

Building Tomorrow Together Gala



The Terrace at Waters Edge
2 Freemans Bridge Rd,
Glenville

10/19/24 5-9 p.m.



Our Silent Auction is on GIVEBUTTER,
an online platform for nonprofit
fundraising.

Register here:

<https://givebutter.com/c/l8Tbjy>
or use the QR code.



Please tag us in your social posts!

@CrossroadsCenterforChildren

#CrossroadsGala24

#BuildingTomorrowTogether

Please give a shout out to our amazing
special guests:

Emcee Heather Morrison

Singer Gem Stone

Live Auctioneer Dr. Mark Fruiterman

and to the lovely Terrace at Waters Edge

Welcome to the Building Tomorrow Together Gala!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'm excited to welcome you to our annual celebration! Twenty-six years ago, Crossroads Center for Children was just a dream. This month, we proudly moved 120 children and 94 staff members into a building of our own. With the determination of parents, professionals, and the support of our families, we've built something truly special. I'm incredibly proud of all that Crossroads has accomplished over the past 26 years, and I'm looking forward to an even brighter future in our new home.

We are deeply grateful for our community's support. Tonight, we are honored to recognize the phenomenal contributions of LeChase Construction, Schenectady Kiwanis, and Debbi Traficante. Their dedication over the years has made a lasting impact, and we're thrilled to spotlight their work this evening.

We're also celebrating our amazing staff members who have reached milestone anniversaries. Congratulations to Brittany Fountain, Kathleen Galvin-Davis, Jennifer Krajewski, Rebecca Oliver, Taylor Pelc, and Flori Redondo-Castro for reaching their 5-year anniversaries, Megan DeFiores for her 10th anniversary, and Laura Sgambelluri for 15 years. Please join me in thanking them for their dedication!

We have a wonderful night planned, here at the beautiful Terrace! Heather Morrison is back as our emcee, and Gem Stone will dazzle us with her voice. A big thank you to Dr. Mark Fruiterman for leading our live auction. Be sure to check out our silent and live auction items, and don't miss the Wine Pull—it's sure to sell out fast! Thank you so much for being here tonight. Relax, enjoy, and celebrate with us!



Kelly

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to
change the world. ~Nelson Mandela

This Evening's Schedule

5:00 Check in | Hors d'oeuvres | Cash Bar | Wine pull |
Silent Auction | Photos



6:00 Welcome

Heather Morrison, Spectrum News,
Kim Siciliano, Board President
Kelly Young, Executive Director

6:30 Dinner Service

7:00 Phoebe's Story

7:15 Presentation of Community Awards

- Heart of Giving Award: Debbi Traficante
- Community Champion Award: Schenectady Kiwanis
- Commitment to Crossroads Award: LeChase Construction

Presentation of Staff Milestone Awards

5 year:

Brittany Fountain
Kathleen Galvin-Davis
Jennifer Krajewski
Rebecca Oliver
Taylor Pelc
Flori Redondo-Castro

10 year:

Megan DeFiores

15 year:

Laura Sgambelluri

7:45 Live auction – Dr. Mark Fruiterman

8 - 9 Gem Gilda Stone

8:30 Silent Auction ends


8:45 Check-out opens

Check out via GiveButter, cash, check.

We will retrieve your items for you.

9:00 Thank you for attending! Please drive safely.

Community Awards

 **LECHASE** Commitment to Crossroads Award

Meet Le Chase Construction Services, LLC

Established in 1944, LeChase is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. While maintaining the personalized service of a small firm, today the company ranks among the nation's top contractors – serving clients through a variety of delivery methods to support projects of all sizes across a range of industries. With a dedicated team of talented professionals striving to deliver excellence, the firm has earned a reputation for safety, quality, and integrity. In addition to serving customers from its operations across the East Coast, LeChase can provide resources to meet the unique needs of clients no matter where they are located.

We are deeply honored to recognize LeChase for their exceptional work in orchestrating the reconstruction and construction of our new building. Their unmatched talent, professionalism, skill, and efficiency have been invaluable to this project, and they've truly set the standard for excellence.

But for us at Crossroads, LeChase is so much more than a team of skilled professionals. They have shown a deep care and understanding of how every decision, every detail, impacts not only our building but also the lives of our children, families, and staff. Their dedication to ensuring that this space will meet the needs of our community goes far beyond the physical structure—they have built a place of hope and possibility.

We are forever grateful for their commitment and heart, and we are thrilled to celebrate them tonight with the **Commitment to Crossroads Award**.

Community Awards



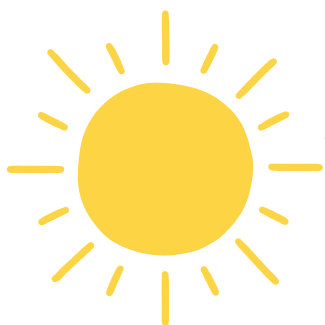
Community Champion Award

Meet Schenectady Kiwanis Club and Foundation

Our 2024 **Community Champion Award**, Schenectady Kiwanis is a dedicated group of individuals committed to making a lasting impact in our community. With a focus on service, particularly for children, the club works tirelessly to create opportunities for growth, support, and development. From local projects to global initiatives, the Kiwanis Club believes in the power of collective action to shape a better future for the next generation. Through their generosity, leadership, and unwavering dedication, they embody the spirit of service, reminding us all of the difference one group can make when united by a shared purpose.

Tonight, we are proud to honor Schenectady Kiwanis for their outstanding dedication and service to our community. Their commitment to helping children and families aligns perfectly with the mission of Crossroads Center for Children, and their ongoing support has been instrumental in furthering our work. Schenectady Kiwanis embodies the spirit of generosity and community service, and their impact can be felt in the lives they have touched through their programs and initiatives. Their dedication to improving the lives of children makes them an invaluable partner in our mission.

We are deeply grateful for all that Schenectady Kiwanis has done for Crossroads, and we are excited to recognize them with this well-deserved honor.



Let us put our minds
together and see what life
we can make for our
children. ~ Sitting Bull

Heart of Giving Award



Meet Debbi Traficante,

Debbi is our 2024 **Heart of Giving Honoree.**

Debbi grew up primarily in Danbury, CT, and began her career in the secretarial field at the young age of 17. Her entire professional journey was with the State of New York, where she advanced through various positions. For the last 25 years of her career, Debbi worked in Human Resources, ultimately retiring in 2010 as a Director of HR.

In her personal life, Debbi enjoys cooking, wine tasting, volunteering, and traveling. She cherishes her family, her Christian faith, and her beloved Charlie, the love of her life.

Debbi supports Crossroads because she deeply believes in its mission. Although she is not an educator herself, she has been profoundly moved by the educational information and testimonials she has encountered, which underscore the value of Crossroads' work. Debbi finds it incredibly rewarding to know that her support helps make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

We are thrilled to honor Debbi for her unwavering support of Crossroads Center for Children. Although she is not an educator herself, Debbi has been deeply moved by the educational insights and testimonials she has encountered, which highlight the profound impact of Crossroads' work.

Her belief in our mission goes beyond words—Debbi understands the importance of providing children with the skills they need to thrive. She finds it incredibly rewarding to know that her support is making a tangible difference in the lives of children and their families.

We are truly grateful for Debbi's commitment, and it's an honor to celebrate her tonight.

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Galway, NY 12074
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thecocknbull.com



From all of us at the Bull, congratulations on your new building, Crossroads! We're so happy for you all! Congrats to all of the milestone staff members, and to Debbi, LeChase and Kiwanis!



Building strong foundations **for a stronger future.**

LeChase is proud to partner with the Crossroads Center for Children, working together to build spaces that inspire the next generation.



Building Partnerships.®



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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2024
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Proud to support Crossroads Center and their mission to support and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change. - Carl Rogers

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Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn. - Benjamin Franklin



Exit 9 Wine & Liquor Warehouse would like to recognize **Crossroads Center for Children** and thank them for the hard work and dedication their entire organization does for those in our community.

We also applaud **Schenectady Kiwanis, Debbi Trafficante, and LeChase Construction** for being the recipients of the Crossroad 2024 Community Awards. Thank you for all the work you do!

FIND US ONLINE



Exit9Wine



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Pioneer is proud to support
**Crossroads Center
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in moving the community
All Together ForwardSM

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If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.

~ Confucius



William, we look forward to our many adventures that lie ahead. Your love of learning and exploration is a gift. Keep growing, keep learning and continue loving life. We love you Pop and Nana.



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Meet Our Live Auctioneer

Dr. Mark Fruiterman



Dr. Mark Fruiterman is a retired physician who founded the Endocrine Group in Albany in 1977. He practiced for 43 years retiring in June of 2020. He is the proud father of a son and daughter, and grandfather to five lovely adult children ranging in age from 20 to 26.

He has many hobbies including skiing, general aviation, golf and, for more than 20 years, has been volunteering as an auctioneer, helping many nonprofits raise needed funds. He attributes his auctioneering skills to both his upbringing in Brooklyn, NY where one needed to speak fast to keep up with the pace of living there, and to his medical practice administration skills in sitting across the table from several insurers at one time, trying to maximize his practice's reimbursements.

He is looking forward to this fund raiser for Crossroads.

Meet Our Emcee

Heather Morrison Oppedisano



Heather Morrison enjoys presenting the Weather on the 1s forecast right here on Spectrum News. You can also hear her forecasting on the radio airwaves 7 days a week for stations across New York state.

Heather knew she wanted to work in the news business from a young age. Being a Capital Region native, Heather is in tune with the change of the seasons. She has endured many long, cold, snowy winters. She also enjoys the colorful autumns, delightful springs and steamy summers around the Albany area.

"The weather here is unique, and unpredictable," she says. "It makes forecasting in the Capital Region an exciting endeavor."

Heather began her television career in Michigan, first at WOTV 41 in Battle Creek, then on to WLNS 6 in Lansing where she was both a director and forecaster. Following that, she worked as a weather assistant for UPN 9 in Secaucus, N.J., before she came back to Albany to help launch the areas first 24-hour cable news station.

Heather is a graduate of Western Michigan University where she was not only a student but also a resident adviser and television studio director. Heather then attended the Mississippi State University Broadcast Meteorology Program. Heather has a passion for weather but her biggest love is her family and two wonderful sons. To all of this, Heather adds the fact that her children benefited from early intervention and now strives to promote autism awareness.

Meet Our Musical Artist Gem Stone



Gem Stone is a popular local musician, singer and songwriter. She sings classical, traditional, pop and everything in between, and singing is her passion.

Weddings, memorials, special events; in English, Spanish, or Italian, she'd love to sing for you! Over the years she has partnered with Crossroads many times. We are delighted to have Gem sing for us this evening.

<https://www.youtube.com/@gembehindthemic8160>



Thanks to the wonderful people at Terrace at Waters Edge for a beautiful environment, meal and service.

<https://max410.com/terrace-at-waters-edge>



FAGE USA DAIRY INDUSTRY,
JOHNSTOWN, NY



William, we are so proud of how far you've come and can't wait to see what you accomplish! The sky is the limit! We love you!
Mom and Dad

*Congratulations
Crossroads Center for Children,
On your new building
The best is yet to be!
In Loving Memory
of Zachary Whitman
& Carole Baule.*



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The future is not something we enter.
The future is something we create.
~Leonard I.Sweet

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**Thank you to everyone that contributed in any way,
including those that came in following our date to print,
and anyone we may have missed.**