



METRO
Community Health Centers



*10th Anniversary
Inaugural Gala*

A Celebration of Health Equity

AUGUST

FRIDAY

15

2025

Marina Del Rey

BRONX, NY

MEET THE TEAM



Michele Quigley
Chief Executive Officer

Michele brings over 35 years of experience in healthcare and nonprofit leadership, with a deep commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With expertise in strategic growth, operational excellence, and person-centered care, she continues to lead MCHC with vision and purpose.



Nellie Santiago-Rivera
Chief Operating Officer

Nellie oversees operations across all four MCHC health centers and has over two decades of experience in healthcare administration. With a strong background in improving systems for underserved communities, Nellie is dedicated to driving impactful change through operational leadership.



Sonya Maxwell
Chief Quality Officer

With over 40 years in healthcare, Sonya leads quality, compliance, and risk management at MCHC. A lifelong advocate for patients with special needs, her leadership ensures safe, high-quality care across all sites. She brings deep nursing experience and a passion for equity in healthcare.



Peter Rivera
Chief Financial Officer, Retired 2025

Peter is an experienced financial executive with a strong background in healthcare, nonprofits, and government. Known for strategic thinking and innovation, he leads MCHC's finance team with a focus on sustainability, transparency, and operational efficiency.



Dr. Ira Salom
Medical Director

Dr. Salom is a board-certified internist and physician executive with extensive experience in clinical care and medical leadership. His work spans FQHCs, hospitals, and research institutions, and he leads MCHC's medical team with a focus on quality, compassion, and equity in care.



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Marco Damiani

Monique Dennis-Farrington

Joseph Pancari

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Jacqueline Tripodi



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Welcome—and thank you for being here as we celebrate a milestone: 10 years of Metro Community Health Centers.

As I approach my first year as CEO, I'm honored to lead Metro at this exciting and pivotal moment. Our 10th anniversary is more than a marker of time. Rather, it's a celebration of the lives we've touched, the communities we've stood beside, and the passionate people who make this work possible every day.

Metro was founded with a clear purpose: to provide inclusive, high-quality healthcare to individuals and families who have too often been underserved, particularly people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That commitment remains central to who we are. But we're also growing, evolving, and deepening our impact as part of a larger movement for health equity—a movement that demands that our systems and our practices reflect the dignity and diversity of every person who comes to us for care.

Over the past year, I've been inspired by the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our patients, and the unwavering support of advocates like you. Together, we are building a healthier, more inclusive future—one that doesn't just deliver services, but truly centers people of all abilities.

Thank you for joining us tonight, and for being part of the Metro story. Whether you are a long-time supporter or a new friend, we are so glad to have you with us in this work.

With appreciation and hope for the journey ahead,

Michele Quigley, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Community Health Centers



METRO
Community Health Centers

Evening Program



COCKTAIL HOUR

6:00 PM

Light music, step & repeat photos, silent auction opens

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

7:00 PM

Jim Johansen, Board President
Michele Quigley, Chief Executive Officer

DINNER SERVICE

7:15 PM

Guests encouraged to mingle and visit
silent auction

AWARDS PRESENTATION

7:45 PM

Dr. Indira Patel – Lifetime Achievement Award
Introduced by Sharon Alexander, Brooklyn
Center Director

Dr. Andrea Nichols – Clinician of the Year
Introduced by Myesha Morris, Bronx & Manhattan
Center Director

Jazmine Williams-Natal – Employee of the Year
Introduced by Christopher Gjekaj, Staten Island
Center Director

*Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Chief Operating Officer –
Joyce Levin Award*
Introduced by Michele Quigley, CEO

Marco Damiani – Duane Schielke Award
Introduced by Susan Constantino, Board Member

Metro 10-Year Highlight Video
Let the dancing and fun begin!

SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

9:45 PM

Last chance to enter the silent auction

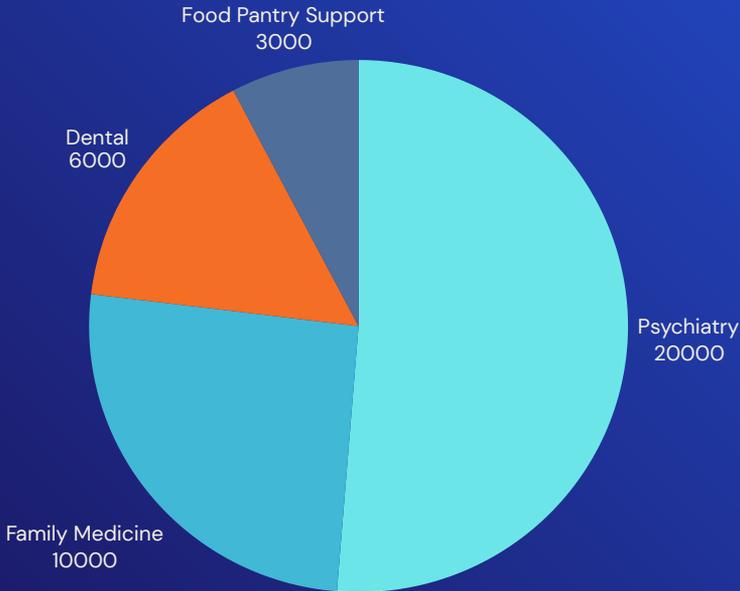
Annual Report:

A Year of Impact and Growth

This year, Metro grew stronger across every level of our organization, expanding our presence in the community, building internal momentum, and advocating for a more equitable healthcare system.

Services Delivered in 2024:

50,000+ Total Appointments Provided



Reflecting our commitment to high quality, community-centered care in every borough

Annual Report:

A Year of Impact and Growth



Public Health Support

We distributed free hygiene kits, supported thousands through our food pantry program, and expanded Telehealth options to reach more patients.



Statewide Advocacy

Metro joined CHCANYS Advocacy Day in Albany to champion fair healthcare funding and improved access for underserved communities, especially individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

New Leadership

Michele Quigley was named Chief Executive Officer, bringing decades of experience in IDD and nonprofit healthcare and a clear vision for sustainable, inclusive growth.

Annual Report: A Year of Impact and Growth



Expanding Our Foundation

As a nonprofit healthcare provider, Metro relies heavily on Medicaid and other public programs. While these remain essential, they come with limitations and risks. To secure a stronger future, we are actively working to diversify our revenue streams—including philanthropic support. This year's gala marks our first major fundraising initiative, and we intend to build on this momentum to support long-term sustainability and innovation.



Staff-Led Change

The Metro Impact Committee and Policy Review Committee were launched to elevate staff voices and strengthen workplace culture, communication, and equity across the organization.

Staff Development

Metro is committed to growing from within. This year, we've created new opportunities for professional advancement, celebrated internal promotions, and seen success in retaining and empowering the people who make our mission possible.

Community Engagement

Our team actively participated in health fairs, outreach events, and neighborhood initiatives, offering on-site education, screenings, and resources to connect with New Yorkers in all five boroughs.



Our Vision Forward:

*A roadmap to growth, equity, and impact at
Metro Community Health Centers*



1. Leadership Development

- Board development, training, and support
- Improving onboarding to leverage board talent
- Transparent and timely communication to optimize board engagement



2. Sustainable Growth

- Strengthening finance systems
- Expanding grants and development
- Building strategic partnerships
- Reducing reliance on public funding



3. Service Delivery

- Expanding services in underserved boroughs
- Upgrading tech and clinical equipment
- Improving access and patient experience
- Optimizing best practices across sites



4. Community Engagement

- Growing local partnerships and presence
- Storytelling and communication initiatives
- Addressing social determinants of health

In Memoriam



Duane Schielke spent his life lifting others up. From his early days as a direct care counselor to leading organizations like Aspire of Western New York and CP of NYS, Duane was a visionary who never lost sight of the people at the heart of his work.

He believed that services should empower, not limit—and he dedicated his career to building systems that made that possible. Duane’s legacy lives on in the programs he helped shape, the teams he mentored, and the countless lives he impacted with his compassion, wisdom, and unwavering commitment. The Duane Schielke Award honors the values he carried throughout his life: care, equity, and a deep belief in what’s possible when we lead with heart.

Joyce Levin devoted 36 years to HeartShare and to the people and families at the heart of its mission. She was a fierce advocate, a steady presence, and a deeply compassionate leader who believed in the dignity and potential of every person she served.



Her work was driven by love—for her community, her colleagues, and the individuals whose lives she helped change for the better. Joyce had a way of making people feel seen, heard, and supported. That spirit lives on in those who were lucky enough to work with her and learn from her. The Joyce Levin Award celebrates her legacy of warmth, strength, and tireless dedication to others.

Recipient of the Duane Schielke Award



Marco Damiani

CEO, AHRC New York City

Honored for a lifetime of leadership in pursuit of health equity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Marco Damiani has spent his career making systems better for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He started as a Direct Support Professional and was on the frontlines during the closure of Willowbrook State School. That early experience shaped the way he leads—with a deep understanding of what real support looks like and what it takes to make it happen.

Marco served as Metro Community Health Centers' first Chief Executive Officer, laying the foundation for the organization's mission and values. He has continued to champion that vision as a dedicated board member and trusted partner, helping Metro grow and deliver care that is truly accessible, affordable, and rooted in dignity. Since 2017, Marco has led AHRC New York City as CEO, overseeing a team of more than 4,000 staff who support over 15,000 individuals across the five boroughs. His work has been recognized with some of the highest honors in the field, from NYU's Kriser Medal to lifetime achievement awards, healthcare hero recognitions, and congressional citations.

The Duane Schielke Award honors leaders who follow in Duane's footsteps—advocating with vision, heart, and unwavering purpose. Marco Damiani embodies that spirit, and we are deeply honored to present this inaugural award to him.

Recipient of the Joyce Levin Award

Nellie Santiago–Rivera

COO, Metro Community Health Centers

Honored for transformational leadership and a lasting legacy of operational excellence, mentorship, and mission-driven service.



Few people embody the heart and spirit of Metro quite like Nellie Santiago–Rivera. As Chief Operating Officer, Nellie has been instrumental in shaping who we are—strengthening our systems, expanding our reach, and building a culture rooted in trust, accountability, and compassion.

Nellie has been with Metro since the very beginning, helping to launch and grow the organization into what it is today. Her leadership has touched every corner of our work, from operations and infrastructure to patient care and staff development. She leads with clarity and purpose, always keeping the mission front and center.

Whether problem-solving behind the scenes or mentoring the next generation of leaders, Nellie shows up with a rare blend of determination, humility, and care. She is someone people turn to not just because she gets things done, but because she listens, lifts others up, and leads by example. Her deep commitment to equity and inclusion continues to inspire and influence everyone around her.

The Joyce Levin Award honors a leader whose legacy left a lasting mark on the disability community. It is only fitting that this year's award goes to Nellie Santiago–Rivera, whose impact continues to shape Metro's future in meaningful and lasting ways.

Clinician of the Year

Dr. Andrea Nichols

For the past eight years, Dr. Andrea Nichols has been a pillar of clinical excellence at Metro Community Health Centers. She brings over a decade of specialized experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, earning the trust of patients and group homes alike.

Known for her empathy, reliability, and dedication, Dr. Nichols goes beyond medical care—she builds lasting relationships that improve quality of life. Her impact is deeply felt across the community she serves, and this honor reflects the respect and admiration she has earned from both colleagues and patients.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Indira Patel



Dr. Indira Patel has served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1995, first as a consultant with CP and later as Metro's Senior Psychiatrist and Director of Psychiatry. Trained in India and later in New York, Dr. Patel transitioned from family medicine to psychiatry to balance career and motherhood.

Her decades-long career spans city hospitals, private practice, and courtroom advocacy. Known for her deep compassion and fierce dedication, she has been a voice for patients who cannot speak for themselves. Being honored at Metro's 10-Year Gala, she says, is especially meaningful—as it recognizes a lifetime devoted to serving others.

Employee of the Year

Jazmine Williams-Natal

Since joining Metro Community Health Centers in 2022, Jazmine Williams-Natal has brought warmth, professionalism, and heart to her role as Medical Office Receptionist at our Staten Island center.



Often the first face patients see, Jazmine sets the tone for a positive, welcoming experience with every interaction—whether she’s answering phones, managing appointments, or simply offering a kind word to someone in need. Beyond her day-to-day responsibilities, Jazmine is an active and engaged member of the Metro community. She serves on the IMPACT Committee, helping shape staff-led initiatives that foster connection and positivity across all sites. She also frequently represents Metro at community events, proudly tabling on behalf of the organization and ensuring patients and families feel supported and informed.

This award was nominated by staff, making it an especially meaningful honor—because it reflects the appreciation, trust, and respect Jazmine has earned from her peers. She’s known for her kindness, her reliability, and her ability to brighten the day of everyone around her. Her presence is felt not just at the front desk, but throughout the organization, and her contributions have made a lasting impact on both coworkers and patients.

We’re proud to recognize Jazmine as our 2025 Employee of the Year and celebrate the care, commitment, and community spirit she brings to Metro every day.

Congratulations to



Celebrating

10 Years of Quality Health Care Services

for People with Intellectual and Development Disabilities

Recognizing Exemplary Leaders

Marco Damiani

Duane Schielke Award for Visionary Leadership

Nellie Santiago-Rivera

Joyce Levin Award for Organizational Excellence

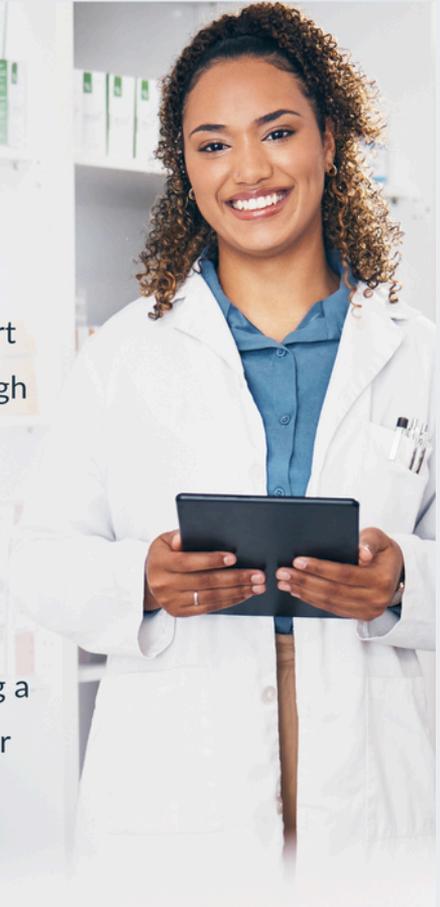




Dedicated Partner of Metro Community Health Centers
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We are proud to support Metro Community Health Centers in their mission to expand access to critical health services and strengthen support for the communities they serve through our sponsorship of their Inaugural Annual Gala.

At Nuvem, we are committed to prioritizing affordable healthcare, making it accessible to all and creating a positive impact on society through our services and partnerships.



Keep in touch and follow us on LinkedIn!

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*AHRC New York City
congratulates
Metro Community Health Centers
on your ten-year anniversary!*

We applaud your decade of providing **high-quality healthcare** to the communities we are all committed to serving.

We also extend our congratulations to our CEO, **Marco Damiani**, on being the recipient of the **Duane Schielke Award** for his leadership in pursuit of **health equity** for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

We are proud to have Marco as our CEO and **Metro Community Health Centers** as a valued partner as we pursue our vision of creating a socially just world where the power of difference is embraced, valued, and celebrated.

With admiration and gratitude,
Patricia A. Murphy
President, Board of Directors
AHRC New York City

AHRC
NYC

A chapter of 
The Arc
New York



Thank you
Metro Community Health Centers
for Ten Years of Quality Health Care!

Congratulations to the Honorees
Marco Damiani
Duane Schielke Award for Visionary Leadership
&
Nellie Santiago-Rivera
Joyce Levin Award for Organizational Excellence



Birch Family Services is proudly celebrating 50 years of empowering individuals with autism and developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives.

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Harlem Congregations for
Community Improvement

*We Can Always
Do More to Make
A Difference!*





Congratulations!

Congratulations on 10 Remarkable Years!

We celebrate Metro Community Health Centers for a decade of dedication, compassion, and service to the community.

Happy 10th Anniversary Gala!

Renee Hastick-Motes, MPA, Chief Executive Officer
& the Leadership Team
Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center

Flagship:
6200 Beach Channel Drive
Arverne, NY 11692

Metro: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future

Our past was decades in the making, and yet our beginning was only a decade ago. From our founding as an FQHC to our growth across New York City, Metro has remained committed to delivering high-quality, accessible care—especially for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Tonight, we honor the visionaries who carry that mission forward.

- **Marco Damiani**, recipient of the **Duane Schielke Award**, is a true disability rights advocate and champion of equitable and compassionate care—values that defined Duane’s legacy.
- **Nellie Santiago-Rivera**, recipient of the **Joyce Levin Award**, embodies Joyce’s spirit of love, advocacy, and deep dedication to uplifting the lives of patients, staff, and communities.

We also celebrate **Dr. Indira Patel, Dr. Andrea Nichols**, and our **Employee of the Year** for their outstanding leadership and service.

The past built our foundation. The present strengthens our purpose.

The future is ours to shape—together.

Michele Quigley

Congratulations, Marco, on this special award and recognition!

Having had the pleasure of working with Duane and appreciating his unique wisdom, creativity and tenacity, I can think of no better way for MCHC to recognize and honor you, the person whose vision, leadership, nurturing and inspiration set MCHC on its course to now be celebrating 10 years as an essential community healthcare provider.

With endless respect, appreciation and admiration,

Melanie Moelis

**In honor of Michele Quigley, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Dr.
Ira Salom, Sonya Maxwell,
Sharon Alexander, Chris Gjekaj, and the wonderful
clinicians and support staff**

**You are all DSPs ...
Dedicated Special People!**

**Leon Zacharowicz,
MD, MA**

**Congratulations Marco and thank you for a
lifetime of service!**

From your friends at ANIBIC



The Alliance for Integrated Care of New York

**Congratulations to Metro Community Health Centers
on 10 years of service!**



ADAPT Community Network

**Celebrating Metro Community Health Centers' 10-
Year Anniversary—congratulations on this milestone!**

ADAPT
COMMUNITY NETWORK



Yuvo Health

Congratulations to Metro and this year's
incredible honorees!



CP Unlimited

Honoring 10 years of dedication and care—
congrats, Metro!



Anchin

Wishing Metro continued success—congratulations on 10 impactful years!



Total Care RX

Proud to support Metro Community Health Centers. Congratulations to all the honorees!



TotalCareRX

We're proud to support the Metro Community Health Centers
Inaugural Anniversary Gala

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Marina Del Rey

Elegance at the Waters Edge

Metro Community Health Centers extends our sincere thanks to Marina del Rey for their generous support and hospitality. Your partnership has helped make our 10-Year Anniversary Gala a truly special celebration. We are grateful to mark this milestone in such a beautiful and welcoming space.



RENAISSANCE
YOUTH CENTER

Metro Community Health Centers extends our sincere thanks to the Renaissance Youth Center for the generous gift of a performance by the Renaissance Youth Band. Your talent and spirit brought a joyful energy to our 10-Year Anniversary Gala, making the evening all the more memorable.

Thank You To Our Sponsors

SUPPORTERS



Howard I. Siegel

Thank You To Our Sponsors

FRIENDS



Linda Tempel and Alex Calabrese

Support. Share. Stay Connected.

At Metro Community Health Centers, we believe that everyone deserves access to compassionate, high-quality health care—regardless of their background, ability, or circumstance. Your support helps us continue this mission and expand access to vital services across New York City.

Make a Difference Today

Make a one-time gift or become a monthly supporter of Metro. Scan the QR code or visit mchcny.org/donate

Get Involved

We invite visionary leaders and changemakers to share their expertise—as board members or strategic advisors—in a variety of fields. Your insights could help elevate our work to the next level. Contact us to express your interest.

Spread the Word

Know someone who could benefit from our services? Refer them or share our story: mchcny.org

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Together, we can build healthier communities—one patient, one family, one neighborhood at a time.

*Thank you for being part of the Metro community
and the movement for health equity,*

SCAN TO GIVE



About Metro Community Health Centers

For 10 years, Metro Community Health Centers has provided compassionate, high-quality care to communities across New York City. We offer primary and specialty medical, dental, and behavioral health services—always with a focus on individuals who are underserved, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our team of physicians, therapists, nurses, and support staff is dedicated to creating a welcoming, respectful environment where every patient feels seen and supported. No one is ever turned away based on their ability to pay.

This evening is a celebration of the people and partnerships that have helped us grow—and a reminder of the work still ahead. Thank you for being part of our mission.

Learn more at mchcnyc.org.

