate leader whose commitment to service has made a meaningful impact on the Families For Families community.

What began as a volunteer role quickly grew into a vital position, as Kevin consistently stepped forward to support wherever he was needed.

In his dual role as Food Pantry Associate and Moving Manager, Kevin a critical part in ensuring that operations run smoothly while maintaining a welcoming and respectful environment for all. Whether assisting families during pantry distribution, organizing donations, or coordinating furniture moves, he approaches every responsibility with care, reliability, and professionalism.

Kevin's presence extends beyond logistics. He helps create a sense of dignity and belonging for those he serves, ensuring that individuals feel supported during times of need. His consistency, humility, and willingness to go above and beyond reflect a deep commitment to community care.



**Kevin Park**  
Families For Families

**Johanna Cuervo, ESL Teacher,  
Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children**

Johanna Cuervo is a dedicated educator whose work reflects a deep commitment to empowering individuals through language, connection, and opportunity.

With over 15 years of experience teaching English as a Second Language, beginning in Colombia and continuing in the United States, she brings both global perspective and compassionate leadership to her role.

Johanna creates inclusive and supportive learning environments where adult learners, particularly immigrants, feel welcomed and encouraged as they navigate a new language, culture, and community. She understands that language acquisition is not only about communication, but about independence, confidence, and access to opportunity. To support this, she developed a foundational ESL course designed to strengthen essential skills while fostering long-term success.

Known for her empathy and intentional approach, Johanna goes beyond instruction by connecting her students to resources and uplifting them with encouragement and care. Her work continues to open doors for individuals and families, strengthening the community and leaving a lasting impact on those she serves.



**Johanna Cuervo**  
Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children

**Christian Mundo,  
Inventory Specialist & IT Manager, CUMAC**

Christian Mundo is a dedicated leader whose work reflects consistency, growth, and a strong commitment to service. Beginning his journey at CUMAC as a Warehouse Associate, he developed a deep understanding of the organization's operations and mission.

Today, as Inventory Specialist and IT Manager, Christian plays a critical role in maintaining systems that ensure efficient food distribution and accurate tracking.

His ability to bridge operational needs with technical solutions has strengthened the organization's capacity to serve the community effectively.

Known for his humility and team-oriented approach, Christian focuses on impact rather than recognition. His contributions support thousands of individuals and families, helping ensure that services are delivered with dignity and care. His work continues to strengthen the foundation of CUMAC's mission.



**Christian Mundo**  
CUMAC

**Jamie Ponce, VP of Revenue & Events,  
NY Cosmos**

Jamie Ponce, also known as Silk City JP, is a respected leader whose career reflects both professional excellence and a deep commitment to community. A proud product of Passaic County, Jamie has remained closely connected to the communities that shaped him, bringing his experience back to serve and inspire others.

With over 20 years in the sports industry, he has contributed to major organizations including the Nets and the New York Red Bulls, building a strong reputation in event operations and organizational growth. Today, as part of the return of the NY Cosmos at Hinchliffe Stadium, he plays a key role in bringing professional sports back to Paterson.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jamie is dedicated to mentoring young people and demonstrating what is possible through hard work and perseverance. His leadership reflects a strong sense of purpose, pride, and commitment to community advancement.



**Jamie Ponce**  
NY Cosmos

**Yolanda Maldonado, Emergency Services Coordinator &  
Outreach Specialist, Paterson Task Force for Community Action**

Yolanda Maldonado is a trusted and compassionate leader whose work is rooted in service, empathy, and a deep connection to the Paterson community.

Beginning her journey as a volunteer, she has grown into a key leader dedicated to supporting individuals and families in times of need.

In her role, Yolanda works directly with residents facing challenging circumstances, ensuring they are met with care, respect, and access to essential resources. Her responsiveness and ability to build trust have made her a reliable and valued presence within the community.

Yolanda's commitment goes beyond her role. She consistently goes the extra mile to ensure individuals feel seen, supported, and empowered.

Her work reflects a deep dedication to uplifting others and strengthening the community she proudly serves.



**Yolanda Maldonado**  
Paterson Task Force for Community Action

# 2026 EXTRA MILE HONOREES



**Errol S. Kerr**  
Paterson Education Fund

**Errol S. Kerr, Treasurer,  
Paterson Education Fund**

Errol S. Kerr is a respected leader and lifelong advocate for educational equity in Paterson. With decades of experience in public service and education, he has played a significant role in shaping opportunities for students and families. As Treasurer of the Paterson Education Fund and former Paterson Board of Education Commissioner, Mr. Kerr has contributed to strengthening governance, accountability, and student-centered policies. His leadership has helped ensure that educational systems remain responsive to the needs of the community.

His work reflects both experience and purpose, grounded in a commitment to improving outcomes for future generations. Through his dedication and leadership, Mr. Kerr continues to make a lasting impact on the Paterson community.

**Adelaida Mojica,  
4Cs of Passaic County, Inc.**

Adelaida Mojica is a dedicated professional whose life and career reflect resilience, compassion, and a deep commitment to supporting families in her community.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Paterson, she carries forward the values of hard work and perseverance instilled in her from an early age.

With over 30 years of experience and more than a decade of service at 4Cs of Passaic County, Adelaida plays a vital role in helping families access child care resources that promote stability and long-term growth.

Her work ensures that families are supported as they build stronger futures for themselves and their children.

Known for her warmth, professionalism, and positive spirit, Adelaida brings care and intention to every interaction. She understands that even small acts of support can lead to meaningful change. Through her dedication and service, she continues to make a lasting impact on families across the community.



**Adelaida Mojica**  
4Cs of Passaic County, Inc.



**Natasha McCutchen**  
St. Paul's Community Development Corp.

**Natasha McCutchen, Emergency Men's Shelter Manager,  
St. Paul's Community Development Corporation**

Natasha McCutchen is a compassionate leader dedicated to serving individuals experiencing homelessness with dignity and care.

As Emergency Men's Shelter Manager, she ensures a safe, structured, and supportive environment for residents.

Her work extends far beyond operations. Natasha builds meaningful relationships, connects individuals to housing, healthcare, and employment resources, and supports their journey toward stability.

Her hands-on approach reflects a deep commitment to meeting people where they are.

Through her leadership, many have found not only services, but renewed hope. Natasha's dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment to others embody the true spirit of the Extra Mile Award.

**Darien M. Allen, Executive Director, Paterson Task Force  
for Community Action (United Passaic Organization)**

Darien M. Allen is a transformational leader whose work is defined by vision, accountability, and a strong commitment to community advancement.

As Executive Director of the Paterson Task Force for Community Action and Fiscal Officer for the United Passaic Organization, he has played a critical role in strengthening both systems and organizational culture.

Darien is widely recognized for his solution-oriented leadership style, encouraging those around him to think critically, act intentionally, and lead with purpose.

His leadership has improved operational effectiveness, strengthened collaboration, and enhanced outcomes for the communities served.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Darien is a mentor and motivator who invests in the growth of others. His ability to lead with integrity and inspire those around him continues to shape stronger organizations and a stronger Paterson community.



**Darien M. Allen**  
Paterson Task Force for Community Action



**Jasmine Martir**  
2ndGenMusic Legacy, Inc.

**Jasmine Martir, Director of Operations,  
2ndGenMusic Legacy, Inc.**

Jasmine Martir is a dynamic leader whose work bridges creativity, structure, and community engagement. As Director of Operations at 2ndGenMusic Legacy, she plays a central role in ensuring the organization operates effectively while continuing to grow its impact.

A proud Paterson native, Jasmine brings passion and intention to every aspect of her work. From managing operations and programming to supporting artists and youth, she helps create spaces where creativity and opportunity can thrive.

Beyond her role, Jasmine is an entrepreneur and artist, using her talents to uplift others and inspire the community. Her leadership reflects both innovation and care, making a lasting impact on those she serves.

**Varouj Oghali, Volunteer Leader,  
United Way of Passaic County**

Varouj Oghali is a dedicated community leader whose lifelong commitment to service continues to make a meaningful impact. Following a distinguished career in technology and finance, he has devoted his time to empowering individuals and families through financial education and support.

Through his work with the United Way's VITA program and financial empowerment initiatives, Varouj provides critical guidance to individuals seeking to build stability and confidence. His patient and thoughtful approach ensures that those he serves feel informed and supported.

Whether mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs or assisting families during tax season, Varouj brings humility, expertise, and compassion to every role.

His work reflects a deep belief that empowering individuals leads to stronger, more resilient communities.



**Varouj Oghali**  
United Way of Passaic County

# 2026 EXTRA MILE HONOREES



**Brenda McKoy**  
Gilmore Memorial Preschool

**Brenda McKoy, Family Worker  
& CACFP Coordinator, Gilmore Memorial Preschool**

Brenda McKoy is a dedicated advocate for children and families, working to strengthen connections between home, school, and community. In her role at Gilmore Memorial Preschool, she plays a key part in supporting family engagement and program development. With over 20 years of experience, Brenda brings both strategy and compassion to her work. She develops systems that improve access to services, builds strong community partnerships, and empowers families to actively participate in their children's education. Her work reflects a deep commitment to equity and opportunity. Through her leadership and dedication, Brenda continues to create lasting impact, helping families feel supported, informed, and connected.



**Paul Mejia**  
St. Luke Community Development Corp.

**Paul Mejia, Site Coordinator,  
St. Luke Community Development Corporation**

Paul Mejia is a rising leader whose journey is rooted in service, growth, and community connection. Having begun as a young volunteer in the Freedom School program, he now leads it as Site Coordinator, guiding the next generation. In his role, Paul oversees daily operations, supports staff, and ensures that students receive meaningful educational experiences. His leadership is grounded in both lived experience and a strong commitment to youth development. As he continues his academic and professional journey, Paul remains dedicated to giving back. His work reflects a deep understanding of the importance of opportunity, mentorship, and community investment.



**Umme Choudhury**  
Health Coalition of Passaic County

**Umme Choudhury, Lead Community Health Worker,  
Health Coalition of Passaic County**

Umme Choudhury is a dedicated community health leader committed to improving the well-being of Paterson residents. Having lived in the community for over 30 years, she brings both lived experience and professional expertise to her work. With a background in the medical field and years of service as a Community Health Worker, Umme leads programs that support individuals managing chronic health conditions. She provides guidance, resources, and hands-on support, helping residents navigate both healthcare systems and everyday challenges. Known for her compassion and commitment, Umme ensures that individuals feel supported every step of the way. Her work continues to advance health equity and empower community members to lead healthier, more stable lives.

**Sara Duricko, Graduate Assistant,  
Montclair State University**

Sara Duricko is an emerging leader dedicated to community engagement and mental health advocacy. As a Graduate Assistant at Montclair State University, she supports programs that connect students to meaningful community-based experiences. Currently pursuing her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Sara is building a career rooted in service, compassion, and advocacy. Her academic and professional experiences reflect a strong commitment to supporting individuals and strengthening communities. Through her work, Sara continues to grow as a thoughtful and dedicated leader, preparing to make a lasting impact in the mental health field.



**Sara Duricko**  
Montclair State University



**Sara Ruiz**  
Passaic County Habitat for Humanity

**Sara Ruiz, Director of Homeowner Services,  
Passaic County Habitat for Humanity**

Sara Ruiz is a dedicated leader whose journey reflects growth, commitment, and a deep passion for serving others. From her early days as an intern to her current role as Director of Homeowner Services, she has consistently demonstrated excellence and dedication. In her role, Sara supports families throughout the homeownership process, ensuring they are guided with care, clarity, and respect. Her leadership has strengthened internal systems and improved the overall experience for families working toward stability. A proud Paterson resident, Sara brings patience, empathy, and professionalism to her work. Her efforts continue to open doors for families and contribute to stronger, more stable communities.

**Darren Boch, Superintendent,  
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park**

Darren Boch is a dedicated public servant and proud Paterson native whose leadership has helped elevate one of the city's most treasured landmarks. As Superintendent of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, he oversees efforts to preserve its history while expanding its impact. Under his leadership, the park has grown into a space that connects history, culture, and community. Through partnerships, programming, and outreach, it has become both a national destination and a vital local resource. Darren's work reflects a deep commitment to honoring the past while creating opportunities for future generations. His leadership continues to strengthen civic pride and community engagement throughout Paterson.



**Darren Boch**  
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

# 2026 EXTRA MILE HONOREES

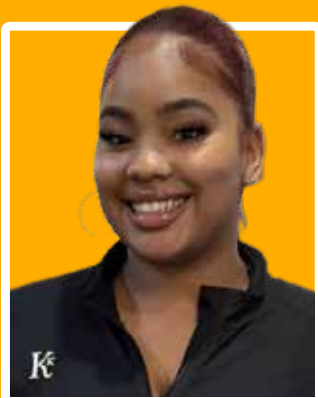


**Maria Duran**  
Circle of Care for Families & Children of Passaic County

**Maria Duran, Office Support Coordinator,  
Circle of Care for Families & Children of Passaic County**

Maria Duran is a compassionate and dependable presence whose work has touched countless lives over her 16 years of service. She plays a vital role in supporting youth, families, and staff through both operational responsibilities and direct care. Whether transporting families, connecting them to resources, or offering support during difficult moments, Maria consistently goes above and beyond. She approaches her work with kindness, patience, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Her impact is felt not only in what she does, but in how she makes people feel. Through her dedication and care, Maria continues to uplift those around her and strengthen the community she serves.



**Rosemary Pascual-Diaz**  
Camp YDP

**Rosemary Pascual-Diaz,  
Program Assistant & Office Manager, Camp YDP**

Rosemary Pascual-Diaz is a dedicated and emerging leader whose work reflects resilience, commitment, and a genuine passion for supporting youth and families in the Paterson community. Since joining Camp YDP in 2023 as a youth counselor, she has quickly grown into a dual role as Program Assistant and Office Manager, where she plays an essential part in both program operations and participant engagement.

Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Paterson, Rosemary's journey is rooted in perseverance and determination. As a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, she brings a deep understanding of the community she now serves.

In her role, she supports staff, families, and students, helping to create a structured, welcoming, and engaging environment for all.

Rosemary is especially known for the meaningful connections she builds with young people. Her ability to create trust, offer engaging experiences, and truly listen has made her a valued presence within the program. Through her dedication, authenticity, and care, Rosemary continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of those she serves.



**Lisa Brenenson**  
William Paterson University

**Lisa Brenenson,  
University Registrar, William Paterson University - CAPS**

Lisa Brenenson's career reflects more than three decades of dedication, precision, and care in higher education. As University Registrar, she plays a vital role in ensuring the integrity and accessibility of academic systems.

Throughout her tenure, Lisa has supported institutional growth while maintaining a strong focus on student success. Her behind-the-scenes work has made a lasting impact on faculty, staff, and countless students.

Her leadership, reliability, and commitment to excellence continue to shape opportunities for learners and strengthen the academic community.

**Alrye Osborne, Volunteer Peer Counselor,  
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center**

Alrye Osborne is a compassionate volunteer dedicated to uplifting others and helping them rediscover their strength and purpose. For several years, she has served as a peer counselor, supporting individuals and families navigating unexpected life circumstances.

She creates a safe and welcoming environment where those she serves feel heard, valued, and supported. Through her guidance, she helps individuals make informed decisions while building confidence and hope for the future.

Her work reflects a deep commitment to empowerment and care. Through her dedication and service, Alrye continues to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.



**Alrye Osborne**  
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center



**Pauline R. Brown**  
Grandparents as Parents Alliance Inc.

**Pauline R. Brown,  
Grandparents as Parents Alliance, Inc.**

Deaconess Pauline R. Brown is a woman of faith whose life reflects service, strength, and compassion. From her early years in Jamaica to her continued work in Paterson, she has remained committed to uplifting others.

Through her service in ministry and community organizations, she has supported families, seniors, and caregivers across the community. Her work with Grandparents as Parents

Alliance highlights her dedication to supporting those raising the next generation.

Guided by her faith and a heart for service, Deaconess Brown continues to make a lasting impact, embodying the true spirit of compassion and community care.

**Gabby Foushee,  
AmeriCorps Program Leader, NJCDC**

Gabby Foushee is a dedicated leader committed to service, mentorship, and community impact. Through her leadership of NJCDC's AmeriCorps program, she supports and guides a team of members serving the Paterson community.

Under her direction, the program has expanded its reach, providing critical resources such as school supplies, food, and outreach services to families throughout the year. Her leadership has helped strengthen the program's impact and visibility.

Gabby's work reflects a deep commitment to building a culture of service. Through her guidance, she continues to inspire and develop the next generation of community leaders.



**Gabby Foushee**  
NJCDC

**Gloria L. Bodker, Preschool Program Director,  
Catholic Family and Community Services - Friendship Corner**

Gloria L. Bodker is a dedicated leader in early childhood education whose career reflects decades of commitment to children, families, and educators in the Paterson community. As Preschool Program Director at Friendship Corner, she leads with purpose, guiding both staff and families toward growth, stability, and success.

Throughout her career, Gloria has held key leadership roles within Paterson Public Schools, including Executive Director of Special Education and Supervisor of Early Childhood. In each role, she has worked to strengthen systems, expand access, and ensure that children, especially those with special needs, receive the support and care they deserve.

Known for her ability to mentor and uplift others, Gloria has helped develop teachers, instructional leaders, and program directors, many of whom have advanced in their careers under her guidance. She brings a deep understanding of education, paired with a genuine commitment to the people she serves.



**Gloria Bodker**  
Catholic Charities

Gloria's work goes beyond administration. She builds relationships with families, supports children with diverse needs, and collaborates across organizations to create stronger, more connected systems of care. Her leadership continues to shape not only programs, but the people within them.

Through her dedication, compassion, and lasting impact, Gloria embodies the true spirit of going the extra mile.



**Gilmore Memorial Preschool, INC.**  
The Late Rev. Dr. Allene Gilmore, Founder  
A safe, loving, and learning environment.

www.gilmoreprek.org  
grow nj kids  
naeyc

"Our purpose is to provide a place of learning where a balanced approach can be achieved in a safe and loving environment."  
The Late Rev. Dr. Allene Gilmore

**Site I**  
505 East 22nd St.  
973-977-8977

**Site II**  
69-75 Montclair Ave.  
862-701-6300

**Site III**  
315-321 Crooks Ave.  
973-933-6063

Our proud parents

**GILMORE MEMORIAL PRECHOOL, INC. (GMP) CELEBRATES**

**Paters Alliance Extra Mile Awards**

**Dr. Brenda Belmont**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**25** years serving the **Great City of Paterson**, educating over **3,600** Early Learners. We remain successful because of our trusting parent community and our dedicated and highly skilled Gilmore staff. GMP hires and trains, passionate, educated **professionals**, most of whom are seasoned **parents** and life long **Paterson residents**. Gilmore Memorial Preschool is proud to work along side our community partners and neighboring supporters to provide **A safe, loving, and learning environment.**

Advocates for Children of New Jersey congratulates all the Paterson Alliance honorees who have gone the "extra mile," exuding commitment and passion for their work, their organization, and the community they serve.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**PATERSON KIDS COUNT 2026**  
Find out how children are faring in Silk City in our upcoming data book.

**THURSDAY, SEPT 10 AT 9 AM - 11AM**  
**THE BROWNSTONE | PATERSON NJ**

Proud partner in delivering  
**PATERSON KIDS COUNT**

**ADVOCATES for CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY**  
acnj.org

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. EMPOWERING LIVES.

**NEW DESTINY FAMILY SUCCESS CENTERS, INC.**

Discover the **GREATNESS AT YOUR FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER!**

Your 'Home Away from Home' for Hope, Support, and Success.

Join a community of hundreds of families! We offer a full spectrum of **\*FREE\*** programs and services, designed to help you and your children thrive.

- Family Success Center (FSC):** Connecting you to resources.
- Go F.A.R. Fatherhood Initiative:** Supporting dads.
- Maternal & Child Engagement:** Healthy starts for babies.
- Senior Success Center:** Mobile support for our elders.
- Youth Education:** Restorative justice and mentorship.
- Support Networks:** Financial literacy, housing, and health.

**GET INVOLVED! BE THE SUCCESS!**  
Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Volunteer Opportunities, Join Our Programs

**NEW DESTINY FAMILY SUCCESS CENTERS, INC.**  
VISIT OUR NEW PATERSON HOME:  
79 Ellison Street, Paterson, NJ 07505  
EMAIL: info@newdestinyfsc.org  
WEB: newdestinyfsc.org  
973-278-0220

**Paters Alliance**  
**Lead Removal Program**

**Paterson Alliance offers Free Lead Testing**  
**Don't wait!!!**

- FREE LEAD TESTING
- LEAD REMOVAL
- PROVIDE LEAD EDUCATION

**CALL US TODAY**  
**(973) 519-3655**

**PatersonAlliance.org**

What happens when Lead enters the body?



- STOMACH**  
Lead is absorbed into the body through the stomach. This happens more easily when a child's stomach is empty or when a child has poor nutrition.
- BRAIN**  
Lead can slow brain activity and may cause learning difficulties or behavioral problems.
- BLOOD**  
The bloodstream carries lead throughout the body.
- KIDNEYS**  
The kidneys can be damaged by high levels of lead in the body.
- BONES**  
Lead can build up in the bones and then slowly re-enter the bloodstream.

Scan this QR Code to learn more about the DCAid Lead Remediation and Abatement Program



**LIGHTHOUSE RENEW**  
**PATERSON PARTNERS FOR LIFE**  
 75 Ellison St • Paterson NJ 07505



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
 Bringing LOVE to LIFE since 1984

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center serves women, men and teens facing unexpected pregnancies and parenting challenges. We collaborate with RENEW Life Center for the common goal of equipping families to thrive.

Our FREE confidential services include ultrasound confirmation, options education, parenting preparation, abortion recovery care, and pregnancy loss support. We also offer healthy relationship programs for students and couples. Our support program for teen moms, **YoungLives Greater Paterson**, and **Birth of a Family** meet in our Hawthorne HQ at 297 Lafayette Ave. Lighthouse is also located in Wayne and Hackensack.

**RENEW Life Center**  
 Helping families THRIVE since 2015

RENEW Life Center transforms families by equipping moms and dads from Paterson and surrounding communities with essential life skills, financial literacy, and career development. Through transformative programs such as **Getting Ahead**, which supports parents on their journey toward financial stability, and **Jobs for Life**, which prepares individuals for meaningful employment, we build stronger, thriving communities. Together, we are changing lives, one family at a time.

[RENEWLifeCenterNJ.org](http://RENEWLifeCenterNJ.org) - 862.257.3817  
[Info@RenewLifeCenterNJ.org](mailto:Info@RenewLifeCenterNJ.org)  
[LighthousePRC.org](http://LighthousePRC.org) - 973.238.9045  
[Help@LighthousePRC.org](mailto:Help@LighthousePRC.org)

## Celebrating Those Who Go the Extra Mile



### Building Musicians. Shaping Legacy.

2nd Generation Music Legacy proudly congratulates Jasmine Martir and the 2026 Extra Mile Awards honorees.

At 2ndGenMusic, we are committed to uplifting the next generation through music education, performance, creativity, and community. Celebrating Those Who Go the Extra Mile Building Musicians. Shaping Legacy.

#### 2ndGenMusic Legacy

Music Lessons • Vocal Coaching • Musical Theatre • Live Event Music • Community Music Education

[www.2ndGenMusic.com](http://www.2ndGenMusic.com) | [info@2ndgenmusic.com](mailto:info@2ndgenmusic.com) | 973-264-9525

# ST. LUKE CDC

*Restoring Lives, Reviving Hope, Renewing Our Community*

The St. Luke CDC  
 Is Proud To Recognize  
**Paul Mejia**

As Our 2026 Extra Mile Award Honoree

• 139 Carroll Street • Paterson, NJ 07501 • (973) 345-4309 • fax (973) 345-9495 •  
[www.stlukecdc.org](http://www.stlukecdc.org) • [stlukecdc@hotmail.com](mailto:stlukecdc@hotmail.com) • [@slcdc](https://www.facebook.com/slcdc) • [@stlukeCDC](https://www.instagram.com/stlukeCDC) •



**Gabrielle Foushee is NJCDC's Extra Mile Honoree.** Gabby is the true embodiment of someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty and we are proud to call her our colleague!



**Gabrielle Foushee**

# PROTECTING ORGANIZATIONS THAT POSITIVELY AFFECT PEOPLE'S LIVES.

Lamb Insurance Services is the largest insurance broker in the country exclusively dedicated to nonprofit and human service organizations.

LAMBIS.COM

**LAMB**  
Insurance Services



**IMPACT100**  
garden state

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH COLLECTIVE GIVING



**\$4 MILLION+ AWARDED TO LOCAL NONPROFITS**



Learn how you can join us at  
[WWW.IMPACT100GARDENSTATE.ORG](http://WWW.IMPACT100GARDENSTATE.ORG)



We are proud to be a partner with  
**Paterson Alliance**  
and celebrate our mutual commitment to  
creating lasting change.

**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

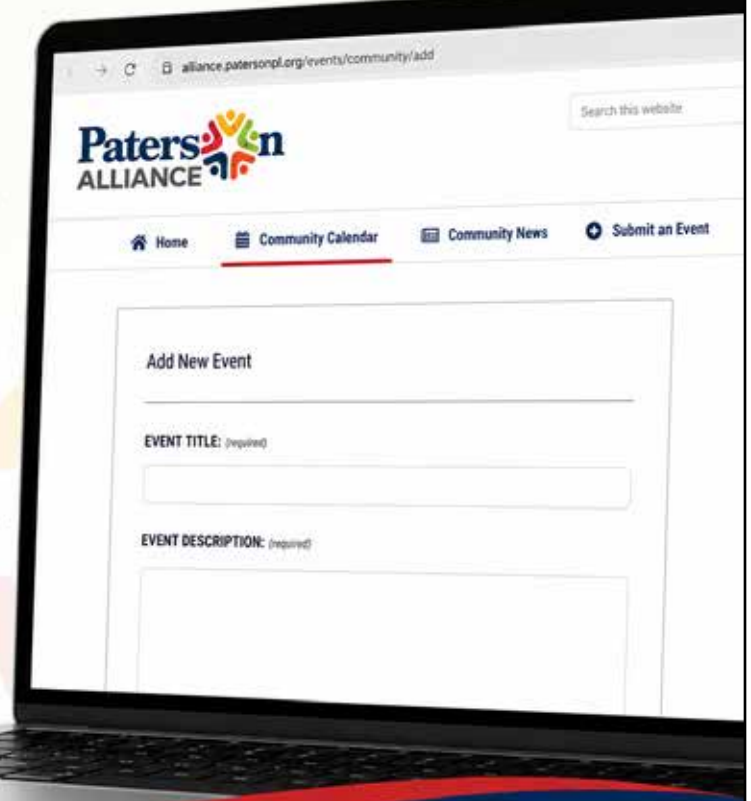
SHARE. CONNECT. STRENGTHEN PATERSON.

## PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS. CONNECT THE COMMUNITY.

Share your programs, workshops, resources, and community events on the Paterson Alliance Community Calendar.

- INCREASE VISIBILITY.**  
Reach more residents and partners.
- BUILD CONNECTIONS.**  
Keep the community informed and engaged.
- AMPLIFY IMPACT.**  
Showcase your work and grow your reach.

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENT TODAY!**  
[alliance.patersonpl.org/events/community/add/](http://alliance.patersonpl.org/events/community/add/)  
FREE for members and community partners



Stay Connected. Stronger Together.

**Columbia Bank**  
Count on Columbia.

ColumbiaBankOnline.com



**Nationally Recognized Customer Service**  
COUNT ON IT!

- Dedicated relationship managers, with an accessible management team
- Full suite of competitive personal and business banking solutions
- Modern digital banking solutions
- Over 70 convenient locations

Relationship banking you can **Count On**

**Designations**

- America's Best Regional Banks
- Bauer Financial 5-Star Rated
- Best Branch Experience
- ICBA Exceptional Community Bank Service Award
- ABA Community Commitment Award Affordable Housing

# SAX

WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR THE  
RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2026 PATERSON ALLIANCE  
EXTRA MILE AWARDS.

*Congratulations!*

Paterson Alliance is a  
Community Hub of

# LEAD-FREE



Join collective efforts to eliminate lead poisoning


[www.LeadFreeNJ.org](http://www.LeadFreeNJ.org)

## Congratulations

To  
**Paterson Alliance**  
on Your 26<sup>th</sup> Year  
Extra Mile Awards LUNCHEON  
and to  
**Pauline Brown**  
Grandparents As Parents Alliance, Inc.  
Extra Mile Awardee!

You have been an inspirational and committed leader in the Paterson community and to Grandparents As Parents Alliance, Inc. and we thank you for your years of service.

*Best Wishes!!*



**GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS ALLIANCE, INC. FAMILY**  
Post Office Box 1742 Paterson, New Jersey 07509  
Phone: (973) 356-3079 • (201) 310-1069  
Email: gapapaterson@gmail.com



We are very grateful to those who support us  
and fund the good work that we do.

Thank you!

The HENRY & MARILYN  
TAUB Foundation



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

**Columbia Bank Foundation**  
Columbia Bank Foundation



Lead-Free New Jersey

Paterson Children's Foundation



The Community Foundation of New Jersey

The Board, Staff and Members of  
The Paterson Alliance



Celebrating 28 years of uniting nonprofit and community partners to create a vibrant Paterson.

**The Paterson Alliance works to unite and empower nonprofits and community partners to create a strong, more vibrant Paterson. The Alliance supports all organizations dedicated to making a difference in the greater Paterson Region by fostering meaningful collaboration, providing guidance, and amplifying collective impact.**

**Shanikwa Lemon  
Executive Director**

**Tanya Mann  
Office Manager**

[info@PatersonAlliance.org](mailto:info@PatersonAlliance.org)

[www.PatersonAlliance.org](http://www.PatersonAlliance.org)



[ThePatersonAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/ThePatersonAlliance)



[@PatersonAlliance](https://www.instagram.com/PatersonAlliance)

**The Paterson Alliance  
470 Chamberlain Avenue, Suite 12  
Paterson, NJ 07522  
973-519-3655**