



For Immediate Release
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FRESH YOUTH INITIATIVES (FYI) CELEBRATES 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY; BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORD

The Washington Heights-based nonprofit organization honored both its past and present leaders at an event featuring local politicians and distinguished community members.

New York, NY – On Thursday, May 4th, Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI) celebrated 30 years of service to the Washington Heights community at their 5th annual Journeys Benefit Gala. In recognition of this milestone, the organization broke its prior fundraising record by raising \$354,156. “This event is as much about celebrating what we’ve accomplished in the past three decades as it is about setting the stage for the next phase of FYI,” says Executive Director Eileen Lyons. “This outpouring of support from our community will position us to accomplish ambitious projects we have on the horizon.”

Guest speakers, including New York State Senator Robert Jackson, joined both former and current FYI board members, administrative leaders, staff members, and community partners at Glasshouse Chelsea to recognize three key individuals for their unique contributions to the organization. Former Board Member Steven Elkes, founding Executive Director Andrew Rubinson, and Board Chairperson Rebecca Sale were presented with the Catalyst Award, Visionary Award, and Force for Good Award, respectively. New York City Council Member Shaun Abreu, District 7, presented the organization with a Proclamation commemorating 30 years of outstanding service and contributions to the community on behalf of himself and Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, District 10. Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine also issued a Proclamation declaring that day “Fresh Youth Initiatives Appreciation Day” in the borough of Manhattan.

In addition to their year-round, free-of-charge youth development programs, Fresh Youth Initiatives is opening a behavioral mental health clinic in October 2023. For additional details about the event and information about how to support FYI, please visit freshyouth.org/2023-benefit.

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About Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI)

Founded in 1993, FYI is an anchor in the Washington Heights community, providing 1,300 immigrant and first-generation youth in grades pre-K to 12 with year-round educational, social-emotional, arts, sports, music, and college access programs. Our mission is empowering youth who have the fewest resources to achieve their greatest potential.