



# NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2017



### Message from the Chief Executive Officer

It's been an autumn to remember at Human First, as the agency remains committed to transforming lives and providing opportunities for growth for our individuals.

Our Supported Employment Program continues to thrive at our Pride Center, enabling Day Hab participants to acquire pre-vocational skills at local businesses such as Home Depot. One individual currently works at the office Senator John E. Brooks, where he recently received a special honor, which you'll read more about in this edition. Human First is exploring further opportunities with vendors across Long Island, helping to raise awareness about this truly noteworthy program.

The vital services we provide would not be possible without the support of our friends, donors and community partners. In October, we honored four people who exemplify our mission at Human First's 16th Anniversary Gala at Engineers Country Club. A heartfelt congratulations to our 2017 Honorees: Assemblymember David Weprin; Ron Gold, President and CEO, Marketing Works; Donna Limiti, Director of Region 4, OPWDD; and Donna Delia, Manager, Deer Park Home Depot.

The theme of the gala was Metamorphosis, celebrating our life-changing services and the impact they have had on the individuals and families we serve. All proceeds raised will be instrumental in enhancing our Day services, supported employment and the increased use of smart technology at the agency. Thank you to all of our donors for their generosity and support of our event. We would especially like to thank Trooper Foods, our Benefactor Sponsor for their \$25,000 donation to Human First.

Through the generosity of our donors, we look forward to expanding these capabilities and programs so we can meet the needs of more families in 2018. During this holiday season, we hope that you keep Human First close to your hearts and support the wonderful Metamorphosis we continue to witness each day.

**Thank you for your support!**

Sincerely,

Cheryelle Cruickshank  
Chief Executive Officer



# Making Memories at Human First's 16th Anniversary Gala



On October 5, 2017, Human First presented our 16th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at Engineers Country Club in Roslyn, New York. Approximately \$97,000 was raised at the event, helping to enhance the agency's Day services, supported employment and the further implementation of smart technology, an important learning tool for our individuals.

WABC-7 News Correspondent Kristin Thorne and Schneps Communications CEO Vicki Schneps emceed the gala, which featured an awards ceremony honoring community and business leaders who are committed to making a difference for individuals in need. Human First's 2017 honorees are: Assemblymember David Weprin (Leadership Award recipient); Ron Gold, President and CEO, Marketing Works (Business Leadership Award recipient); Donna Limiti, Director of Region 4, Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Human First's Excellence Award recipient; and Deer Park Home Depot Manager Donna Delia (Community Leadership Award recipient).

Representing Assembly District 24, Weprin has devoted his life to public service and making government more efficient. As

President and CEO of Marketing Works, Gold has led major branding and public relations campaigns for nonprofit organizations across New York City and Long Island that serve an array of people with special needs. Limiti's distinguished career in human services spans more than four decades at OPWDD where she touched and supported the lives of thousands throughout her tenure. She was also instrumental in the development of the Medicaid Service Coordination system and the closure of the Brooklyn Development Center.

As a Home Depot manager, Delia has provided vocational opportunities for Human First's Day Habilitation Program participants, helping them to acquire customer service skills while providing opportunities for increased socialization. During the gala, John, a participant of Human First's Supported Employment Program, shared his journey of becoming part of Home Depot's workforce and the positive impact it has had on his life.

John's heartwarming story exemplified this year's gala theme, Metamorphosis, and the transformative journeys that are possible with outstanding care and support. An additional highlight of the evening was an inspirational musical performance by individuals from the Foster Avenue Choir, Human First's Brooklyn Day Habilitation Program. Fabulous food, DJ entertainment and dancing capped off a wonderful evening of recognition and celebration.

Congratulations to our award winners and many thanks to our committee, donors and sponsors for their commitment and support!

To see video highlights from the evening's festivities and event journal, visit [www.humanfirst.org](http://www.humanfirst.org).

For photos, visit [www.facebook.com/humanfirstinc](https://www.facebook.com/humanfirstinc).

## A Special Honor for Day Hab Participant



On Friday, September 8th, Human First individual James “Jimmy” Francis was named ‘Senator for the Day’ at the office of Senator John E. Brooks in Massapequa Park. Jimmy, a participant in our Long Island Day Habilitation Program (the Pride Center), works at the Senator’s office every Friday morning, completing a variety of clerical tasks with the support of our day program’s direct support professionals/job coach.

Jimmy recently had the opportunity to present a citation to Diane Macaluso of Ken’s Krew, in recognition of the nonprofit’s ongoing commitment to provide vocational training and job placement to individuals with developmental disabilities. Additionally, Human First received our own accolades, as Senator Brooks awarded the agency with a proclamation recognizing the exemplary care we provide to the Long Island community.

On behalf of everyone at Human First, Jimmy, and his proud mother, a heartfelt thanks to Senator Brooks for supporting our mission and enabling our individuals to thrive!



## Tennis, Anyone?



This year, eleven young men and women from Human First's programs were part of one of the biggest tennis tournaments in the world: the 2017 US Open.

Our individuals assisted the Guest Services and Facility Operations teams throughout the two-week tournament, sharpening their socialization skills as they enjoyed a wonderful experience of integrated employment at one of the premier sports and entertainment events. For four of Human First's individuals, this marked the second consecutive year of working at the US Open.

We're so proud to support our individuals on their path to independence. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done and for spreading the "love" during the renowned tennis tournament - we can't wait till next year!

# Individuals Learn a Delicious Lesson



On October 26, 2017, participants from Long Island Day Habilitation were invited to attend Eat-Able, an event hosted by Westbury nonprofit Pop.Earth to promote healthy eating among individuals with special needs. Individuals were joined by the Executive Chef from City Cellar Wine Bar & Grill in Westbury to learn how to make gnocchi from scratch. Afterwards, our budding chefs enjoyed the tasty meal that they prepared. News 12 Long Island was on hand to cover the event, allowing opportunities for our individuals to describe their experiences on camera.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW COVERAGE FROM NEWS12 LONG ISLAND](#)

# Human First Awarded Generous Grants from Staples

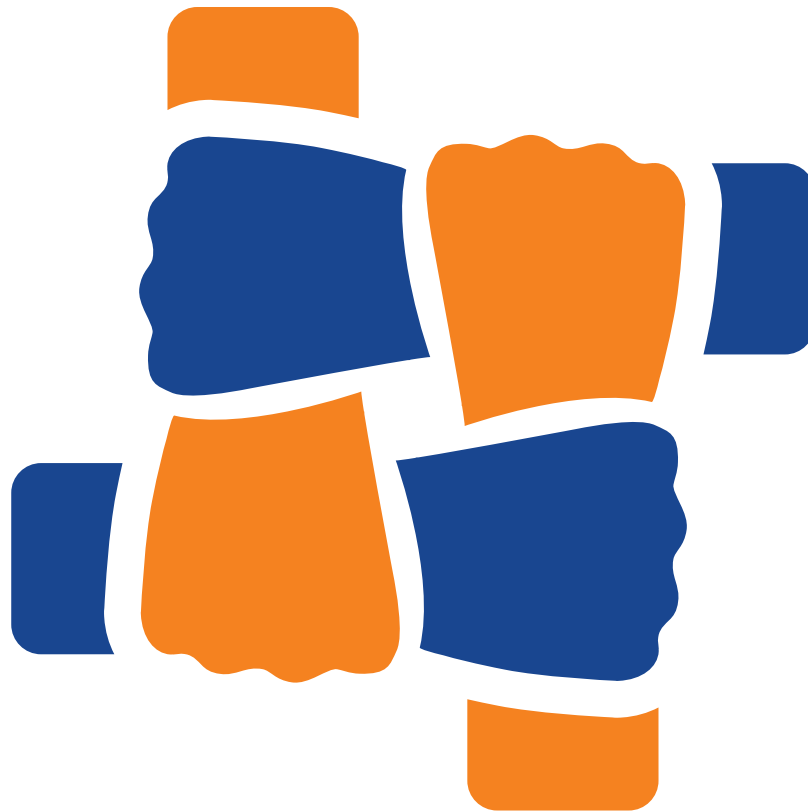


Human First is the recipient of two grants from Staples Foundation totaling \$1,000. The first \$500 grant will be used to provide staff training at various employment locations, educating employees on working with developmentally disabled populations and the importance of fostering an inclusive workplace to create accessible workforce development.

The second grant will be used to subsidize travel training of individuals in our Supported Employment Program. As they commute to and from work on their own using public transportation, individuals will have the opportunity to feel more empowered while achieving the highest level of independence.

Many thanks to Staples Foundation for helping our individuals forge this important path toward self-sufficiency!

# Business Advisory Council Meeting Yields New Connections



On September 13, 2017, Human First's Business Advisory Council held a successful breakfast at our Pride Center in Farmingdale. The goal of the meeting was to gather feedback from council members - all Long Island business owners - on further steps needed for training and development to arm individuals with the vocational skills needed to enter the workforce. Other topics covered included strengthening support for the agency's Long Island programs (particularly areas that are currently unfunded), as well as connecting with new businesses open to hiring individuals with developmental disabilities.

During the meeting, Human First made several new community connections, such as teaming up with a local library to donate books to the Pride Center. Further discussion took place about soliciting contributions for the Pride Center's computer lab in order to equip the participants with the appropriate tools they need for success.





## Picasso

Calling all arts and crafts enthusiasts!

\$50 helps provide arts and crafts supplies for one day habilitation or residential program.

### Help Make a Difference This Holiday Season

To ensure the best possible care for our Individuals, your support is more important than ever during these uncertain fiscal times. Any contribution, large or small, will help to enhance essential programs and increase individuals' independence, socialization skills and community inclusion.

To make a tax-deductible donation to Human First, please visit [www.humanfirst.org](http://www.humanfirst.org) or forward your payment to:

**Human First**  
**80 Maiden Lane**  
**8th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10038**  
**Attn: Accounting Dept.**

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

# Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to the following staff who recently celebrated their anniversary with Human First. Your dedication to our organization and the individuals we serve does not go unnoticed!

## 16 Year Anniversary

Anderson Lews    Onekye A.    11/09/2001

## 15 Year Anniversary

Ferradas            Sara                    11/25/2002

## 10 Year Anniversary

Sanon                Youlu                 11/27/2007

## 7 Year Anniversary

Adames             Marianela            11/02/2010

Logan                John                    11/15/2010

## 6 Year Anniversary

Eusse Roche    Luisa                    11/14/2011

## 5 Year Anniversary

Hoosein            Tyron                   11/08/2012

Roberti             Barbara                11/09/2012

## 4 Year Anniversary

Rosario            Sorelys                11/01/2013

Maughn            Lucybelle             11/11/2013

Mitchell           Jamal                    11/11/2013

Thompson        Fabiola                11/11/2013

Holness            Kevin                    11/18/2013

## 3 Year Anniversary

Blair                Roger                    11/03/2014

Aldridge           Shakema                11/10/2014

Bowen              Nichelle                11/10/2014

Layne                Nyeisha                11/10/2014

Mendoza           Maira                    11/10/2014

Moore                Shakira                11/10/2014

Seymore            Natasha                11/10/2014

## 2 Year Anniversary

Alleyne             Colene                   11/21/2015

Echeverria        Marisol                 11/21/2015

Veres                Vilma                    11/21/2015

## 1 Year Anniversary

Cruickshank      Cheryelle              10/31/2016

Brierre             Sandra                    11/03/2016

Campbell          Eric                        11/03/2016

Dabel                Samanta                11/03/2016

Elulade             Ololade                 11/03/2016

McKellar           Akela                    11/03/2016

Padilla              Rosmery                11/03/2016

Bady                 Yemalicia              11/21/2016

Garcia              Juana                    11/21/2016

Gayle                Chantal                 11/21/2016

Leonard           Andsuse                11/21/2016

Martinez           Juan                        11/21/2016

# New Hires

## Welcome to the Human First Family!

Smalls	Tiera	07/03/2017
Rosenberg	Emily	07/06/2017
Barker	Andrew	07/17/2017
Ho	Timothy	07/17/2017
Milford	Yvelande	07/17/2017
Morozil	Judith	07/17/2017
Fraser	Calvin	07/18/2017
Graham	Damir	07/25/2017
Outlaw	Lakena	08/15/2017
Riggs	Sam	08/15/2017
Ashmeade	Ashlie	08/17/2017
Barton	Terry	08/17/2017
Latimore	Sonora	08/21/2017
Thornton	Patrick	08/21/2017
Johnson	Lisa	09/07/2017
Estrada	Ana	09/21/2017
Lawal	Adebimpe	09/21/2017
Wilkinson	Kaitland	09/21/2017

Clemente	Socorro	10/02/2017
Plummer	Maribel	10/02/2017
Struve	Bertha	10/02/2017
Fortune	Melinda	10/09/2017
Spraggs	Kahaliyah	10/09/2017
Grant	Garfield	10/31/2017
Pitt	Shannique	10/31/2017
DiGraziano	Nicole Marie	11/2/2017
Louis	Jeanne	11/2/2017
Morgan	Andrea	11/2/2017
Nunes	Javon	11/2/2017
Stenger	Sarah	11/2/2017
Urban	Sean	11/6/2017
Gillian-Smith	Ulysseus	11/9/2017
Hernandez	Cristina	11/15/2017
King	Beryl	11/15/2017
Davis	Aisha	11/15/2017
Rivera	Roberto	11/30/2017





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