



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Liz Margolis
LMargolis@informyourcommunity.org
212-287-9305

Inform Your Community Announces its 2024-2025 Volunteer and Partner of the Year Awardees

[Inform Your Community](#) (IYC), a New York, New York- based nonprofit, has announced it has awarded its Volunteer and Partner of the Year Awards, as well as the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is the first time IYC has awarded this honor. The awards were presented April 4th at IYC's Annual Gala.

For the first time this year, IYC also participated in the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award was established by President George W. Bush and is given to volunteers who have dedicated over 100 hours to a nonprofit.

Our first President's Volunteer Service Award was given to Carrie Garippa, IYC's Curriculum Director. The Curriculum Director is the backbone of the curriculum process and Carrie has jumpstarted the curriculum process for over 30 issues that IYC covers.

"I am truly blessed to be part of such an amazing organization. The universe brought me to a place where I can be a simple cog in the movement for change," said Garippa. "I am thankful for the opportunities IYC has given me to help make a difference in our world. To be recognized for that effort is overwhelming. I have met so many amazing humans through this work and been given hope through these "change makers."

This year's Volunteer of the Year Award was given to former IYC Human Resources Director, April Dommond. IYC's Volunteer of the Year Award is given annually to a former IYC volunteer whose contributions have played a significant role in the growth and the fulfillment of IYC's mission.

IYC has been running as an all-volunteer organization, but as it continues to grow IYC plans to expand to hire employees. To move closer to this vision, April worked on the handbook provided to all volunteers and employees and also set the foundation for the organization's Sharepoint portal currently being implemented.

This year's Partner of the Year Award was given to Chris Fichera and Capella University. Chris is an Assistant Professor at Capella University and has facilitated over 50 of his students working with IYC over eight semesters, including the inaugural volunteer of the year April.

In addition to the handbook and Sharepoint projects, his students also worked on researching and creating information sheets for IYC chapters, constructing IYC's branding kit, finding grant opportunities for IYC and its chapters and were key to allowing IYC to receive a small grant from The Greater Sum.

"We are incredibly grateful to April, Chris, and Carrie for dedicating their time, energy, and expertise to help IYC's mission," said Anastacia "Stacey" Kurylo, CEO of IYC. "The innumerable contributions they have made to our organization has helped IYC take major strides forward."

Past winners of IYC's awards include Volunteer of the Year Jacki Kelly and Partner of the Year [TWCPSA](#) and it's founder Wendy Wetheral for 2023-2024, Volunteer of the Year former IYC board member Kevin John and Partner of the Year Keith Newhouse and the [Newhouse Creative Group](#) for 2022-2023 and Volunteer of the Year for one of IYC's founding board members Patrick Ibizugbe for 2021-2022.

Inform Your Community's mission is to maximize the power of authentic entertainment experiences to provide relevant impactful information to children and adults of all ages through fun, free, and meaningful events. These facilitate knowledge acquisition relevant to an informed electorate encompassed by the four C's: civics, civic engagement, civility, and civil rights.