



# CREATING IMPACT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT  
WESTPORT WESTON FAMILY YMCA



# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

At the Westport Weston Family YMCA, we're committed to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. We are a cause-driven, volunteer-led, nonprofit organization working to support and strengthen the foundations of community.



## OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is dedicated to enhancing our members' physical, mental, and social well-being. At the Y, you'll find a supportive community that fosters personal growth, improves health, empowers youth, and builds meaningful connections.

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## OUR VALUES

**CARING:** We demonstrate sincere concern for others, their needs and well-being.

**RESPECT:** We treat others as we would want to be treated and value the worth of every person.

**HONESTY:** We tell the truth and demonstrate reliability and trustworthiness.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** We do what is right and are accountable for our choices and actions.

## OUR IMPACT

Made up of over 12,500 members, donors, staff and volunteers, our efforts ensure that everyone in our community, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation have the opportunities and resources needed to reach their full potential.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD PRESIDENT

## **Celebrating Growth, Leadership and Legacy at the Westport Weston Family YMCA**

As we look back on 2024, we reflect on a truly remarkable year at the Westport Weston Family YMCA—one marked by growth, transition, and historic celebration. This year has been a testament to the strength of our community and our enduring mission to strengthen the foundations of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

This past year, we proudly achieved a record-breaking milestone—serving 12,500 members, the highest in our history. Our programs reached more families, youth, and seniors than ever before, reinforcing the YMCA as a hub for health, connection, and belonging. This reflects the continued engagement of our community and the tireless efforts of our staff, board members, and supporters.

In 2024, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our flagship facility, the Bedford Family Center, a cornerstone for wellness, learning, and community building. Over the past decade, the facility has welcomed thousands through its doors, hosting programs that inspire healthier lifestyles, stronger families and lifelong friendships.

We were honored to receive Praesidium Accreditation this year, recognizing our organization for meeting the highest industry standards in child abuse prevention. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to creating safe environments for all children and families who trust us with their care and development.

Another historic milestone was reached with the 75th anniversary of the Water Rat Swim Team. Generations of swimmers, coaches, and families have shaped this program into a model of athletic excellence and team spirit. This celebration honored our deep roots and the legacy of perseverance and sportsmanship that continues to inspire.

As we move forward in 2025, we do so with gratitude for all those who make our mission possible. From members and staff to the Board of Directors and Trustees and the generous donors—thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we have honored our past, embraced the present, and are boldly shaping a stronger future.



**Glen Hale**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Juliane Sunderland**  
Board President



# A DECADE OF MAKING MAGIC

In the fall of 2024, the Westport Weston Family YMCA proudly celebrated 10 remarkable years at the Bedford Family Center, commemorating the move of 90 years of history from downtown Westport to the Y's 32-acre Mahackeno campus, home to our summer day camp along the Saugatuck River. The center was named in honor of the Bedford family's generous contributions to the Y over the years.



The Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony took place on August 28, 2014, attended by Y volunteers, donors, staff, members, and an array of state and local civic leaders. The new facility officially opened on October 6, 2014, and recently celebrated the Y's 100-year anniversary in 2023.

## BUILDING WHAT MATTERS...

...was the name of the Y's campaign to build our sustainable new home where we continue to fulfill our mission to enrich our entire community by developing and nurturing the potential of our youth, promoting healthy living for all and fostering a sense of social responsibility.



CONCEPTION



CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETION



As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bedford Family Center, I am filled with gratitude and pride. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of our community. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a role in bringing this building and thriving campus to life. From our visionary leaders and generous supporters, to the skilled workers who ensured its successful completion. Your hard work and passion have made a lasting impact, allowing us to serve our community of now 12,000+ members with purpose and heart. As we look forward to the future, let us continue to honor the core values that have long guided us: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Here's to many more years of making magic happen together!

### **Juliane Sunderland**

President of the WWFY Board of Directors



John McKinney speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new WWFY in 2014.

My speech at the 2014 ribbon-cutting ceremony still reflects how I feel today. We were always taught that it wasn't just about giving back to the community, but about building one. I know the Bedfords before me are smiling down on the Y, proud of how this campus, its mission, and people, have grown and expanded to better serve all.

**John McKinney**  
Chairman of the WWFY  
Board of Trustees



# MAKE MAHACKENO HAPPEN!

The journey to a new facility began in earnest in 2003. For years, Westport residents saw red and white signs with bold black letters calling for a new YMCA. But there was also significant opposition. Public meetings were often packed with residents voicing support or protest, and lawns across town were lined with signs either promoting or opposing the project, which had been dubbed 'Y Downtown' or 'Make Mahackeno Happen.'



While everyone agreed that Westport needed its YMCA, the Y's future was uncertain without a new facility to meet the community's evolving needs. After years of effort, on February 25, 2013, Westport officials granted Turner Construction a building permit to move forward with the plans for a 54,000-square-foot facility. The project, totaling \$38.5 million, culminated in the opening of the new building in 2014.





Looking back, one thing was clear: we needed a new facility. While the old Y held so much history, it had long since passed its prime. 'Imagining The Possibilities' of a new Y was the easy part, but 'Making Mahackeno Happen' was a much greater challenge. We faced countless town board meetings, state agencies, court trials, and the daunting task of selling our downtown property. Through it all, we had three CEOs and numerous internal committee meetings to guide us. What many people may not realize is how close we came to giving up on the dream. It took a leap of faith for the Directors and Trustees to unanimously vote to move forward, even when we weren't sure how we'd fund the project. It also took thousands of hours from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, who refused to imagine Westport without the Y.



Rosemary Halstead  
On-site during construction  
of the new Y in 2014.

Now, 10 years later, the Y is thriving. Our hallways are filled with people of all ages, swimming, working out, taking fitness classes, playing basketball and pickleball, and so much more in our beautiful facility. I often hear, 'Thank you for fighting the good fight, the Y is fabulous.' Indeed, it is. And while we had no idea the process would take 10 years, we wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again.

### **Rosemary Halstead**

Active WWFY Board of Trustee Member  
and Former President of the  
Board of Directors





**\$538K**  
IN FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE

# OUR MISSION IN MOTION

WWFY FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Transforming Communities and Connection

As an organization dedicated to serving and strengthening our community, we work to provide kids, families and communities with the resources and opportunities they need to learn, grow and thrive.

In 2024, the Westport Weston Family YMCA received Praesidium Accreditation® for achieving the highest industry standards in abuse prevention.

**12,500+**

Active members,  
donors and volunteers

**30,000+**

Visitors per month

— ACCREDITED BY —  
**PRAESIDIUM**  
— 2024-2027 —



520

Hours served giving back and supporting our community through volunteering



140

Free and discounted memberships provided to active Military, Veterans, and their families



272

Youth with special needs finding joy, opportunity and empowerment through adaptive programming



485

Dedicated staff committed to furthering the Y's mission





## REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF EVENTS

For more than a century, the WWFY served as a vital support system in the community, for children, families and adults of all ages. Today, we continue to empower people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body.

**1600+** attendees for our special, community-strengthening events including Healthy Kids Day, Jingle Bells Jamboree, Extra Special Dance, Family Campout, 10th Anniversary, 100th Annual Meeting, Winter Ball, Teen Nights and more.





**100+ SWIMMERS  
POINT TO POINT**



**200+ HEALTHY HEART  
SCREENINGS**



**100+ GOLFERS  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



**600+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
HEALTHY KIDS DAY**



# BEDFORD FAMILY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FUND AWARDS \$315,000 TO 33 LOCAL NONPROFITS

In 2024, 33 local nonprofit organizations that received grants totaling \$315,000 through the Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund (BFSRF).

This year's ceremony celebrated the continued legacy of Ruth T. Bedford, whose generous gift in 2015 created the Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund. Ruth T. Bedford, a longtime YMCA trustee emeritus and philanthropist, made this transformative gift to enhance educational opportunities and strengthen the communities she loved. Her grandfather, Edward T. Bedford, established the first Westport YMCA in 1923, and her family's unwavering support helped shape the YMCA into the vital community institution it is today.

The awarded grants will be used to fund educational initiatives that create lasting opportunities for young people. They were recognized for their dedication to closing educational gaps and offering transformative experiences for children and young adults in the Westport, Weston, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Norwalk, and Wilton communities.

Thanks to the generosity of Ruth T. Bedford's estate, we are able to provide critical funding to these organizations, whose work truly makes a difference in the lives of young people and it is an honor to continue Ruth Bedford's legacy of support, ensuring that the YMCA can be a leader in community impact for years to come.





I was considering not attending college this semester due to financial challenges. Receiving this scholarship, I could not be more thrilled that I can continue getting my education and get one step closer to achieving my academic goals. This award means a lot to me but also to all my family who are in Argentina feeling proud that I am the first one attending college and getting a higher education.



**Lucia, 2024 Medical Assistant Student**

The Housatonic Community College Foundation was one of 31 organizations to receive a grant from the Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund and shared a touching story about the impact it has made on one of its many students. Lucia, is a 25-year-old student studying to become a Medical Assistant and a new mother to her beautiful daughter, Zoe.

## 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS





# 14,915

Total check-ins at the Nussbaum Kids Club so little ones can develop social skills under safe supervised care while parents participate in activities at the Y

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# 188

Dancers explored imagination and self-expression through creative movement

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# 138

Students became more active, healthy, and engaged in our 7th Grade Initiative Program

# NURTURING THE FUTURE

**WWFY FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**We aim to nurture the potential of every child and teen.**

It's here where they'll build character and develop perseverance - whether learning to swim, competing on the gymnastics team, working as a camp counselor, or training to be a lifeguard.





**2,976**

Young athletes developed confidence, skills and sportsmanship through youth sports programming

**81**

Kids were inspired to learn, play and grow in our afterschool enrichment program that provides worry-free childcare for working parents

**1,486**

Youths tried new activities, made lasting friendships and gained independence at summer camp



**1,626**

Teens learned healthy habits and found a sense of belonging through recreational programs and membership

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 | **Y** WE SERVE



**WESTPORT WESTON FAMILY YMCA** | [westportymca.org](https://westportymca.org)

# Water Rat Swimming

The Westport Weston Family YMCA is proud home to the Water Rat Swim Team, our nationally recognized competitive swim program and USA Swimming Club who celebrated its 75th year in 2024!



The Water Rats train year-round and compete against Connecticut YMCA teams in dual swim meets state wide along with USA Swimming sanctioned meets at the regional, state and national levels.

In 2024, the Water Rats continued to demonstrate excellence in and out of the pool. Multiple athletes earned national recognition, with several ranking among the top swimmers in the country and some taking top honors in their events. These accomplishments reflect the team's dedication, strong coaching, and the Y's supportive environment that helps young athletes thrive.



## 219

Swimmers learned perseverance, teamwork and commitment as members of the Water Rats Swim Team



## WHERE DREAMS OF GOLD ARE BORN

WWFY Water Rat Swim Team star Matthew Torres, proudly represented Team USA and competed for the second time in the 2024 Paralympic Summer Games.



## SWIMMING WITH A PURPOSE MASTERS SWIM TEAM



At the 2024 YMCA Masters Nationals, 58 WWFY swimmers delivered standout performances, breaking seven national records and capturing first place overall for the second year in a row. The women's team took first, the men's team placed third, and four relay teams highlighted the strength of our community and commitment to excellence.

At the 37th Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon, our Water Rats and Masters Swim Team raised over \$58,000—\$48,000 from WRAT Masters alone—demonstrating extraordinary endurance and a deep commitment to community and cause.





# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The Westport Weston Family YMCA Gymnastics Team had a standout year in 2024, showcasing strength, precision, and perseverance across all competitive levels. From individual milestones to top team finishes, our gymnasts consistently rose to the occasion, earning accolades and pushing past personal bests. Their progress reflects the power of focused training, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to growth, on and off the mat.





104

Elite gymnasts trained and competed as part of our Gymnastics Team, showcasing exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship across local, state, and regional competitions

1,543

Children enrolled in Gymnastics classes where they developed strength, determination, self-esteem and confidence

## WWFY COMPETITIVE GYMNASTICS TEAM

Our premier competitive gymnastics team at the Westport Weston Family YMCA trains gymnasts from Levels 2-9 to compete in regional and national YMCA and USAG meets. With a season running from September through June and meets from January onward, we foster a year-round commitment to skill development, strength, and team spirit. Our dedicated coaching team supports each athlete's growth and competitive journey, helping them achieve their best in a positive, motivating environment.



**WESTPORT WESTON FAMILY YMCA**  
Best Gym/Workout in Fairfield County  
2024 Daily Voice Readers' Choice Awards



**75,288**

Total visits to the  
Wellness Center supporting  
members in reaching their  
personal fitness goals and  
maintaining healthy habits

**36**

Cancer survivors reclaimed  
their health in the supportive  
environment of Livestrong®

**40**

Seniors increased strength &  
decreased arthritic pain at  
Senior Strong

# STRONGER TOGETHER

**WWFY FOR HEALTHY LIVING**

**Supporting Healthy Lifestyles &  
Well-Being**

By offering a wide array of programs and  
classes, we're committed to helping  
improve the health & well-being of all who  
live and work in our community.





243

Adults each month improved agility, endurance, speed, friendships and their love for the water in our AquaFit classes

1,008

Weekly group fitness attendees gained opportunities to stay active and healthy



40

Triathletes found motivation and improved competition strategy in Triathlon Club

60

Weekly Pickleball players upped their skills and found friendly competition in a social atmosphere

178

Lifeguards received training to learn essential lifesaving skills and expand employment opportunities



25

Individuals with Parkinson's improved their quality of life, coordination, & flexibility in our Parkinson's Fitness Program

31

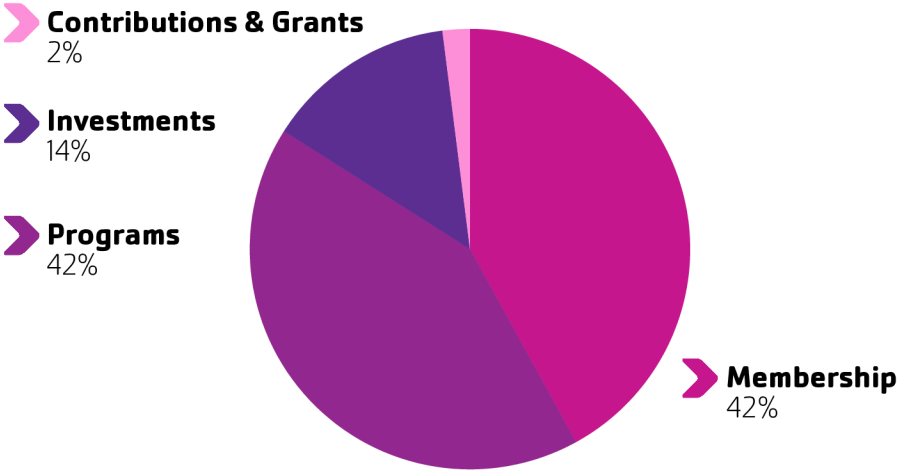
Runners aimed for their new personal best with New York Road Runners Training Group



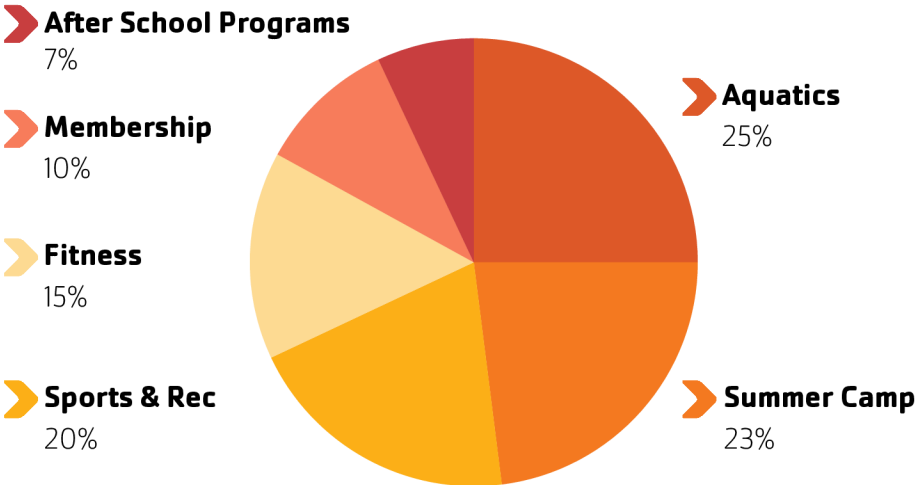
# 2024 FINANCIALS

Total Assets	\$68,710,067	Operating Revenue	\$14,352,660
Total Liabilities	\$15,953,602	Operating Expenses	\$14,060,136
Total Net Assets	\$52,756,465	Surplus	\$292,524

## INCOME



## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A charitable non-profit organization, our YMCA is governed by board of volunteer leaders. The Board of Directors provides oversight of our programs and operations. Comprising respected civic leaders, business owners and industry executives, clergy and philanthropists, our board members dedicate many hours of service each year to our Y to the betterment of our community. Terms of service vary, but many of our Board Members serve our Y for decades, in a variety of capacities.

**Juliane Sunderland**, President

**Jennifer Bagnato**, 1st Vice President

**Lauren Karpf**, 2nd Vice President

**Julie Tuttle**, Secretary

**Brian Carey**, Treasurer

**Libby McKinney Tritschler**, Member at Large

**John McKinney**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**Glen Hale**, CEO

**James Adams**

**Diane Benke**

**Christi Downes**

**Daniel Ferson**

**Michael Fitzmaurice**

**John Greenspan**

**Henry Grossberg**, Jr. Board Member

**Jonathan Manela**

**Danny McHugh**, Jr. Board Member

**Kristin McKinney**

**Jay Norris**

**Melanie Oberman**

**Tobias Reiss-Schmidt**

**Dani Schwartz**, Jr. Board Member

**Pam Schwartz**

**Renee Van Heerden**

**Cathy Walker**



# 2024 RECOGNITION AWARDS



LEE J. EDELSTEIN - VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR  
**DIANE DUBOVY BENKE**

Diane was honored for her outstanding leadership as the chair of the WWFY's Development Committee. Her efforts in organizing centennial celebrations, the 100 for 100 Yoga outdoor event, and the successful sneaker-themed gala demonstrated her commitment to enhancing the Y's philanthropic footprint and brand. Diane's lifelong connection to the Y, from swimming to her children's participation in various programs, has driven her passion to give back and inspire others.



ALLEN RAYMOND - LEGACY & IMPACT AWARD  
**ROBIN TAUCK**

Robin was celebrated for her visionary leadership and philanthropy. As a former member of the Board of Trustees and a generous donor, Robin's transformative gifts have significantly impacted the Y's Wellness Center and other initiatives. Her recent contributions for the 100th Anniversary and her efforts in launching the Enhanced Fitness and 7th Grade Fit programs have created lasting benefits for the community. Robin's dedication to social, cultural, and economic change is evident both locally and internationally.



EDWARD T. BEDFORD - OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARDS  
**KATE MURRAY**

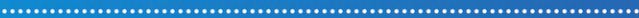
Kate Murray, a dedicated member of the Water Rats swim team since age six, was recognized for her remarkable achievements and team spirit. Her leadership and supportive nature have made a positive impact on her peers. Kate will continue her swimming journey at Auburn University, pursuing a degree in Animal Sciences Pre-Vet.



**ANDREW BERKOWITZ**

Andrew Berkowitz, known for his perseverance and embodiment of the Y's core values, was honored for his leadership and academic excellence. As Salutatorian of the Staples Class of 2024, Andrew will attend Amherst College, excelling as a student-athlete and inspiring others with his work ethic and humility.

## WWFY STAR EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS



ABOVE & BEYOND  
**JAMES LEASK**

James was recognized for his exceptional initiative and dedication to ensuring the smooth operation of the Y's facilities.



RELATIONSHIP CHAMPION  
**ALEJANDRO FLORES**

Alejandro's unwavering commitment and positive attitude have made a significant impact across all departments and programs.



COMMITMENT TO MISSION  
**VICTORIA WALTERS**

Victoria's leadership and dedication to the Aquatics Department, particularly during challenging times, exemplified her commitment to the Y's mission.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR  
**TINA TURECHEK**

Tina's adaptability, positivity, and dedication were celebrated as she embraced new responsibilities and contributed to the team's success.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS

The Westport Weston Family YMCA is tremendously grateful to the following individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies for their generous gifts made in the 2024 calendar year. Their contributions to our Annual and Capital Campaigns provide vital support for the Westport Weston Family YMCA's wide ranging programs and ensures our future for generations to come. Additionally, donations to our Annual Fund allow us to never turn anyone away, regardless of what their financial situation may be.

This allows us to continue making the Y accessible to all. Thank you for making this possible.

**\$50,000+**

**James A. Randel**

**\$10,000+**

**Bonnie Strittmatter Turner Construction Company Michael W. Maloney**

**\$5,000+**

**Robert Bowman Brittain Ezzes  
Orthoconnecticut, PC Robert Levy**

**\$2,000+**

**Daniel McHugh S/L/A/M Collaborative Hat City Paper & Supply  
USI Insurance Services LLC Dan Ferson**

**\$1,000+**

**Jared Bond Praveen Pamidimukkala Janice Chingos Fernanda Davis Colin Walker Spencer Parker  
Wingman Lending LLC Paul & Tracy K. Keblish Nick Sarno Willis Gay American Online Giving Foundation  
Anne Rutherford Jennifer Bagnato Rosemary E. Halstead King-White Family Foundation, Inc.  
Phil Crosby The Westport Woman's Club, Inc. Controlled Air, Inc. Marshal Root**

**\$500+**

**Gary Liebowitz Anjali McCormick Andrew Siegler  
Julia Le Jeffrey N. Wieser Elitefeats, Inc. Benjamin  
Joseloff Eric Grossberg Howard & Katherine Aibel  
Foundation Zubatkin Owner Representaion LLC**

**\$200+**

**John Greenspan Michael McCreesh Brian Marazzi  
Matthew Leiter Jeremy Rubin Sean Murray Edward J.  
Kowalczyk Team Triumph Alvin J. Epstein Gilbert L. Bowman  
Mark Rappaport Richard S. Jaffe Gault Family Companies  
Connecticut Custom Aquatics, LLC**

**Suzanne Slade David Lessing Yevgeniy Mayr Brian Meltzer Porter Diehl Phillip Schemel Norman Trepner Adlar Su Nick Consonery  
Veronica Suleski Mark Fletcher Alexander Shakibnia Jelina Saliu Michael Cuffaro Thomas Scala Miroslaw Gabrys Sandra Brink  
Alicia Entern Fredric Nadel Alexia Cassimatis Bruce Cha Michael Numon Alex Martin Mark Van Summern Sara Swan Greg Kohut  
Craig Gambardella Joe Benz Lauren Fabian Ian McGuinn Ellen Murray Adriana Pentz Alexis Penaloza David Allen Eileen Berenyi  
Alessandra Russo Nassi Gabriel Shenhar Charles Nadel Steven Tennenbaum Jenny Tandler Tam Le Dustin Saldarriaga Katie Karg  
Daniel Pyo Richmond Le Paul Fontanier Bernard FitzGerald Jr. Abby Ripka Keith Goodman Tait K. Michael Patrick Flaherty Andrew  
Coleman Liliane Sanderson Lori Hammer Eric Sandrib Dana Laird Jean Zygmunt-Grisanti Ayesha Choudhury Betsy Horan Kate  
Radville Brian Sandrib Rebecca Strutton Bruce Hume Doris R Barton Katherine Meltzer Christopher Winterbottom Jeffrey Parrillo  
Riley Twiss Michael Stenman Paul Epstein Brian Tunstall Daryl Retzke Maury Wind Mark Carta Jack Harari Susan Benz George  
Hebner Alt Lee Rommin Adl Christopher Calby Heather Urbaitis Jesse York Joyce Quinlan Lorraine Watkins Ann L. Onton Lee  
Evangelas Alan Fidler Tim Dougherty Eleanor Streicker Michael Streicker Noelene Power Christopher Konowitz Derek Yach  
Randal Archibold Lucille Renwick Matthew Rossi Parker Hayden Jordan Paxhia Marion Michael McCreesh Robin Myers Stacey  
Foodim-Sloan Jeanie Riess Monica Speciale Tony Heimer Nancy Judson Lisa Zraket Catherine McNiff Dan Welch Kathy McGuire  
Nancy C. Saibe Connor Spain Jack Laschever Barry Becker Denise Stevens Katharine Radville Henry Woodard Alex Johnson Nono  
Merino Deanne McGuinn Shane Hayden Sarah Caputo Brian Kuzmiak**