

Advocates for Children of New York



Spring Benefit

June 8, 2016

Thank you to the staff of
Advocates for Children
of New York, for
your unwavering dedication
to securing a quality public
education for New York City's
children and youth.



—AFC's Board of Directors

Advocates for Children of New York's *Spring Benefit*

Wednesday, June 8, 2016



6:00 pm

Cocktail Reception

7:15 pm

Presentations



Welcome

Hoda Kotb

Co-Anchor, Today

Remarks

Kim Sweet

Executive Director, Advocates for Children of New York



Awards Presentation

Hoda Kotb

THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD

Marc Lasry

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Avenue Capital Group

AND

Cathy Lasry

Author and Philanthropist

THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

Yshamar Gestine

June 2017 High School Graduate and AFC Client



Closing Remarks

Eric F. Grossman

Board President, Advocates for Children of New York

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to Advocates for Children of New York's 2016 Spring Benefit.

Since 1971, AFC has helped over half a million of New York City's most vulnerable children—the poor, the homeless, children in foster care, children with special needs, immigrant children, and children caught in the juvenile justice system—in their quest for a quality education. With AFC on their side, these disadvantaged students have a genuine chance at academic success and a decreased likelihood of eventually dropping out of school and experiencing chronic unemployment or long-term court involvement. Together with AFC's donors and funders, we are able to overcome the barriers that stand between these students and the quality education they deserve.

Thank you to our generous Sponsors, who have donated an astounding \$1.85 million to support this work in the coming year. Thanks as well to my Co-Chairs, whose leadership has made our 2016 Spring Benefit another record breaker. Congratulations to our award recipients, Marc and Cathy Lasry and Yshamar Gestine. We feel privileged to honor you three this evening.

Each year, AFC's staff outdoes itself, and 2016 is no exception. Their commitment to NYC's underserved students is truly remarkable. Special recognition is also due Kim Sweet, under whose leadership AFC continues to be the gold standard in education advocacy in New York. I am also appreciative of each of AFC's pro bono partners, our six pro bono Flagship Firms, and my colleagues on the Board and the Junior Board for all that you do to keep AFC strong.

Thank you, everyone, for joining us tonight. I hope that you have a wonderful evening!



Eric F. Grossman
*President, Board of Directors,
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Hoda Kotb is the co-host of the fourth hour of NBC News' *Today* alongside Kathie Lee Gifford. Since joining NBC in 1998, Ms. Kotb has served as a correspondent for *Dateline*, where she has covered a wide variety of domestic, international, and human-interest stories and features, including Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq, the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza, the War on Terror in Afghanistan, and the 2012 Summer Olympics. She also served as host of the weekly syndicated series *Your Total Health* from 2004 to 2008.

A New York Times bestselling author, Hoda Kotb has written three books: *Hoda: How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee*; *Ten Years Later: Six People Who Faced Adversity and Transformed Their Lives*; and *Where We Belong*, which was released in January 2016. Ms. Kotb is a seven-year breast cancer survivor and is involved in several initiatives to raise awareness about the disease.

In 2015, Ms. Kotb was honored with a *Gracie Award* for Outstanding Host in News/Non-fiction and a *Webby Award* for her *Truly Brave* music video about pediatric cancer. She received additional *Gracie* awards in 2008 and 2003, the *Alfred I. duPont—Columbia University Award* in 2008, a Peabody Award in 2006 for her report *The Education of Ms. Groves*, and a 2002 Edward R. Murrow Award. Ms. Kotb was awarded Daytime Emmys in 2010, 2011, and 2012, as part of *Today's* recognition as the best morning news program.

Prior to joining NBC News, Ms. Kotb worked as an anchor and reporter at WWL-TV in New Orleans (1992-1998) and WINK-TV in Fort Myers, Florida (1989-1991).

Ms. Kotb graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism. She resides in New York City.



Hoda Kotb
Co-Ancor, Today

Marc Lasry is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Avenue Capital Group, a global alternative investment manager focused on distressed and undervalued debt and equity opportunities in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Mr. Lasry, a pioneer in distressed investing, formed Avenue with his sister, Sonia Gardner, in 1995. At present, Avenue Capital is one of the largest distressed debt investors globally, managing assets of approximately \$11.6 billion.

Mr. Lasry is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the Board of Directors of the 92nd Street Y. Mr. Lasry was a member of the Campaign Committee for UPK NYC, which supported the expansion of universal prekindergarten and after-school programs for middle-school students. He previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Mount Sinai Medical Center. Mr. Lasry is also a co-owner of the Milwaukee Bucks.

Cathy Lasry is the author of several young adult novels. Previously, Ms. Lasry worked as a book editor. Ms. Lasry sits on the Boards of Trustees of The Roundabout Theater Company and Only Make Believe, which brings interactive theatre programs to children in hospitals and care facilities. She is also on the Advisory Board of New York Road Runners.

Marc and Cathy Lasry are both graduates of Clark University where their support has made possible The Lasry Center for Bioscience, The Cohen-Lasry House (which houses the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University), and The Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professorship of Comparative Genocide Studies. Mr. Lasry also received a J.D. from New York Law School.

The Lasrys live in New York and have five adult children, one grandchild, and one on the way.



Marc Lasry
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Avenue Capital Group

Cathy Lasry
Author and Philanthropist

Yshamar Gestine is a junior at New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science III. Yshamar came to NYC from Haiti during 4th grade, unable to identify letters or read words in any language. His mother, Marie Joseph, asked repeatedly for help. Eventually, Yshamar was placed in a special education class, where he made little progress but was promoted each year because he worked hard and behaved well.

For 9th grade, Yshamar landed at New Visions knowing only a handful of letters. Yshamar's special education teacher saw his potential and included him in her remedial reading class three days a week. Using the Wilson Reading System, Yshamar started making progress, but his teachers recognized that he would need a lot more Wilson to make up for lost time and earn a diploma. Unfortunately, rather than providing him with the increased reading remediation he would require to catch up, the DOE directed Yshamar to a less challenging school that was not appropriate for his needs and goals.

Luckily, Yshamar and his mom were referred to AFC, where their lawyer built a strong case that he should remain at his school and receive the additional support his teachers had recommended. As the result of AFC's intervention, Yshamar was allowed to remain at his school, double his Wilson instruction, and receive an iPad to facilitate independent reading and writing. AFC also won Yshamar one-on-one tutoring during the summer.

Yshamar has never given up, and the results of his efforts have been amazing! He has passed three Regents exams and is on his way to a diploma with plans to attend college and become an accountant. AFC is proud to award our 2016 Education Champion Award to Yshamar Gestine.



Yshamar Gestine
2017 High School
Graduate and AFC Client

Advocates for Children of New York
thanks our leadership donors for their multi-year commitment
to support and sustain our work.

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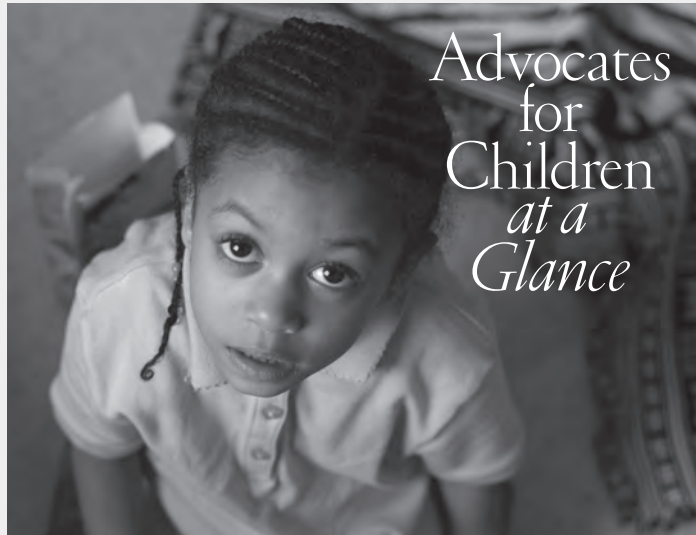
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Since 1971, AFC has been speaking out for the children and youth who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, race, disability, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other city-wide organization is like AFC: working in the trenches to provide these vulnerable students and their families with urgently needed guidance and advocacy, while at the same time, pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students, even those who are most challenging to educate. Our efforts on the individual and policy levels inform and strengthen each other, further increasing our effectiveness for the communities we serve.

**FOR OVER FOUR DECADES
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK HAS
MADE COUNTLESS FUTURES BRIGHTER**

By Solving Problems for Parents in Need:

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows how difficult it can be to navigate a school system that has 1.1 million children. Our Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline is a crucial resource for New York families having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more. Our experienced lawyers and advocates work with parents to get their children the educational support they need in school.

*By Sharing Our Unique Expertise in
Education Advocacy:*

We know that one of the best ways to reach the most isolated students is to collaborate with other organizations that serve them. AFC is currently partnering with twenty organizations funded by the Robin Hood Foundation in areas like child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. In addition, AFC's highly skilled staff can be found in foster care agencies and community-based organizations across the five boroughs, sharing their expertise in educational advocacy, providing legal representation to families, and helping these partners build their capacity to advocate for the educational needs of the children they serve.



Advocates
for
Children
*at a
Glance*

By Understanding and Addressing the Education-Related Challenges Confronting the City's Most Vulnerable Children:

AFC proudly serves on the frontlines of the fight to champion the education-related rights of children and youth who are most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of factors beyond their control.



CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

AFC's multi-pronged approach is a model for education advocacy throughout the city and state. First, we provide one-on-one legal representation and advocacy to help low-income families of children with disabilities get the educational services and support they need. Second, we offer free workshops throughout the city to bring training, information, and direct assistance on the education system to parents and the professionals who work with them. Third, we address systemic problems with the education of students with disabilities through our policy work and when necessary, federal litigation.

And finally, we coordinate and lead a collaborative effort called the ARISE Coalition, which brings together more than fifty different organizations and individuals to press for policy change to benefit children with disabilities in the New York City schools.



IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

AFC's bilingual project staff advocates on behalf of individual parents and their children, trains parents and community-based organizations serving immigrant families on education-related rights, monitors access to interpreters and translated materials in the city's schools, and collaborates with other groups to support communities seeking to improve outcomes for immigrants and English Language Learners.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

AFC's Early Childhood Education Project provides individual case assistance, community education, and policy advocacy to improve access to early childhood education for low-income children, ages 0–5, so that children can enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD: STASH MCCARTHY (2010), KHIRY SMITH (2011), AND ERIC DEGIAMO (2012)

Advocates
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CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

AFC's Project Achieve advocates for the educational needs of children in or at risk of placement in foster care while building capacity in the agencies that serve them. Project staff operates satellite offices in child welfare agencies, providing on-site assistance and training to caseworkers, birth parents, and foster parents so that they can address the education-related issues affecting their children. Project staff also conducts policy advocacy on the city and state levels to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

STUDENTS FACING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES & COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

AFC's School Justice Project (SJP) provides case advocacy and legal representation to address the educational needs of youth facing school suspension or court involvement. Through relationships built with social services agencies, community-based organizations, and community courts, project staff are able to reach the students who often fall through the

cracks. The project also provides trainings and technical assistance to parents, young people, and the professionals who work with them. Finally, project staff advocate for systemic reform with respect to school discipline and school climate, as well as the education of court-involved youth.

STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING

AFC operates the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS), which focuses on building the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.

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*Avenue Capital
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Marc and Cathy Lasry

*2016 recipients of the
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Davis Polk is proud to join
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Yshamar Gestine and
Marc and Cathy Lasry.



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A Voice for Children

Greenberg Traurig proudly supports **Advocates for Children of New York** for protecting every child's right to an education through legal and advocacy services.

Congratulations to the 2016 honorees.

The Jill Chaifetz Award:

Marc & Cathy Lasry

The Education Champion Award:

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Greenberg Traurig is a service mark and trade name of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Greenberg Traurig, P.A. ©2016 Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Attorneys at Law. All rights reserved. Contact: Caroline Heller in New York at 212.801.9200. *These numbers are subject to fluctuation. 27375

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Morgan Stanley is honored to continue to support the important work of

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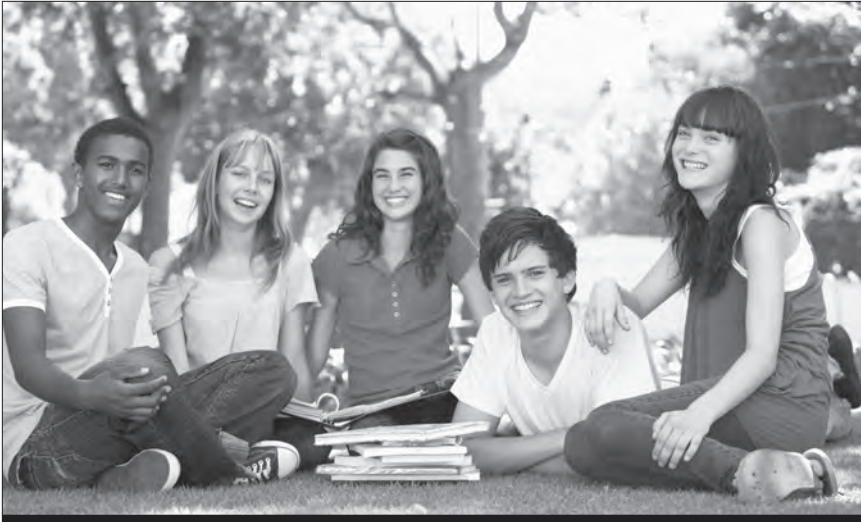
and applauds the outstanding achievements of this year's honorees

Marc Lasry
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Avenue Capital Group 2016 Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

Cathy Lasry
Author and Philanthropist 2016 Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

Yshamar Gestine
2016 Recipient of the Education Champion Award

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Marc Lasry, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer
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Cathy Lasry, Author & Philanthropist
Recipients of the 2016 Jill Chaifetz Award

Yshamar Gestine

June 2017 High School Graduate and AFC Client
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With over a thousand legal professionals around the world, Integreon is proud to support Advocates for Children of New York and its mission to protect every child's right to learn. Our congratulations to the 2016 honorees: Marc and Cathy Lasry, and Yshamar Gestine.

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The Hon. Eugene A. Ludwig
and Dr. Carol Ludwig are
Proud to Support the 2016

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We salute this year's honorees
and all those committed to ensuring
high-quality educational opportunities
for the students of New York.

Together we can open doors
and help build bright futures.

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Marc and Cathy Lasry

2016 Recipients of the Jill Chaifetz Award

and

Yshamar Gestine

2016 Recipient of the Education Champion Award

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Marc and Cathy Lasry
2016 Recipients of
the Jill Chaifetz Award

Yshamar Gestine
2016 Recipient of the
Education Champion Award

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and congratulate honorees

**Marc Lasry
Cathy Lasry
Yshamar Gestine**

June 8, 2016

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Marc Lasry,
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Making a difference

WilmerHale is proud to sponsor Advocates for Children of New York's Spring Benefit and joins AFC in applauding this year's award recipients, Marc Lasry, Cathy Lasry and Yshamar Gistine.

We support AFC in its mission to promote access to the best education New York can provide for all students.



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We are proud to support Advocates for Children of New York and its commitment to student education and enrichment

Congratulations to Marc and Cathy Lasry, recipients of the 2016 Jill Chaifetz Award, and Yshamar Gesteine, recipient of this year's Education Champion Award.

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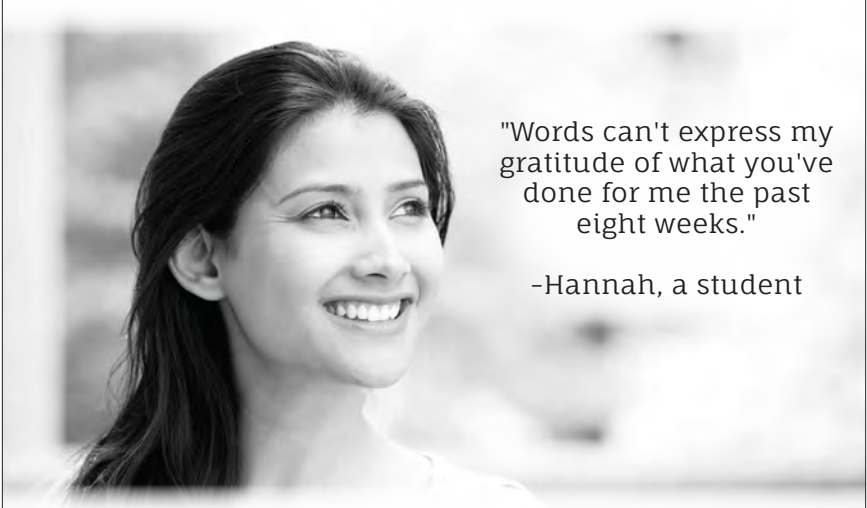
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We join in honoring
Marc and Cathy Lasry and
Yshamar Gesteine

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We believe, passionately, that all children and adults can be taught to read and comprehend to their potential.



"Words can't express my gratitude of what you've done for me the past eight weeks."

-Hannah, a student

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Congratulations to this year's honored guests:

Marc Lasry

Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder, Avenue Capital Group

Cathy Lasry

Author and Philanthropist

and

Yshamar Gestine

High School Student and AFC Client

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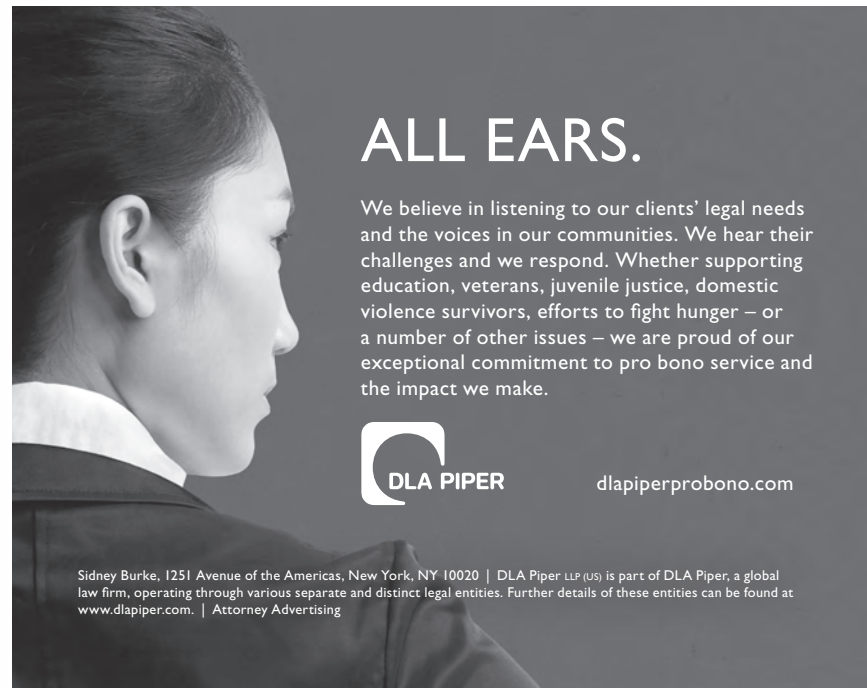
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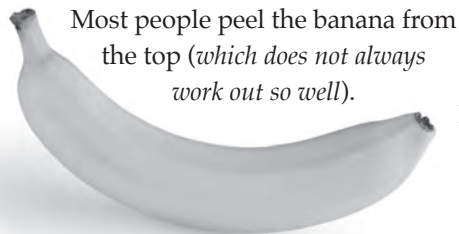
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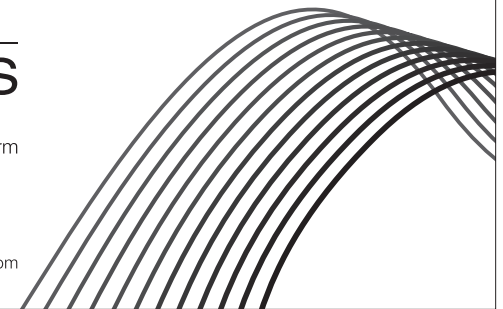
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