

**For Immediate Release**

**YWCA NorthEastern NY Announces 2023 Empowerment Award Winners**

**Schenectady, NY, DATE** - YWCA NorthEastern NY with premiere sponsor, New York Oncology Hematology have announced the winners of the 2023 Empowerment Awards (formerly Women of Achievement). The Empowerment Awards will be presented to ten remarkable individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievement in their career and/or community involvement and serve as role models, empowering others through the leadership qualities they exhibit.

The 2023 Awardees are:

**Kokese Ballou** – *CDPHP* – Social Justice Award

**Coach Carmen Duncan** - *Mission Accomplished Transition Services, Inc.* - Youth Empowerment Award

**Mara Ginsberg** - *To Life!* - Advocacy Award

**Shana Gourdine** - *Unmasking Motivation* – Arts & Culture Award

**Anna LaLoe** - *Saratoga Shredders* – Katherine S. Rozendaal Volunteer Award

**Lisa Mitzen** - *Business for Good* – James Addison Good Neighbor Award

**Tanya Perrault** - *Livingston Energy Group* – Susan Rosenthal Women in Business Award

**Ella Schoenborn** – *ProjectElla* – Young Excellence Award

**Raysheea Turner and Kimberley Wallace** - *Wallace Turner Law, LLP* – Empowerment Award

These individuals will be celebrated at the **2023 Empowerment Awards Gala on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 from 6pm to 9pm at River's Casino and Events Center**. The Honorary Chairpersons for the event are Dr. Arsy De Jesus, Oncologist at NYOH and 2022 Achievement Award Winner, and Yvette Wayman, Executive Assistant of Operations at Business for Good, previous Women of Achievement Awardee, and YWCA NENY Board Vice President. To join the Honorary Committee or purchase tickets for the gala please visit [ywca-neny.org/empowerment](http://ywca-neny.org/empowerment).

The 2023 Empowerment Awards, sponsored by NYOH, will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual awards ceremony for YWCA NorthEastern NY and celebrated during the organizations 135<sup>th</sup> year in Schenectady, NY. The evening will be a gala-style event featuring a silent auction, raffles, presentation of the organization's 135-year history, awards presentation by Marcella Hammer of Palette, keynote by Walter Thorne of Albany Business Review, followed by dinner and dancing.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for this event. For more information, please visit [ywca-neny.org/ea-sponsorship/](http://ywca-neny.org/ea-sponsorship/) or contact Lauren Trunko, YWCA NENY Chief Development Officer at [ltrunko@ywca-neny.org](mailto:ltrunko@ywca-neny.org) or 518.374.3394 x105.

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**YWCA NorthEastern NY** has been supporting women, children, and families in Schenectady County for 135 years. YWCA NorthEastern NY is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. For information on programs serving infants to seniors, please visit [www.ywca-neny.org](http://www.ywca-neny.org)