

Fourth Annual Awards Luncheon

The *Fourth Annual Awards Luncheon* was another successful event. Over 175 members of our community joined with us as we honored this year's award winners:

WERCing Partner Award

Mohawk Valley Community College

WERCbuilder Awards

BPW of New York State

Excellus BC/BS

WERCplace Employment Opportunity Award

Hummel's Office Plus

WERCing Woman Award of Achievement

Paula Froelich

Ellie Wertimer, a recognized community leader in the Mohawk Valley, served as Honorary Chair and delivered an inspiring message to our guests. Her words reminded us that we are not members of an organization, we are servants to those who need our help. Ellie has been an ongoing example of those things in which she believes. She has lived a life of integrity, commitment, and leadership....all combined with compassion. Thank you Ellie for making time to join our team.....

Our Keynote Speaker was **Donna Adamo**, anchor for Fox News at 10 as well as reporter for CBS in Syracuse. As she shared her own experiences as a woman who had made major family and professional changes, she made our audience keenly aware of the obstacles experienced by women striving to move forward with their lives after divorce. We often think that only those women who live in poverty face multiple obstacles in seeking independence –either financial and personal. We could “see” through her words that change brings incredible challenges. Her message of maintaining focus, conviction and tenacity reminded us that we need to be there for each woman we serve as they plan their journey forward. She reminded us that we each need to determine how to best live our lives, build our families, and maintain our dignity. Her sense of humor demonstrated that we must always see things in a most positive manner, regardless of how grim it may seem at the moment. We can't thank Donna enough for opening her heart and her life so that we can also remain focused on our role in providing assistance, support, and hope to those women we serve. Thank you Donna!

We were pleased to be able to announce that our **RISE Loan Fund** has finally reached its operational level. While it took longer than we had hoped, we are pleased and grateful to all of those who have so generously contributed to this fund. We have had an inquiry by a local woman to access this fund, and will be moving her through the process as quickly as possible.

The Board of Trustees, the staff, and the program participants thank all who attended, those who purchased advertisement space in our program book, and those who made donations to the luncheon. Special thanks to those who provided major sponsorship for this event.

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ConMed Corporation
Excellus BC/BWS
Radiology Associates
Labor Ready
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