2022 POLARIS AWARDS & 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

LEADERSHIP GREATER HARTFORD
COMMUNITY. LEADERSHIP. CONNECTIONS.
The Polaris Awards is our sole annual fundraiser and offers a unique opportunity to recognize “guiding lights” in our region – leaders who demonstrate vision, skill, and courage, and embody our core values: Community, Leadership, and Connections.

Thank you for joining and supporting us tonight as we celebrate excellence in leadership and LGH’s 45th anniversary as a convener of organizations and individuals in the Greater Hartford community. We look forward to a strong future of continuing to improve our communities through leadership training.

2022 POLARIS AWARDS
OCTOBER 25, 2022

Cocktails & Dinner 5:30 P.M.
Awards Presentation 7:00 P.M.
Dessert Reception 8:00 P.M.

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Post a photo using the hashtag #Polaris2022 on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 Polaris Awards and 45th LGH Anniversary celebration! We are so excited to celebrate this milestone with all of you. Over the past four and a half decades, LGH staff, board members, donors, and program alumni have established an incredible legacy of community leadership in Greater Hartford. Thousands of leaders, at all stages of their lives, have connected with LGH to expand their leadership capacity and improve their communities. It is upon this legacy that we now begin to write the next chapter of Leadership Greater Hartford.

This evening we will recognize three incredibly deserving Polaris Award winners, each of whom exemplifies the values we teach in our programs. Thank you and congratulations to Maura Keating, reSET’s Food Incubator, and Dr. Agnes Quiñones, for serving as guiding lights in our region, and demonstrating the importance of community, leadership, and connections in making our region more inclusive and vibrant.

Tonight, we will also share our refined vision and key priorities that have been directly informed by all of you! We are grateful for the significant feedback and perspectives we received from LGH stakeholders and community members during our strategic planning process earlier this year and are proud to unveil a dynamic new strategic plan that is responsive to the evolving world around us.

As always, we cannot do this work alone. The depth and reach of our programs would not be possible without the support of our many donors and sponsors. We hope that this evening will affirm why you continue to invest in LGH, and will inspire your renewed commitment to our work so that we can continue developing great leaders for years to come.

In gratitude,
STAFF

Larisa Kottke  
President & CEO

Andre Santiago  
Vice President & Chief Program Officer

Doe Hentschel  
Leadership Preceptor

Mae Maloney  
Senior Program Director - Quest & Leaders on Board

Tony Ciccone  
Director - Consulting & Training

Jernelle Lavinier  
Administrative Assistant

Makala Reid  
Program Assistant
Celebrating 45 Years of Leadership

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CURRENT PROGRAMS

Quest

Hone your leadership skills while collaborating with other socially-responsible, mid-career professionals in our 10-month leadership development program. Through workshops and dynamic trainings, high-performing, community-oriented professionals can work together to create more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments.

Executive Orientation

Throughout a five-session program, new senior-level executives can create a network of peer leaders, and discover more of the Greater Hartford area, from cultural attractions to civic engagement opportunities. Whether new to the area or newly promoted, participants will be able to discuss issues and opportunities within the region, and plant stronger roots in their community.

LGH Consulting & Training

Teaching groups to be more effective by working together to overcome shared challenges has been central to our mission and expertise for decades. More than 200 diverse organizations, including government, school districts, nonprofits, small businesses, and large corporations have brought the proven methodologies of our consulting and training approach to thousands of their employees.

Leaders On Board

Train to serve on the board of a local nonprofit. Join the hundreds of other Leadership Greater Hartford participants who have embraced the rewards and responsibilities of board membership.

Third Age Initiative™

Join others who are in or near retirement to focus on areas of need within the community and work together to improve it for every generation.

We are currently recruiting for each of the programs above! Visit leadershipgh.org to learn more or enroll.
Christopher W. Clarke is a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch. He is the Chairman of the Connecticut Chapter of Bank of America’s Black Professionals Group. Chris serves on the Board of Directors for The Urban League of Greater Hartford, as well as for the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

Chris graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology. He also graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Master of Business Administration concentrating in Finance and Management. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Chris began his financial service career in 1998. He relocated to the Greater Hartford area in 2002 and joined Bank of America in 2015. Chris is a devoted single dad who resides in West Hartford with his 3 daughters.

He is an ambassador for LGH everywhere he goes. He is a former LGH Board Member and a graduate of Quest 2007 and The Verge 2021.

Renee DiNino is the Director of Community Affairs & On Air Programming for iHeartMedia in Connecticut, the midday host on The River 105.9, and the host of an hour-long syndicated talk show on all 10 CT iHeartRadio stations. Community Access features community-minded individuals, organizations, and community leaders – giving a voice to non-profits and groups and helping to generate community buzz and promote positivity every Sunday on iHeartCommunities Radio.

She serves on multiple boards and committees including: End Hunger CT, Kenway’s Cause, Inc, March Of Dimes, FoodShare, Operation Fuel, Special Olympics Connecticut, and Autism Speaks, amongst others. Her most recent pet projects have included working with Connecticut Legislatures on the passing of an animal advocacy bill, working with Campaign for Bully-Free Communities as an Ambassador, Children’s Causes, Literacy, and Military/Veteran’s centered nonprofits.

You can hear her weekly syndicated talk show on these stations: The River 105.9, Country 92.5, Kiss 95.7, KC101, 97-9 ESPN Radio, 960 WELI News Talk Radio, News Radio 1410 WPOP Am, The Beat 100.9, 100.9 FM- Hartford & ESPN RADIO 1300. Full information at: www.mycommunityaccess.com

She is a special friend of LGH and a long-time fan of Polaris.
Maura Keating is a third-generation insurance agent, working with her dad and brother in West Hartford, CT, where she grew up. Maura returned to Connecticut in 2014 after spending a few years away for college and working in retail management in Massachusetts. The skills she learned in retail translated to insurance better than she would have thought and part of her career transition included her desire to create new connections and inclusiveness, which she found through local networking and volunteer organizations.

She enjoys bringing people together through events and introducing people to experiences that benefit both the groups and their members. Maura currently serves as FLOW Chairperson (FLOW is the young professional branch of the Chamber) on the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is a member of the Junior League of Hartford and Co-Chair for the League’s Membership Experience committee, holds the treasurer position for The Town and County Club, is a volunteer For All Ages -- a nonprofit that connects generations and combats loneliness, a proud Leadership Greater Hartford 2020 Quest graduate, and a constant advocate for LGH and its training services.

Her various community and leadership roles allow her to learn from and engage with so many of our region’s nonprofit organizations. She is particularly focused on women and women in business and serves as the connector fostering new fruitful relationships and access to resources and information. She does all of this with kindness and a humble spirit.

Also, Keating Agency Insurance, where she plays a senior role, is deeply committed to making sure its surrounding community is thriving. It sponsors many local organizations, donates employee time and financial support to local events, and invests in businesses that also help the community like Friends of Feeney, Elizabeth Park, local schools and youth organizations, Park Road Playhouse, UCONN School of Business family business ambassador program, and more. By investing in a vibrant and connected community, the agency knows it is making an impact and improving the region it enjoys serving and hopes to do so for generations to come.
The **Food Incubator** program supports entrepreneurs with a passion for food, culinary skills, and who have a viable food business idea by connecting them with mentors and resources to help create and build a sustainable food business.

True to all reSET programs, entrepreneurs come to the Food Incubator at a variety of stages of development: from having a plan on a post-it to having launched a food business and looking for tools to grow. Since its launch in 2019, 67 businesses have come through the food incubator with business ideas ranging from packaged food products to plans for food trucks, pop-ups, delivery, bakeries, and restaurants.

The Food Incubator is managed by reSET in partnership with the Hartford Culinary Collaborative, comprised of seven local organizations working together towards a common goal of establishing equitable pathways for food businesses to grow and thrive in Hartford. HCC members Hands On Hartford, Forge City Works, Knox, Community Solutions, Breakfast Lunch & Dinner, Parkville Market, and reSET all work together to strengthen the culinary landscape in Hartford by providing support and business development assistance to local food businesses along a spectrum of growth.

**Pictured:**

**Sarah Bodley**, Executive Director at reSET, has over 15 years of experience leading organizations focused on entrepreneurship and the arts. She is passionate about systems change, sustainability, equality, justice, and believes that business should be a positive force for change in the world. Sarah is also a graduate of LGH’s Executive Orientation Program 2019.

**Stefanie Robles**, Food Catalyst at reSET, manages the Food Incubator program. Stef shares their passion for empowering individuals and their communities through social entrepreneurship, food justice, and wellness. Stef believes in developing communities where people and the businesses they create can grow, connect and thrive with accessibility and intention.
**LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Dr. Agnes Quiñones was born and raised in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. As an undergraduate student at UMASS-Amherst, Massachusetts, she was often the only Latina in many of her math and science classes. Dr. Quiñones holds advanced degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in future studies and Multicultural organization development.

She is committed to promoting academic excellence, and her leadership in the policy arena has significantly improved learning opportunities for young people, both during and after school. She is a great believer in lifelong learning.

Dr. Quiñones credits her maternal grandmother for her success and achievements. She is well known for her commitment to equity in education and is passionate about opening doors for all underrepresented students. Her colleagues regard her as a brilliant visionary, a true and inspiring leader, and they value her expertise. She is one of those people who takes a good idea and makes it great, yet she knows how to collaborate and make every contributor feel appreciated.

For the last 30 years, she has served as Program Manager for state and federal-funded after-school programs and has participated in the Neighborhood Youth Centers Program (CT Alliance Boys and Girls Clubs), First Robotics, Leadership, Education, Athletic Partnership (LEAP), Primary Mental Health Programs in the Connecticut State Department of Education. She is also a graduate of LGH’s American Leadership Forum Class XIV.

Dr. Quiñones was selected as the 2008 Latina Citizen of the Year by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission; was named the 2009 Latino de Oro Education Award Recipient by Hartford’s Identidad Latina Newspaper, and was titled the 2011 CT After School Champion by the After School Alliance, a nationally recognized organization. In 2013, Dr. Quiñones was awarded the Literacy Advocacy Award by the Reading and Language Arts Department at Central Connecticut State University. Most recently, Dr. Quiñones was selected as one of the fifty most influential in-state and local government after-school leaders by the National After School Alliance. Dr. Quiñones has contributed more to the growth of after-school programs in Connecticut than any other individual.
Celebrating your tireless COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.

Every day, you help make our community a better place to live. We do our best to support you, your organization and the people you serve. We’re always proud to help our neighbors.

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ONLINE AUCTION

Check out and support our online auction at:
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Bidding closes during the Dessert Reception immediately following the awards program.

WIFI INFORMATION

Username: Infinity Guest
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THANK YOU TO THE POLARIS COMMITTEE

Michael Avicolli  Cecilia Kozlowski  Adam Marks
Nadine Brennan  Jernelle Lavinier  Preksha Palmer
Larisa Kottke  Mae Maloney  Chad Turner

With special thanks to:
Kara Fenn, Joe and Ashlee Trelli, and Tisa Rabun-Marshall

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AS A LEADER

Leaders On Board
Are you looking for ways to apply your values, interests, and skills to serve the community? Leaders On Board trains participants in board governance and nonprofit organizational structure and prepares them as candidates for board service. Express Match events connect them to a network of interesting, innovative nonprofits seeking new board members.

Next Orientation: November 2 | 12:00pm-1:30pm | Zoom

Leaders in Focus
Providing an opportunity for the LGH network to meet, mingle, and learn, Leaders in Focus highlights prominent and influential leaders in the community at the forefront of important and impactful initiatives. This November we’ll meet with Randy Salvatore, Founder & CEO of RMS Companies who has just developed and opened a new mix-use apartment complex in downtown Hartford: The Pennant at North Crossing. He’ll share his vision for the building and surrounding economic development and provide a tour of the building and its high-end amenities.

November 29 | 4:30pm-6:00pm | The Pennant at North Crossing

Quest 2023
We are currently recruiting for Quest 2023! Our flagship program is designed for mid-career professionals and provides opportunities to:
- Form deep, cross-sector relationships
- Prove yourself among the region’s top talent
- Learn how to create more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments
- Enhance team dynamics and support company culture

Program Launch: February 16 | 4:00pm-6:00pm

Learn more or register at leadershipgh.org
Congratulations Leadership Greater Hartford!

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Happy 45th Anniversary
Leadership Greater Hartford
and Congratulations to the 2022 Polaris Award Recipients!

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Congratulations to tonight’s award winners and to Leadership of Greater Hartford on 45 years of making our community better.
CELEBRATING
45 Years of Community, Leadership and Connections

We join Leadership Greater Hartford and congratulate tonight’s Polaris Award winners: Agnes Quiñones, Maura Keating and Food Incubator

Contact: Aaron Levy, Partner at (860) 251-5000

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Congratulations
Polaris 2022 Award Winners

★ Dr. Agnes Quiñones
★ Maura Keating
★ Food Incubator

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Maura Keating
FLOW Chairperson
Connections Award

Christopher Clarke
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On Your Distinctions
"Congrats to Larisa and the entire team at LGH for 45 years of making a tremendous difference in the community! We're extremely proud to be your employee benefits broker."

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Congratulations to tonight’s honorees:

Dr. Agnes Quiñones
Maura Keating
Food Incubator

We’re proud to sponsor Leadership Greater Hartford’s 2022 Polaris Awards. We thank all the honorees for their leadership in our communities.
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BOOK SIGNING EVENT on November 15

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Congratulations to the 2022 Leadership Greater Hartford Polaris Award Winners

Congratulations Maura!

We are very proud of you and keep excelling with your professional growth

-The Keating Agency Team
Thank you to Leadership Greater Hartford for growing every style of community leader

Hands On Hartford congratulates the 2022 Leadership Greater Hartford Polaris Award Winners

For more information on Hands On Hartford’s food, housing and health support services; volunteer opportunities; Shared Use Kitchen; and Gather55 pay-what-you-can restaurant, visit www.handsonhartford.org

Hands On Hartford | 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford, CT 06106
www.handsonhartford.org
USJ is honored to support Leadership Greater Hartford and their commitment to empowering leadership in our community.

With pride in our partnerships and in our shared vision, we congratulate our LGH colleagues on 45 years of true service to the community.

You inspire us to see the best in others and seek the best in ourselves.
MAURA,
CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU'RE THE
SIGNATURE BUTTERCREAM
ON OUR CAKE! ❤️
SO PROUD OF YOU AND
ALL YOU DO FOR OUR
COMMUNITY!

KNOX
People Planting Programs

KNOX congratulates reSET on this award!

We are proud to collaborate towards the success
of Hartford farmers!

Cheers to LGH on 45 Years!

Here's to continued success and all the
great things you'll do in the next 45
years and beyond.

With congratulations,
Jen and Christian Sager

Congratulations
Polaris Award Winners!

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