



16th Anniversary Gala

Metamorphosis

Thursday, October 5th, 2017





*A special thank you
to our benefactor,
Trooper Foods*

Event Emcees



Vicki Schneps

of Schneps Communications



Kristin Thorne

WABC-7 News Correspondent



Gala Greetings



Ann Hill

Board President

On behalf of the Board of Director's, the gala committee and the entire staff of Human First, welcome to tonight's gala at the beautiful Engineers Country Club. The gala is a celebration of our accomplishments and an opportunity to look towards the future. We also gather together to toast those who have supported us and witnessed our metamorphosis into the great organization that we have become. It is a time to recognize those who have developed, implemented and delivered rich programs and services with incredible perseverance and dedication in support of those whom we serve.

The theme for tonight's event is "Metamorphosis"! Human First has really experienced that and more in the past year and a half. But your presence symbolizes your faith and confidence in our mission. We are thrilled at the level of support for our vision and mission at the new and improved Human First. Your contributions to our cultural fabric are invaluable to our organization.

In the spirit of our celebration, we would like to acknowledge each of you for making this a memorable event. We extend a special thanks to our gala sponsors, most especially our gala's benefactor Trooper Foods. We look forward to celebrating tonight with you. Thank you for your support as we continue to grow and provide quality services under the stewardship of our parent company Adapt Community Network.

Gala Greetings



Cheryelle Cruickshank
Chief Executive Officer

Greetings and Happy 16th Anniversary to Human First. We are so happy to be celebrating 16 years of quality service delivery. On behalf of the over 400 staff and 1500 people we serve we say Thank You for being a part of our journey that has brought us here tonight. We not only acknowledge all we have accomplished but look forward to all we will accomplish in the future. Our gala theme, “Metamorphosis!”, aptly captures not only our maturity over the last 16 years but speaks to our continued growth in the years to come. We are grateful to our vendors and sponsors, most especially Trooper Foods for being our gala’s Benefactor sponsor. And we cannot thank enough the invaluable and inspiring dedication of our staff who work tirelessly to ensure our individuals and families receive the support they need. We are glad you are here to join in the celebration as you are a part of our past, present, and future. You are first-hand witnesses to Human First’s metamorphosis! Have a great time tonight!



Honoring



Assembly Member David Weprin,
The Leadership Award



Ron Gold, CEO – Marketing Works PR,
The Business Leadership Award

Honoring



Donna Limiti, Director Region 4 – OPWDD,
The Excellence Award



Donna Delia, The Store Manager of
Home Depot- Deer Park
The Community Leadership Award

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3212

October 5, 2017

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Website: maloney.house.gov
Twitter: @RepMaloney

Cheryelle Cruickshank, CEO
Human First, Inc.
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Cruickshank,

I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations on the 16th anniversary of Human First and its inspiring efforts to provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to achieve their personal goals. I especially applaud your organization's commitment to supporting families of children with developmental disabilities and to underserved communities. I am also pleased to offer my congratulations to New York State Assembly Member David Weprin, Mr. Ron Gold, President of Marketing Works PR, Ms. Donna Limiti, Director of DDRO for NYS-OPWDD, and Ms. Donna Delia, Home Depot Manager, on receiving special recognition this year.

Since its inception in 2001, Human First has served over 1400 families in Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Nassau and Suffolk counties. As a leader among multicultural and emerging organizations in New York State, Human First has been dedicated to developing support systems and safe environments for seriously emotionally disabled individuals and the medically fragile.

I would also like to join you in recognizing the work of tonight's honorees. Assembly Member David Weprin had devoted his life to public service and to making government more responsive and accountable. Mr. Ron Gold is a recognized leader in offering a full range of services to non-profit organizations throughout New York and Long Island. Donna Limiti has spent over 40 years focusing on deinstitutionalization and the development of community based resources. Ms. Donna Delia has grown within Home Depot, having held several key managerial positions.

I am extremely proud to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Human First, and extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes moving forward! I wish you a wonderful evening and much continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

CBM/av





October 5, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all of those in attendance of Human First's 16th Anniversary Gala. As you are all aware, Human First is a vital resource for many people in our community. Please join me in celebration of all of their hard work and accomplishments.

I would like to congratulate tonight's outstanding honorees: Donna Limiti, Director of OPWDD – The Excellence Award; David Weprin, New York State Assembly Member – The Leadership Award; Donna Delia, Home Depot – The Community Leadership Award; and, Ron Gold, Marking Works PR – The Business Leadership Award. All of these individuals have shown a remarkable commitment to their community. I applaud them for their dedication.

Over the past 16 years, Human First has shown a remarkable devotion to their clients. I have no doubt they will continue to make a positive impact in their neighborhood. To everyone attending the event, I wish you all a fun and successful evening!

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress





Congressman Thomas R. Suozzi



October 5, 2017

Human First, Inc.
80 Maiden Lane 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Friends:

Greetings to everyone gathered for the 16th Anniversary Gala of Human First, Inc. and congratulations to this evening's honorees: David Weprin, Ron Gold, Donna Limiti and Donna Delia. Their support for families with children with developmental disabilities is commendable and appreciated by all.

Human First, Inc. began advocating for children of our community sixteen years ago, and during that time, it has touched many lives, and changed them for the better. Disability does not have to stand in the way of leading a meaningful life. Rather, your organization has demonstrated that those with disabilities can live a life to be envied.

Without the unwavering support and generosity of all of you, the tremendous achievements of Human First, Inc. would not have been possible. Please accept my wishes for a joyful celebration and much continued success.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress
Third District, New York

TRS:dln





GRACE MENG
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 5, 2017

Human First
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10038

Dear Human First:

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to all gathered at Human First's 16th Anniversary Gala "*Metamorphosis*".

Since its founding, Human First has provided much needed services to individuals with disabilities from traditionally underserved communities. Serving over 1500 families in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Human First is steadfast in its advocacy and support for families struggling to cope with the challenges facing their loved ones. Caring and providing hope for people with developmental disabilities is important for us as a society, and I commend Human First for their continued good works in this field.

I am honored to recognize the outstanding achievements of this year's honorees: New York State Assemblyman David Weprin, Mr. Ron Gold- President of Marketing Works PR, Donna Limiti- Director of DDRO for NYS-OPWDD, and Ms. Donna Delia from Home Depot. These honorees have shown unwavering support for the vital mission of Human First and I extend my sincere thanks for their ongoing work with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful Gala and much continued success!

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress





STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12236

October 5, 2017

Cheryelle Cruickshank, CEO
Human First
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the 16th Anniversary Gala hosted by Human First. Since 2001, Human First has worked to support developmentally disabled people in New York City and on Long Island, offering vital services, creating safe environments, and transforming lives.

Special congratulations are due to this year's honorees: **Ron Gold**, President, Marketing Works PR, *Business Leadership Award*, **Donna Limiti**, Director of Region 4, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, *Excellence Award*, **Donna Della**, Manager, Home Depot, *Community Leadership Award*, and **Honorable David Weprin**, New York State Assembly, *Leadership Award*. Their outstanding leadership, service and accomplishments are truly worthy of your recognition.

Serving over 1,500 families each year, Human First is committed to providing culturally sensitive, individualized care. The agency's comprehensive array of programs includes residential living, community and day habilitation, respite care, crisis intervention, family education, Bridges to Health for foster children, and afterschool recreation opportunities. Across the spectrum of care, Human First is motivated by the conviction that developmentally disabled people deserve to lead rewarding lives and realize their full potentials. The dedicated officers, board and staff of Human First are extending a helping hand and making New York a happier, healthier place to live.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller



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14th SENATE DISTRICT

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October 5, 2017

Human First, Inc.
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Friends:



It is my distinct privilege to acknowledge Human First, Inc. as you gather to celebrate your **16th Annual Gala!** Yours is an organization whose commitment to serving our constituents with special needs is unparalleled, and many are in your debt today for facilitating their entry into mainstream programs that address their particular circumstances. Few are doing this noble work, and I salute you for your consistent commitment to enhancing the quality of life for so many of our residents.

I am especially honored to acknowledge your honorees for the evening. Congratulations to: **My esteemed colleague in the State Legislature, the Honorable NYS Assembly Member David Weprin, on receiving the Leadership Award; Ms. Donna Limiti for the Excellence Award; Ms. Donna Delia of Home Depot for the Community Leadership Award and to Mr. Ron Gold on receiving the Business Leadership Award.** Kudos to my partners who serve!

I offer my sincere congratulations to Cheryelle Cruickshank, CEO of Human First, Inc. Under her brilliant leadership you have expanded the services you provide and your sphere of influence continues to grow. I am pleased to count myself among your supporters. Enjoy your event!

Yours in Service,

Leroy Comrie
14th SD





THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



Edward P. Ra
Assemblyman 19th District

October 5, 2017

Human First, Inc.
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Friends:

It is my honor to join you in support of the work done by Human First on behalf of families with children with developmental disabilities. I am happy to extend my congratulations to the honorees of Human First's 16th Annual Gala "Metamorphosis" and extend to you all warm wishes for an enjoyable evening.

This distinguished group of honorees includes individuals who have provided support and leadership on behalf of families with children with developmental disabilities. I congratulate Ms. Donna Limiti, Region 4 OPWDD Director who has dedicated her career in service to this community. I am also happy to join you in congratulating my friend and colleague, Assemblyman David Weprin who is a leader in the State Legislature on issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and is a tireless advocate for these individuals and their families. I also extend my congratulations and thanks to Ms. Donna Delia of Home Depot and Mr. Ron Gold of Marketing Works PR. These worthy honorees are an example to us all.

On behalf of the entire 19th Assembly District, I thank you for all you have done, all you continue to do, and I offer my best wishes for continued success in service.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Ra
Member of Assembly
19th Assembly District





ARAVELLA SIMOTAS
Assemblymember – 36th District
Queens County

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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ALBANY OFFICE:
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October 5, 2017



Dear Friends,

I am honored to welcome you to the Human First 2017 Gala. For the past sixteen years, Human First has provided special needs individuals with opportunities to reach their personal goals.

Human First has developed support systems for over 1,200 families of special needs individuals. It provides a bevy of services including assisting families in accessing public resources, after-school and weekend recreation programs, and individualized support services. Human First is equipped with a culturally trained multilingual staff that is ready to care for our diverse community. I would like to congratulate all of this year's honorees, Donna Limiti, Ron Gold, Donna Delia and my friend and colleague Assemblymember David Weprin for your dedication to public service.

The educational and cultural opportunities that Human First provides and its commitment to helping those in need are an inspiration to us all. I look forward to collaborating and building on your tremendous work, and I offer my heartfelt wishes for Human First's continued success.

Sincerely,

Aravella Simotas
New York State Assemblymember
36th District - Queens





THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 5, 2017

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to join Human First in welcoming everyone to its 16th Anniversary Gala.

All New Yorkers deserve a chance at a bright future, and my team and I are working to ensure that all our residents have access to the tools they need to improve their wellbeing and reach their goals. To achieve this, we must support the outstanding organizations that are helping people across the five boroughs lead more fulfilling lives. By supporting adults and children living with developmental disabilities through mental health services, educational and recreational programs, family support services, and more, Human First is making a tremendous difference in the lives of New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs and beyond. I am proud to commend this organization's dedicated staff and supporters for the incredible impact they have made as we work together to build a city where all people can rise.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year's honorees. I offer my best wishes for a wonderful gala and continued success.

Sincerely,



Bill de Blasio
Mayor





**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

KERRY A. DELANEY
Acting Commissioner

October 5, 2017

Human First, Inc.
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Friends,

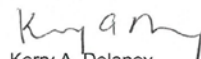
Best wishes on Human First's 2017 Metamorphosis Gala as you celebrate 16 years of commitment to bettering the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Just as your Metamorphosis Gala represents a rebirth and triumph for people with developmental disabilities in gaining employment opportunities, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is undergoing a transformation of its own. We look forward to working together with you to create even more opportunities for the people we serve to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

I also join you in recognizing this year's Gala honorees including our own Donna Limiti, who recently retired from her position at OPWDD as Region 4 Director, on receiving Human First's Excellence Award for her many years of dedicated, compassionate, professional service to people with developmental disabilities in New York.

On behalf of OPWDD, many thanks to all of you for working to help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.

Sincerely,



Kerry A. Delaney
Acting Commissioner

Executive Office

44 Holland Avenue, Albany, New York 12229-0001 | 866-946-9733 | www.opwdd.ny.gov





Human First salutes and welcomes the unwavering support of
our leaders and partners in government and their commitment to people with special needs
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Thank you!

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Thank you!



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Thank you!

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Dr. Nicole Appello
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Congratulations to all the Honorees*



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Congratulations to our friends at Human First on their outstanding supportive services for people with disabilities. We are very proud to partner with you. Congratulations to tonight's honorees



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**Celebrating their 16th Anniversary Gala
Metamorphosis**

We commend the employees and volunteers of Human First for their tireless efforts to serve and support the community.

Congratulations to this year's honorees,

Assembly Member David Weprin,

Ron Gold, CEO-Marketing Works PR,

Donna Limiti, Director Region 4 – OPWDD,

Donna Delia, The Store Manager of Home Depot – Deer Park

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AND FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF
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HUMAN FIRST**

On the occasion of their 16th
Anniversary Gala

**And Salutes all of the 2017
Honorees:**

The Honorable David Weprin
Ron Gold, MarketingWorksPR
Donna Limiti, OPWDD
Donna Delia, Home Depot

Yvette Brissett-Andre, Executive Director
4234 Vireo Ave, Bronx, NY 10470 Phone: (718) 231-7711
www.UniquePeopleServices.org



*Congratulations
to the
Recipients of the*



HUMAN FIRST 16TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

*DAVID WEPRIN
RONALD GOLD
DONNA LIMITI
DONNA DELIA*

*OUR BEST WISHES TO
Human First*

For their continued success in the community

*James E. Vassalotti II, R.A.
James E. Vassalotti III, R.A.*

*James E. Vassalotti III & Associates, Inc.
629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 212
Pelham, New York 10803
914-712-9670*



ADAPT [we change]
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ADAPT Community Network is proud to support
our Network affiliate **Human First** and congratulates all of tonight's honorees

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Yvette Watts, Executive Director
&
The Board of Directors

Congratulates



on their

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(Metamorphosis)*

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AND TO

**CHERYELLE CRUICKSHANK, CEO
AND TEAM ON THE
16TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HUMAN FIRST, INC.**

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Steven Rodriguez, President



**On the 16th Anniversary of
HUMAN FIRST, INC.
BEST WISHES AND CONTINUED SUCCESS**

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Donna Limiti

a visionary and dedicated leader
for her many years of extraordinary service
to New York City Individuals with I/DD.
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Bill Guarinello, Linda Tempel, Evelyn Alvarez and Joyce Levin





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Moustafa Elshiekh
Pietro Setaro

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