



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

## Senator Sanders, Joined By Majority Leader Schumer, Honors Women in Healthcare at Rochdale Village

[James Sanders Jr.](#)

March 28, 2022





Senator James Sanders Jr., joined by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, honored dozens of women in healthcare as part of his Women's History Month event held on Friday, March 25, 2022 at the Rochdale Village Ballroom.

"I am proud to be here with you, during this National Women's Month at this event that James has done such a great job putting together, and I am proud to say that we are so proud here in New York of our women who really make this country and this city a great place," said Senator Schumer.

All of the nominees received a certificate of recognition, the entries came from hospitals, healthcare facilities and providers from all over the district including Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Queens Health + Hospitals, and The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center.

"Women in healthcare save lives everyday, especially as frontline workers during the pandemic, so it is only fitting that we honor them during Women's History Month," Senator Sanders said. "Women are an important part of history and of our lives. They are often the backbone of the family unit and globally provide strength in times of peril."

The three top winners received a framed proclamation and an acrylic block with commemorative coin called the Senate Commendation Award, an honor which is given to recognize exceptional people who have made a lasting contribution to their community.

The top honorees were: Phara Carolei, Program Director at Rochdale Village NORC, Radica Rampersaud, a Respiratory Therapist at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, and Jennifer A. Henry, Assistant Head Nurse at Health + Hospitals Queens.

The most nominees came from St. John's Episcopal Hospital with 22 entries.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was the Rev. Dr. Brenda Archer and entertainment was provided by singer Jaden Gabb, International Dancer Za-man and his fusion dance troupe, and DJ Warren.

Also honored at the ceremony was Sherry Algreto, the Senator Sanders' 2021 Woman of Distinction. Since the annual ceremony which is usually held in Albany was cancelled, she was presented with her award plaque at the Women's History Event.

The event was conducted in partnership with Queens Borough President Donovan



## TOP HONOREES

Name: **Phara Carolei**

Title: Program Director

Employer: Rochdale Village NORC

Biography: Phara Carolei is a first-generation Haitian American who is bi-lingual in Haitian Creole and English. She has worked in social services for over 20+ years and is a Social Worker by trade. However, she is first a wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and mother of two beautiful boys.

In 2002, Phara was a Family Advocate for youths who were removed from their homes through the Administration for Children Services (ACS) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) where she worked with an interdisciplinary team to ensure reunification and service delivery. Following this, Phara ventured to the homeless sector where she worked for over 13+ years moving up in the ranks from a Team Leader to Director of Client Services to Executive of All Shelter Programs all within the Westchester County area.

In addition to her professional work, Phara has been an advocate in giving back to the community. During her formative years, Phara took an opportunity to go to the countries of South Africa and Swaziland, where she and her group personally distributed school supplies to orphaned children. Phara is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated (DST) for 13 years and has served on several committees during these years. In 2010 after the devastating 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, Phara along with her sorority established the Relief for Haiti where she shipped and distributed multiple barrels that consisted of medical supplies, non-perishable food items, clothes, and hygiene products to orphanages and the homeless. In 2017, due to her philanthropic ways Phara was also recognized for her achievements by the Haitian American Professional Women's Alliance (HAPWA).

Phara has served as a social work Field Instructor for the past 14+ years at the College of New Rochelle, Columbia University, Mercy College, New York University, Nyack College, and Fordham University. She graduated from State University at Albany earning a double bachelors in Criminal Justice and Sociology and a Masters in Social Welfare (MSW). In 2012, she received Recognition for Service in the Baccalaureate Social Work Program from the College of New Rochelle and is a member of their Social Work Advisory Board.

Today, Phara is the Executive Director of the Rochdale Village NORC program where she is dedicated to working with the senior population and with the Rochdale Village