



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

Senator James Sanders Jr. Honors 2018 Woman of Distinction - Gina Vasquez

JAMES SANDERS JR. May 1, 2018



State Senator James Sanders Jr. (D-Rochdale Village) honored Gina Vasquez as his 2018 “Woman of Distinction,” an award given through the senate to outstanding women living and working in New York State whose contributions have enriched the quality of life in their community and beyond. The induction ceremony was held in Albany on May 1, 2018.

“Gina's long time devotion to helping others is admirable and makes her well deserving of the title, Woman of Distinction,” Sanders said. “Her commitment to the consistent

betterment of her community is an inspiration.”

Gina Vasquez is the founder and president of Flowers of Hope NY, a 501(c) community-based organization that promotes family and community bonding through dance exercise and fitness for the body, mind and soul. Ms. Vasquez has used her creativity and motivational skills to build bonds between Flowers of Hope and the New York City community, organizing cancer walks, free NYC Parks and Recreation performances, and a support network for members.

Ms. Vasquez is a clinical social worker who has dedicated her life to improving the lives of families and children. She has experience working with geriatric communities, as well as with victims of trauma and abuse. Ms. Vasquez is an active volunteer who combines her passion for belly dance choreography with her knowledge of social work, offering a nuanced approach to trauma therapy through dance and song.

Currently, Ms. Vasquez works as a therapist at the New York Psychotherapy Clinic. She earned her Master’s Degree in Social Work at Adelphi University, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA. She also studied at York College within the City University of New York, where she enjoyed courses in psychology and human behavior, while simultaneously interning at a nursing hospital.

Ms. Vasquez’s interest in volunteering has grown steadily throughout the years. She expanded her volunteer work to include helping immigrant children improve their reading and writing skills, and volunteers her time for childhood cancer patients at the oncology clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital. She has also instilled a deep sense of community involvement in her children, who also volunteer regularly.

“Gina is a great role model for our young people,” Sanders said. “She is a beloved figure in the 10th Senatorial District and brings joy to everyone she meets.”