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THE JUNE MARCUS AWARD

June Marcus, CSW, was a social worker who dedicated herself to helping people with disabilities and their families to have better lives. She is remembered for her commitment to the field of developmental disabilities in her professional capacities and in her volunteer work. Although she herself had a significant vision impairment, she did not let it slow her down or keep her from using her skills to improve the lives of others. Through her agency, ACCESS CARE, June worked with families of persons with disabilities, helping them to obtain benefits and to resolve problems. June was also knowledgeable in adoption and in the community of the visually impaired and was helpful to others in these fields. The June Marcus Award is our way of honoring the memory of this exceptional person.

We ask that you consider professionals who have achieved results that have positively affected the well-being of individuals with disabilities, enhanced service delivery, promoted quality, promoted dialogue among government, agencies, and families, or other work worthy of recognition that has improved the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Queens. We will announce the winner at the Queens Family Support Conference/Resource Fair on November 13, 2026.

The June Marcus Award Review Committee comprised of QCDD parents and officers will be reviewing award nominations. Nominations must be received **no later than the close of business on October 16, 2026.**

- Nominations should include:
- Nominee's name, address, telephone number
- Nominee's agency & program
- A two-paragraph statement (200-word limit) regarding area of special service

Submit nominations for the June Marcus Award to Rachel Plakstis by:

Email: Rplakstis@extendedhc.net (with June Marcus Award in Subject)

For more information or questions, please contact Rachel at (917) 202-0123 or email.



The June Marcus Award

has been presented to:

2004 – OMRDD Commissioner Thomas Maul

2005 – Marianne Ardito, LCSW

2006 – Renee Capell, LCSW

2007 – Sebastian Avolese, MD

2008 – Marieta Austin

2009 – Diane Sheehan

2010 – Lisa Veglia, LCSW, MPA, SAS

2011 – Carol Verdi, LCSW-R, ACSW, SAS/SDA

2012 – Marisa Fojas, LCSW

2013 – Claire LaPlaca

2014 – Beth Altmann

2015 – Dorothy Wohl, LMSW

2016 – Dr. Julian A. Brower, Ph.D.

2017 – Donna Limiti, Director of OPWDD Region 4

2018 – Kristi Hickey-Vigilante, LMSW

2019 – Ellen Arocho, Director of QI & SI

2020 & 2021 – No events due to COVID-19

2022 – Lori Lerner and Jeffrey Levy

2023 – Josephine P. Davide

2024 – Luis Ramirez and Younshin Kim

2025 – Wendy Schoenfeld