



Bergen County

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NEWS RELEASE

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YWCA Bergen County's 42nd Tribute to Women of INfluence (TWIN) Awards Are December 7th
Companies and Organizations Recognize Their Highest Achieving Women

December 1, 2017—YWCA Bergen County's 42nd Tribute to Women of INfluence (**TWIN**) will honor five outstanding women in a **prestigious celebration** on **Thursday, December 7, 2017** (8:00-10:00 am) at **Maggiانو's** Little Italy in Hackensack, NJ. Honorees will be presented with a TWIN award as well as a **resolution** sponsored by **Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle**.

2017 TWIN honorees include:

- **Kay Du Fernandez**, Senior Vice President, Marketing, **Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc.** – Nominated by **Konica Minolta**
- **Amanda Missey**, President/CEO, **Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI)** – Nominated by **BD**
- **Corethia V. E. Oates**, Financial Advisor, Portfolio Manager, **Morgan Stanley Wealth Management** – Nominated by **Morgan Stanley**
- **Deborah Visconi**, President & CEO, **New Bridge Medical Center** – Nominated by **New Bridge Medical Center**
- **Adela Wekselblatt**, Supervisor, Legal Administration and Corporate Governance, **SUEZ** – Nominated by **SUEZ**

This year's **keynote speaker Melba Wilson**—founder of NYC's premier comfort food destination Melba's Restaurant—will explore how reinvesting in our local communities is at the heart of success.

Established by YWCA Bergen County in 1975, **TWIN gives businesses and organizations an opportunity to honor their highest achieving women and gather together to network and celebrate success.** TWIN honorees have excelled in their fields and made significant contributions to their organizations and communities.

"When TWIN was established in 1975, the term 'career woman' was a relatively new one. Our purpose was to help our corporate partners recognize women on their staff who rose up through the ranks in a male-dominated business environment," says YWCA Bergen County CEO Helen Archontou. "Much about our world and women's place in it has changed, but women still grapple with issues of equal pay, equal opportunities, work-life balance, children, and career. The heart of TWIN remains to honor women of achievement and celebrate organizations that create cultures in which women can thrive."

Attend TWIN by visiting ywcabergencounty.org/twin-tribute-to-women-influence/ for tickets or contacting Mary Eastwood at 201-345-4616 or meastwood@ywcabergencounty.org.

About 2017 TWIN Honorees

Kay Du Fernandez, Senior Vice President, Marketing, Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc.

Kay Du Fernandez leads the creation of innovative marketing strategies throughout the entire customer journey, building the awareness of the Konica Minolta brand ultimately to enhance the customer relationship. Kay is a key advocate for women's empowerment efforts, and in 2015, established the Step Forward Program to inspire women in professional advancement and encourage conversations needed to move not only Konica Minolta forward but also to enrich its most valuable asset: its people. As a working mother of three daughters, Kay is dedicated to spearheading efforts that grow and develop Konica Minolta talent, the innovators and creators of the future, and is especially committed to encouraging women to pursue their ambitions. Kay also sits on the Board of

Directors for the Books for Kids Foundation and the Orange County Ballet Theater. Kay is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego and earned her MBA at Pepperdine University.

Amanda Missey, President/CEO, Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI)

Amanda Missey leads BVMI, a volunteer nonprofit organization that provides free primary and preventive medical care to low-income working people in Bergen County without insurance or the means to pay for care. Since opening its Hackensack, NJ center in November 2009, BVMI has treated more than 2,500 patients in 40,000 medical visits in a “Culture of Caring” based on the idea that how people are treated is as important as the medical care they receive. Through early intervention and consistent treatment of patients, BVMI has been able to stabilize chronic conditions, help decrease infectious disease, and reduce the use of emergency rooms in Bergen County hospitals. Prior to BVMI, Amanda was Senior Director of Civic & Community Engagement for Volunteer Center of Bergen County, Director of Bergen LEADS, and Executive Director of Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. Amanda is a graduate of New Mexico State University and earned her MBA at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Corethia V. E. Oates, Financial Advisor, Portfolio Manager, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

With more than 20 years of experience as a Financial Advisor, Corethia Oates takes a highly personalized, holistic approach in helping her clients maneuver the complex financial systems and markets to achieve their goals. Corethia served as Chair of the Bergen County Workforce Investment Board and is a member of Women United in Philanthropy of Bergen County United Way. She was named by the Bergen County Girl Scouts as a Woman of Distinction. Corethia is a former board member and founding program chair for the Women’s Institute of Bergen Community College’s Mentor Program, an instructor at the Institute for Learning in Retirement, and former marketing Chair for the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce. As a trustee of Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, Corethia spearheaded that program’s accreditation. She is also a member of Bergen County Black Business Network and Commerce and Industry Association of NJ (CIANJ). Corethia placed in the Track & Field trials for the 1980 Olympics! Corethia graduated with honors from Union County College.

Deborah Visconi, President & CEO, New Bridge Medical Center

Deborah Visconi is a visionary Latina leader who successfully led the transition of New Jersey’s largest hospital from its former for-profit management and name to its new life as New Bridge Medical Center, a not-for-profit hospital connecting compassionate, quality care to our communities. Deborah has spent her entire professional career in health care where she started as a phlebotomist taking care of patients in a NYC public hospital. Deborah became a microbiology technologist and then steadily worked her way up to senior leadership roles, culminating with this most recent appointment leading the largest hospital in New Jersey. Deborah has been a valued and engaged member of the Bergen County community for more than 20 years. She leads a diverse team, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Medical Center, and is deeply connected to the community. She serves as vice president and a Board member for the Northvale Board of Health, and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, American College of Cardiovascular Administrators, and American Management Association. Deborah earned her Masters of Health Administration at The New School.

Adela Wekselblatt, Supervisor, Legal Administration and Corporate Governance, SUEZ

Adela Wekselblatt oversees the administrative operations of the legal and corporate governance departments, including corporate restructurings, debt offerings, and rebranding efforts. Adela is Assistant Secretary of SUEZ North America Foundation as well as administrator of the company’s political contributions program, developing policy, managing compliance, and organizing fundraisers. Adela is a graduate of the SUEZ Leadership Development Program, member of the SUEZ Women’s Leadership Network (WLN), and co-chair of the Event Committee. Adela is deeply involved in community service, including as a member of her Church Vestry and as an active volunteer for the SUEZ volunteer program, Habitat Women’s Build Program, and Center for Food Action. Adela has instilled her commitment to community service in her children. Her son Sam, a University of Delaware sophomore, launched Reading for Heart, collecting and donating thousands of books to communities in need. Her son Nick, a New Milford High School senior, is a Teen Ambassador for the Celiac Disease Foundation, raising funds and organizing food drives. Adela is a graduate of Fordham University.

About YWCA Bergen County

YWCA Bergen County (www.ywcabergencounty.org) is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. We are the area’s largest provider of childcare services, a recognized leader in health and fitness programs, and operator of healingSPACE, Bergen County’s only Sexual Violence Resource Center. Celebrating nearly a century of commitment to our community, today we improve the lives of thousands of women, girls, and their families. Follow YWCA Bergen County on [Facebook](#) (@YWCABergenCounty), [Twitter](#) (@YWBERGEN), [Instagram](#) (@ywca_bc), and [LinkedIn](#).