



PRESS RELEASE

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HABNET Chamber of Commerce Marks Ninth Year of Entrepreneurial Success at Annual Gala

BROOKLYN, NY – The HABNET Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Gala on Saturday, November 23 at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn to mark its ninth year of entrepreneurial success with small business owners, clergy, honorees, and elected officials from New York City and Long Island.

“We are very appreciative to have the support of so many partners, stakeholders, and our elected officials, as we all dedicate ourselves to Elevating Our Community,” said Jackson Rockingster, HABNET President and CEO.

The 2013 honorees were Rev. Dr. Philius Nicolas of Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men, Inc., recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award; Affinity Health Plan, recipient of the Organization of the Year Award, Dell Smitherman of 1199 SEIU, recipient of the Distinguished Political Advocacy & Leadership Award; and Rev. Dr. Yves Pierre of Church of Lord, recipient of the Leadership and Service Award. They represented notable individuals and organizations that exemplified HABNET’s core values and made invaluable contributions to elevate our community.

“I’m proud of the partnership between 1199SEIU and HABNET, and the 2013 gala was a great event which demonstrated the influence of HABNET on local business, politics and the community,” Dell Smitherman, Political Coordinator for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East continued. “I would like to commend HABNET for their dedication to financial literacy, and economic empowerment. 1199SEIU is committed to HABNET’s 2013-2014 theme, Elevating our Community, through our fight for City, State and Federal legislation that promotes social and economic justice. We look forward to future collaborations with HABNET as we defend the rights of workers and fight to end the disparities that cripple our communities.”

Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr., the President and Founder of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. (CACCI), was the keynote speaker. Hastick highlighted the importance of financial literacy and business education for young people then emphasized collaboration between CACCI and HABNET to share information and empower the small business community with knowledge.

U.S. Representative Yvette. D. Clarke, New York State Senator Kevin Parker, New York State Committeewoman and District Leader Rodneyse Bichotte, New York State Committeeman and District Leader Cory Provost, New York City Councilmembers Mathieu Eugene and Jumaane D. Williams and Nassau County Legislator Carrie Solages brought greetings then extended their congratulations to HABNET and the honorees.

“It was my pleasure to attend HABNET Chamber of Commerce’s annual gala, appropriately entitled, ‘Elevating Our Community’ this year. I applaud HABNET, under the leadership of its president, Jackson Rockingster, for its role in fostering, according to the organization’s own mission statement, ‘trade and commerce within and between the Haitian Diaspora and the global community’. As the representative of the 45th council district, which has one of the highest concentrations of Haitian and Haitian-American residents of any council district, I am committed to ensuring that all residents, including Haitians and Haitian-Americans, are able to access vital services that might be needed- from citizenship application assistance to office hours with an immigration attorney. I look forward to continuing to work with HABNET in the future.”

The HABNET Chamber of Commerce will mark its 10th Anniversary in 2014.

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