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May 27th



Meadowlands YMCA

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INNOVATION AWARD
THE GHERMEZIAN FAMILY



**COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP AWARD**
PAUL JULIANO



LEGACY AWARD
THE UNANUE FAMILY & GOYA

May 27th, 2026



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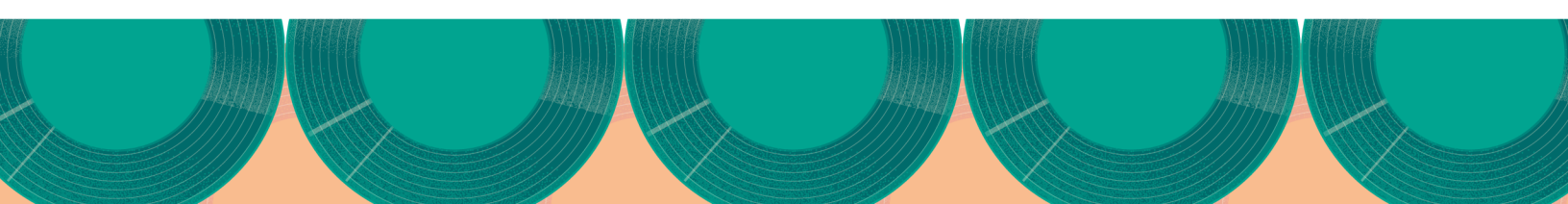
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A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors for their generous support your contributions make this event possible and help families thrive through community programming.



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NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST
INDOOR THEME PARK

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

LYNNE ALGRANT



At the Meadowlands YMCA, we believe community is built through connection — neighbor to neighbor, family to family, generation to generation. In a time when so many people are experiencing loneliness and social isolation, the YMCA continues to be a place where everyone can find belonging, support, and hope.

Every day, children gain confidence through high-quality early childhood education, mentorship, and enrichment programs. Older adults discover friendship and wellness through programs that keep them active and engaged. Families facing challenges find encouragement, resources, and a caring community of volunteers, who remind them they are not alone. And our dedicated staff engages everyone with friendliness, professionalism, and a warm smile.

These moments matter, and they are only possible because of supporters like you. Your generosity is more than a donation — it is an investment in people. It strengthens programs that promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility across our community. And it helps ensure that financial circumstances never prevent someone from accessing the support, connection, and opportunities they need to thrive.

We are grateful to tonight's honorees, who are giants in community-building.

- For 90 years, the Unanue Family and Goya Foods have strengthened the community through the ingredients that are lovingly prepared into nourishing meals;
- The Ghermezian Family has reinvented the "Town Square" of the Meadowlands Area here at American Dream; and
- Paul Juliano, whose career is a testament to collaboration and civic engagement.

Thank you for all the work you have done to make our community better---and thank you for letting the Meadowlands YMCA honor your achievements tonight.

As we gather for this special evening, we are filled with gratitude for your partnership and belief in our mission. Thank you for standing with the Meadowlands YMCA and helping create a stronger, more connected community where every person feels seen, valued, and welcomed.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Algrant". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lynne Algrant
President & CEO
Meadowlands YMCA

Congratulations

**Paul Juliano,
The Ghermezian Family,
The Unanue Family & Goya**



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A MESSAGE FROM RON SIMONCINI

Friends,

Well. If ever we could complain about a place being “over-vented” it would be post-COVID Northern New Jersey. After launching our gala in 2012, when we came out of COVID we were confronted with a revived event environment that featured a growing number of worthy initiatives and organizations. Gratefully, among these, the YMCA gala has become a staple of the civic calendar in the Meadowlands. We dearly appreciate the community’s support in expected and unexpected ways.

First the obvious: we need the money. Over my 15 years serving as Chairman of the Y (during which I received a brief release for good behavior), I adopted a catch phrase: “When they say not for profit, they aren't kidding.” That always gets a laugh, but it’s actually not that funny. It is hard enough to make ends meet in for-profit businesses, but when you are dedicated to nurturing the community with maximum breadth and impact, you are never financially comfortable because there is always somewhere else you can help. We live by the organizational mantra “We’re for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.” And we’re not kidding. So, the gala provides needed financial resources and if you’re reading this, you helped and on behalf of the Board, we thank you.

Now for the not-so-obvious: there is nothing like the inspiration of having an encouraging family member. It creates an important contract when your brothers and sisters hold your values and pursuits in high esteem. When your parents facilitate your dreams. When your children thrive under your guidance. The Meadowlands Community is our family. We want to provide it with that warm satisfaction of seeing us meet our potential. Your support holds us to a standard in which we insist that we do our best. That we give you something to be proud of. We help when needed, even if we ourselves are needy.

And so for me, the Meadowlands Y Gala is the one night in the year when I feel so blessed to grasp the hands of my brothers and sisters, to enjoy the sincere embrace of our parents, and when there is validation from our children that we are on a path that will always and forever be far more worthwhile than it is challenging.

Please join me in appreciation for the careers and contributions of tonight’s honorees, who have improved the lives of so many in the Meadowlands Community. Paul Juliano has been serving Bergen County residents for his whole life in a myriad of roles that most recently included President of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority when it landed the World Cup. The Unanue Family is celebrating 90 Years of Goya Foods, one of the region’s most notable brands, largest employers and generous contributors to social organizations. And of course, American Dream has re-established the Meadowlands Sports Complex as a primary destination that drives economic activity with world-class shopping and entertainment through the commitment and determination of the Ghermezian Family, who never quit amid challenges that would deter even the most stalwart among us.

With Gratitude,



Ron Simoncini
Chair, Board of Directors
Gala Chair



INNOVATION AWARD

THE GHERMEZIAN FAMILY



Paul Ghermezian, a key figure in the Triple Five Group, has been instrumental in shaping the landscapes of iconic properties such as West Edmonton Mall, Mall of America, and American Dream. Raised in Edmonton, Alberta, within a real estate dynasty, Paul's early experiences at West Edmonton Mall, from selling balloons to operating midway games, and searching out leasing opportunities instilled a deep understanding of the retail and entertainment sectors.

His academic journey at Yeshiva University in New York City and a brief tenure in investment banking at CIBC World Markets complemented his practical insights. Returning to the family business, Paul has been pivotal in its expansion and innovation, especially with the development of American Dream. He also actively advises startups and serves on the family's investment committee, bringing his extensive experience to a broader spectrum of the business world.

In addition to its stronghold in real estate, Triple Five Group is also diversified across various sectors, with notable involvements in oil and gas, and banking. The Group's philanthropic endeavors are a cornerstone of both its corporate ethos and the family's values, reflecting a commitment to social responsibility and community engagement.



INNOVATION AWARD

THE GHERMEZIAN FAMILY

Mr. Don Ghermezian is the CEO of American Dream, and a Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer within the Triple Five Group. He has overseen the planning and evolution of American Dream since the project's inception--steering and shaping its development.



Following the family-owned enterprise's successes with the West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton, Canada and the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota—both of which Mr. Ghermezian worked on prior to dedicating himself to American Dream—the destination's concept revolutionizes Triple Five Group's position that retail must go hand-in-hand with entertainment. Mr. Ghermezian has played an essential role in both nurturing and expanding upon this idea; he is responsible for all facets of American Dream's construction, financial and strategic planning, contract negotiations and leasing. He is the lead on American Dream's ultra-diverse curation and exceptional tenant roster.

With his skill set in management, marketing and communications—along with an ambitious and progressive vision—Mr. Ghermezian has piloted American Dream's vast programming and product offerings, with a continuous focus on the customer experience. He has cultivated relationships with top entertainment and retail entities to create the unique, expansive listings under American Dream's roof. The result? An unparalleled location with hundreds of options between entertainment, shopping and dining. Mr. Ghermezian saw to it that there will be something for everyone at American Dream.

Mr. Ghermezian has also led and guided American Dream's design team; as the development grew and became more varied, he helped to visually synthesize its many branches into a sole, first-of-its-kind entity.



***The Solomon
Organization***

Congratulations to

Paul Juliano

The Ghermezian Family

The Unanue Family

**on their commitment in aiding the
Meadowlands community.**

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

PAUL JULIANO



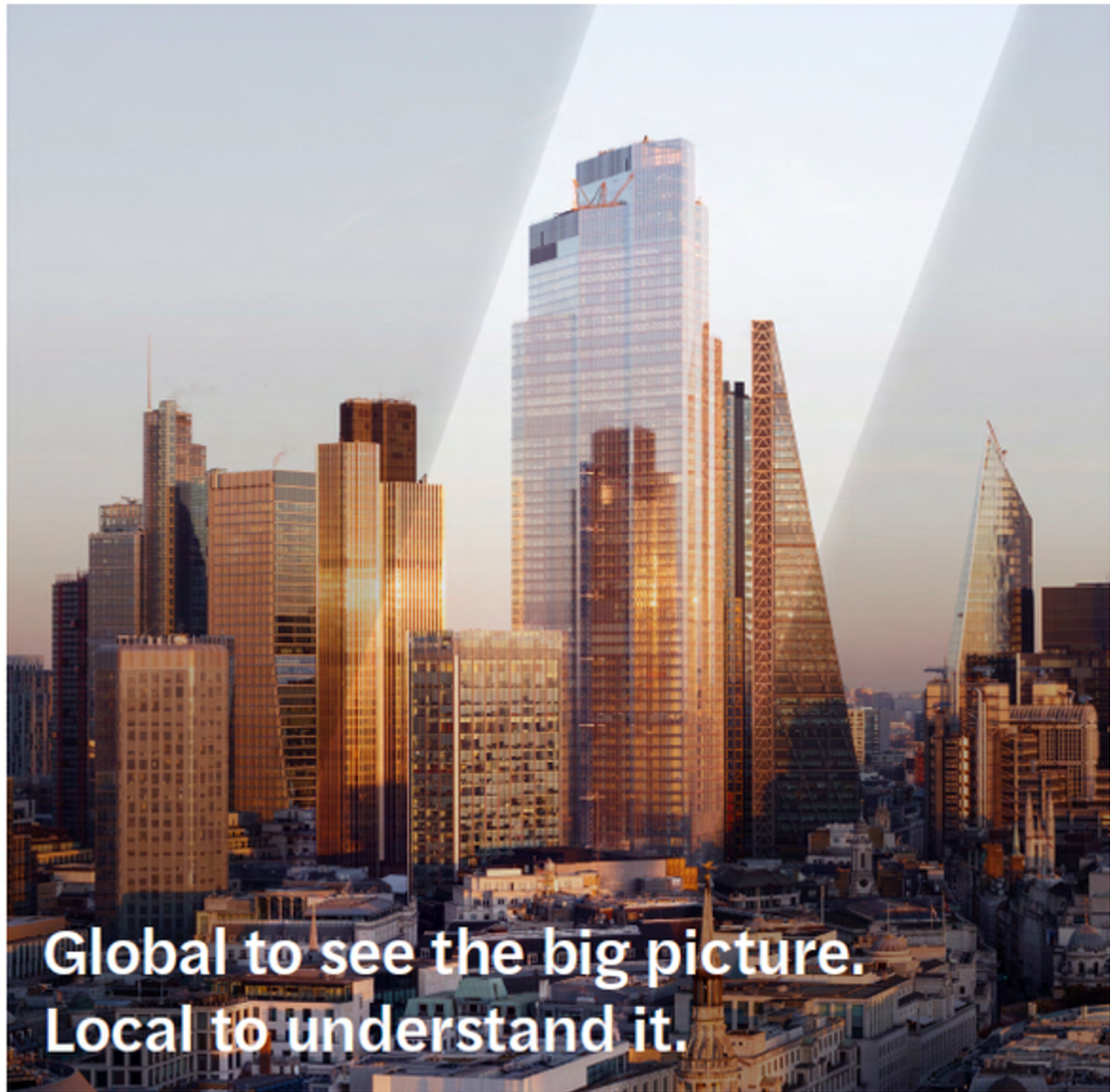
Paul Juliano is Bergen County's treasure. A seasoned public administrator who has spent decades shaping the civic and political landscape of New Jersey, he has immersed himself in advancing causes and institutions large and small over a 40-year career.

Raised in Fairview, New Jersey, Juliano dedicated the early chapters of his career to his hometown, serving for years as the borough's Superintendent of Public Works. His deep-rooted commitment to grassroots community organizing earned him widespread local respect, culminating in his selection as "Man of the Year" by the Fairview Chamber of Commerce in 2017.

Paul was elected Chairman of the Bergen County Democratic Committee in 2019, succeeding long-time leader Lou Stellato, who enthusiastically supported his naming. As chairman, Juliano cemented Bergen County's status as the state's most vital Democratic stronghold, managing complex coalitions and securing key victories across municipal, county, and state levels.

Paul's regional civic leadership was perfectly aligned with Governor Phil Murphy's appointment in 2023 to president of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which not only owns and operates the Meadowlands Sports Complex but also is the regional permitting and environmental authority for 14 towns. In this elite state-level role, Juliano managed the 30-square-mile Meadowlands District and oversaw the land leases for landmark venues like the American Dream complex and MetLife Stadium—setting foundational groundwork for the region ahead of major global events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Juliano retired from his chief executive role at the NJSEA at the close of 2024 to accept a new role on the Board of Directors of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. He has extended his role as a public affairs expert into a series of consulting arrangements with leading organizations while continuing to lead the Bergen County Democratic Committee.



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LEGACY AWARD

THE UNANUE FAMILY & GOYA

Peter Unanue is an accomplished senior executive with 25 years of success as an operations research leader, leveraging the power of math and computers to model business operations, solve problems and facilitate process improvement.



Currently, Peter is the Executive Vice President of Goya Foods, the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the US. Peter oversaw nationwide facility expansion to support continued revenue and profit growth. Since assuming this role in 2006, Peter has led a number of critically successful improvements, including the development of a strong work force by identifying potential talent and mentoring key specialists to becoming executives.

Peter also led the consolidation of the company's HQ, resulting in over \$4M in annual savings. He successfully negotiated state incentives worth \$73M over 10 years, and \$21M worth of local incentives over 20 years for the company. Overseeing IT, Peter led the implementation of JDA and WMS software, which resulted in reducing out-of-stocks from 6% to under 1%, reducing time to determine and create orders from 20 minutes to under 3 minutes, and reducing total inventory by 14%, representing a \$50M annual revenue increase.

As a thought leader, Peter has given numerous company speeches and television interviews. He is a twice JDA speaker to thousands of people on supply chain optimization. Peter is frequently referenced and quoted in numerous industry articles, both in relation to his executive position, as well as for his indisputable expertise in operations research and process improvement.

Peter's outstanding performance has earned him a number of awards and recognitions including the NECO Ellis Island Medal Recipient in 2015 and the 2011 JDA Real Results Award. He is inducted in the George Washington University School of Engineering Hall of Fame, as well as the St. Thomas Aquinas College Hall of Fame.

In addition to his executive career, Peter serves on the board of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber Of Commerce and board of trustees of Meadowlands Regional "2040 Foundation". He is a Counsel of Regents Member at Felician University, as well as his alma mater, St. Thomas Aquinas College. In the past, Peter was an Employer Trustee for the UFCW Local 888 Health and Welfare Fund.

Peter Unanue obtained his Bachelors of Science from St. Thomas Aquinas College, making it to the Dean's list. He holds a Masters of Science in Operations Research from the George Washington University where he graduated with honors and served as president of the Omega Rho National Honor Society for Operations Research. As part of his ongoing education effort, Peter has taken several classes in executive financial management.



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OUR IMPACT

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Meadowlands YMCA

Building stronger communities by supporting seniors, fighting food insecurity, and inspiring volunteerism. Through programs, partnerships, and community support, the Y is creating a healthier and more connected community for all.



612,938

Pounds of food distributed



3,107

Volunteer hours invested

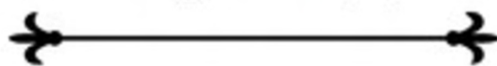


741

Seniors served this year

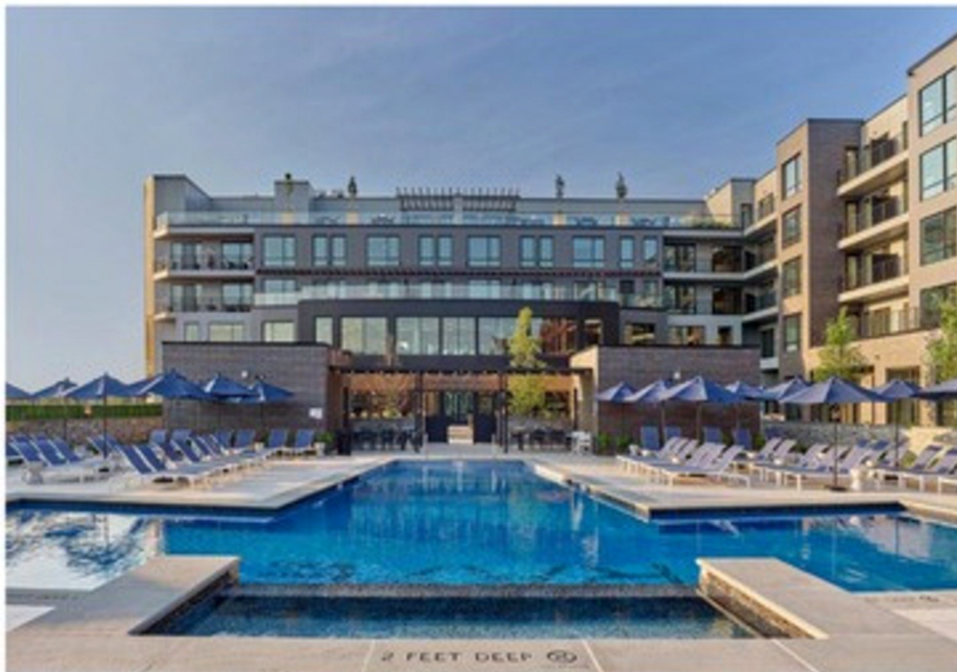


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OUR IMPACT

“Stronger Together”

Helping kids grow, learn, and thrive through programs that build confidence, healthy habits, and lifelong skills. From swim lessons to meals and youth programs, the Y is strengthening the next generation every day.



9,407

Hours of youth programming



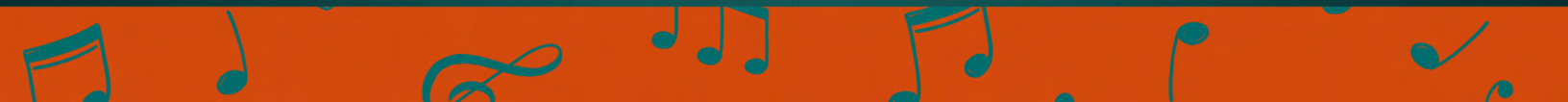
1,147

Swim lessons taught this year



18,646

Afterschool meals served this year





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—
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The Unanue Family & Goya

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Northvale	Palisades Park	Passaic	Ramsey
Wallington	Wayne	West Milford	Wyckoff

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New City	West Nyack	Stony Point	Garnerville
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NEW YORK FRESH GROCER

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Congratulations

It is an honor and a pleasure to support the Meadowlands YMCA, and acknowledge the honorees for their incredible contributions to the surrounding communities.



Kenneth J. Hollenbeck

Partner

✉ khollenbeck@sh-law.com

☎ 201-896-4100



William C. Sullivan, Jr.

Partner | Chair: Environmental

✉ wsullivan@sh-law.com

☎ 201-896-7215



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CONGRATULATIONS
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Paul Juliano
Ghermenzian Family
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Congratulations to
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Paul Juliano, Paul Ghermenzian,
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Congratulations to Paul Ghermezian & The Ghermezian Family, Paul Juliano, and Peter Unanue & The Goya Family.

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160 volunteers have provided more than 15,000 hours of service to the Y. The hearts of the Meadowlands YMCA!!

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— With Pride —

Congratulations



— HONORING —

The Meadowlands YMCA

& The Gala Committee

For your vision, dedication, and tireless commitment to bringing our community together. Tonight's celebration is a reflection of your excellence

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Congratulations to Paul Juliano on your selection as Man of the Year a well-deserved honor.

Law Offices of John L. Schettino



JOHN L. SCHETTINO, LLC

Congratulations to the Honorees!

Paul Juliano
Paul Ghermezian
Peter Unanue

Congratulations to my good friend Paul Juliano and the other honorees being recognized by the Meadowlands YMCA!



John S. Hogan
Bergen County Clerk



Congratulations to the Honorees and the Meadowlands YMCA for all the work you do in the community!

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