

MHNE Leadership Awards Reception - A Complete History -

MHNE Leadership Awards Reception (Combined ASN & BHN)

2025 (mhne.org/2025-mhne-leadership-awards-reception)

Lauri Cole, MSW

Executive Director, NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Behavioral Health Advocacy Award

Brett R. Friedman

Partner, Ropes & Gray, LLP
Health Care Innovation and Leadership Award

PharMerica

Corporate Leadership Award

Evan Sullivan

Executive Vice President, Ostroff Associates
Autism Advocacy Award

Ira H. Minot, LMSW

Founder, Mental Health News Education
Founder's Legacy Award

2024 (mhne.org/2024-mhne-leadership-awards-reception)

Bruce E. Feig

Senior Healthcare Consultant, Sachs Policy Group
Healthcare Leadership Award

Rita M. Gardner, MPH, LABA, BCBA

President and CEO, Melmark
Excellence in Autism Award

Dr. Rosa M. Gil

President Emeritus, Comunilife, Inc
Diversity and Community Health Leadership Award

Relias

Corporate Leadership Award

Harvey Rosenthal

Chief Executive Officer, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery (Formerly NYAPRS)
Lifetime Achievement Award

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2023 (mhne.org/2023-mhne-leadership-awards-reception)

Emily Grossman, MA, CPRP, NYCPS-P

Director of Training, Coordinated Behavioral Care

Self-Advocacy Award

Ann M. Hardiman

Chief Innovation Officer, New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation

Autism Advocacy Award

The New York Community Trust

Irfan Hasan (Accepting), Deputy Vice President for Grants

Excellence in Philanthropy Award

Robert W. Myers, PhD, LMSW

Senior Deputy Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health

Lifetime Achievement Award

2022 (mhne.org/2022awardsreception)

Tyler Hoffman

CEO, Foothold Technology

Healthcare Innovation Award

Alexa Santoro

Account Executive, Lamb Insurance Services

Corporate Leadership Award

Steve Miccio

CEO, People USA

Behavioral Health Advocacy Award

Gary Mayerson, Esq.

Founder, Mayerson & Associates

Autism Advocacy Award

Christopher Duffley

Musician and Motivational Speaker

Beacon of Hope Award

2021

Marco Damiani

Chief Executive Officer, AHRC New York City

Excellence in Autism Award

Tony Hannigan, LMSW

Past President and CEO, Center for Urban Community Services

Lifetime Achievement Award

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Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH, MS

Past Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, NYC DOHMH
Healthcare Hero Award

Allison Sesso

Executive Director, RIP Medical Debt
Behavioral Health Advocacy Award

Ian Shaffer, MD, MMM, CPE

VP and Executive Medical Director, Healthfirst - Behavioral Health (Retd.)
Corporate Leadership Award

2020 (Cancelled due to COVID)

2019

Steve Coe

CEO, Community Access
Lifetime Achievement Award

Daniel Etra and Eran Rosenthal

CEO / President and COO, Rethink Autism
Leadership Award

Peter Provet, PhD

President and CEO, Odyssey House
Community Service Award

Joyce Wale

Regional Executive Director, United Healthcare
Corporate Leadership Award

2018

Tino Hernandez

President and CEO, Samaritan Daytop Village
Lifetime Achievement Award

Ilene Lainer and Michelle Smigel

Co-Founder and President/ Board Member - NEXT for AUTISM
Advocacy Award

Mitchell Netburn

President and CEO, Project Renewal
Community Service Award

Jim Spink

President, Tri-State/Mid-Atlantic Region, Beacon Health Options
Leadership Award

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2017

Donna Colonna

CEO, Services for the UnderServed

"Lifetime Achievement Award"

Gary Lind

Executive Director, AHRC New York City

"Advocacy Award"

Arlene González-Sánchez

Commissioner, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

"Public Service Award"

Dr. Fred Volkmar

Professor, Yale University Child Study Center

"Leadership Award"

Behavioral Health News Leadership Awards Reception

2016

Peter C. Campanelli, PsyD

Senior Scholar, McSilver Institute, NYU Silver School of Social Work, Founder, Retired

President & CEO, Institute for Community Living

Lifetime Achievement Award

John J. Coppola, MSW

Executive Director, NY Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers

Advocacy Award

Linda Rosenberg, MSW

President and CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health

Leadership Award

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD

Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health

Public Service Award

2015

Alan B. Siskind, PhD, LCSW

Former CEO, JBFCS, Independent Clinical Practice

Founders Award

Andrew Solomon, PhD

Author, *Far From the Tree*, and *The Noonday Demon*, Winner of the National Book Award, and Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University

Humanitarian Award

-Keynote Speaker-

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Phillip A. Saperia, MAT

CEO, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies

Advocacy Award

Autism Spectrum News Leadership Awards Reception

2015

Peter Pierri, Executive Director, InterAgency Council

Beacon of Hope Award for Advocacy

In recognition of your tireless efforts to improve the delivery and quality of services for individuals with autism through legislative action and the training of service providers

Robert H. Ring, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks

Beacon of Hope Award for Advancing Autism Science

For your dedication to furthering scientific research to improve our understanding of the causes of autism and the development of effective treatments

Richard P. Swierat, Executive Director, Arc of Westchester

Beacon of Hope Award for Community Impact

In recognition of your many years of leadership, commitment, and service to individuals with autism and their families so they may live as independent, productive and valued members of the community

2014

Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD, Director, Seaver Autism Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Beacon of Hope Award in Scientific Research

In recognition of your vital research in genetics and neurobiology that has led to an increased understanding of the cause and treatment of autism spectrum disorders

Alison Singer, MBA, President, Autism Science Foundation

Beacon of Hope Award in Advocacy and Philanthropy

In recognition of your tireless efforts to advocate for families touched by autism and your dedication to unlocking the mysteries of autism by funding of vital scientific research

2013

Charles N. Cartwright, MD, Director, YAI Autism Center

Beacon of Hope Award in Research and Clinical Outreach

In recognition of your vital research and work as a clinician to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families

Linda Walder, Esq., Founder and President, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation

Beacon of Hope Award in Advocacy and Philanthropy

In recognition of your tireless efforts to advocate for change and improve the lives of adults with autism