

FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK 2010 SLOAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



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WINNERS

CARRIE S. BANKS

DR. JULIUS R. BERGER

FRANK DEPAOLO

CHRISTINA FUENTES

SONIA GALARZA

ROBERT LANGE

For 37 years the Fund for the City of New York's Public Service Awards Program has honored outstanding civil servants whose work performance and commitment to the public transcend not merely the ordinary but the extraordinary—day after day and year after year. In honoring these winners, we also acknowledge the contributions of the many thousands of dedicated public servants who, with integrity and devotion, perform the work that keeps this complex city running.

This year's winners, and the 240 winners from previous years, were selected from among more than 250,000 eligible workers in the mayoral agencies, the Transit and Housing Authorities, the Health and Hospitals Corporation, The City University of New York, district attorneys' offices and the public libraries.

Winners come from all levels and ranks of New York City's government.

Sloan Public Service Award Winners demonstrate some or all of the following: extraordinary service delivered with ingenuity, energy and compassion; responsiveness to public needs by cutting through red tape or developing more effective methods of service delivery; outstanding and reliable performance both under the pressures of daily routine and in times of crisis; willingness to take risks, if that is what is needed, to improve services or correct abuses or inequities; the ability to adapt to change and provide a continued high standard of service to the public and upholding the public interest amidst competing interests, pressures and demands.

The Fund for the City of New York is grateful to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for its support of this program for the past 25 years.

2010 SLOAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD WINNERS



"She taught me how much further you can go beyond giving someone a book. She always sees beyond the 'bureaucratic no.'"

CARRIE S. BANKS

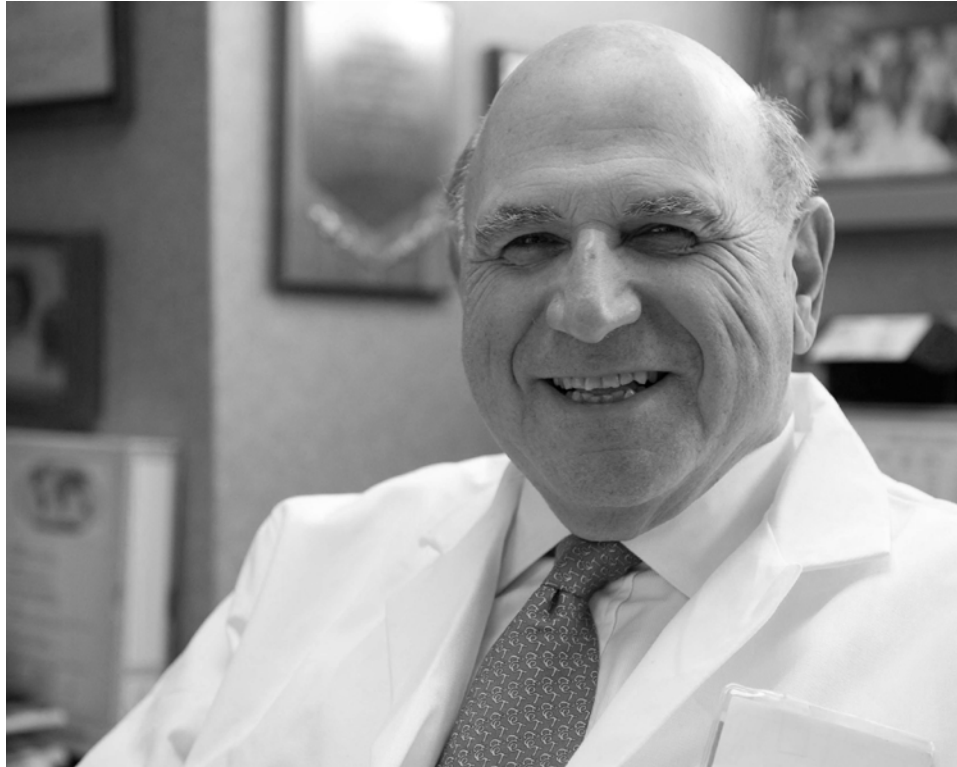
Supervising Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Banks had spent 11 years as a Children's Librarian in Staten Island and Manhattan for the New York Public Library when she learned of an opportunity in the Brooklyn Public Library to develop programs for children with disabilities. In 1997, she took over The Child's Place for Children with Special Needs at the Flatlands Branch Library and expanded it along several dimensions. She has added workshops for parents, creative playtime and reading aloud sessions — all designed to excite children's minds and engage their emotions. Her programs encourage literacy, friendship and cooperation, as well as quiet introspection. In her gardening program, children grow vegetables, read about gardens and create recipe books using family recipes and home-grown produce as ingredients.

Not satisfied, Ms. Banks created The Child's Place in four additional branches of the Brooklyn Public Library — Greenpoint, Saratoga, Red Hook and Sunset Park. She also decided to take

The Child's Place staff and volunteers to hospitals, after-school programs, homeless shelters and juvenile detention centers where she delivers programs as well as library cards and free books to the children and their parents. Under her direction, The Kidsmobile Library travels to day care centers, pediatric facilities, parks and shopping centers, where a librarian offers puppets shows, books to take out and library cards. A special concern for Ms. Banks is helping parents — she directs them to where they can get the services they need to raise children with disabilities.

An inspiration to all who meet her, she has played a special role as mentor to future librarians for children with special needs, some of whom have already created similar programs in other boroughs and cities. She is revered throughout Brooklyn and is sought after nationally as a children's librarian.



“Dr. Berger is a pioneer in dentistry. He has created an outstanding, world class facility.”

DR. JULIUS R. BERGER

Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Dental and Oral Surgery, Kings County Hospital

Dr. Berger grew up in a community of refugees from Nazi Germany in an enclave of Washington Heights, where a desire to dedicate his life to public service took hold. Thirty-five years ago, Dr. Berger took a hospital department on the verge of closing and transformed it into one of the premier dental departments and medical educational institutions in the country. He has kept Kings County Hospital at the forefront of dentistry innovation ever since.

An inventor of medical devices, his cleft palate prosthetic is used in the clinic as well as in cleft palate programs around the world. He created one of the first dual medical and dental degree programs in the country and has established a Pediatric Dentistry division. With John Dewey High School, he created a dental assistant program, which offers a career to at-risk high school students.

Each day about 150 patients receive dental services at Kings County Hospital, ranging from exams to complex facial reconstructions. Dr. Berger and his team see 30,000 patients annually, providing the highest quality care to a whole range of Brooklyn's population of all ages, incomes and physical abilities. Widely acclaimed as a creative surgeon, an inspiring mentor, and a "legend in his field," Dr. Berger is beloved among his students, to whom he transmits the highest level of public service and patient care. Many of Dr. Berger's residents have gone on to assume important academic positions or national leadership roles, a testament to the quality of their training and his mentorship.



"He is at the forefront of disaster planning. He is better at what he does than anyone in the United States."

FRANK DEPAOLO

Director, Special Operations Division, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

When two planes struck the World Trade Center Towers in 2001, Mr. DePaolo had already had many years of emergency medical experience with the City of New York and was serving in one of his deployments as a U.S. Navy Medical Officer. Learning of the crisis, he offered his services to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). In the years that followed, he established the Special Operations Division, which is responsible for OCME's operational response to large disasters, mobilizing financial, political, and human resources.

In the years since 9/11, Mr. DePaolo has pioneered several systems in the area of fatality management and his innovations have made New York City a leader in the country. Building on lessons from 9/11, Mr. DePaolo created solutions to help manage the complex science of victim identification by spearheading the development of a unique software system, the Unified Victim Identification System (UVIS). This system has

become a national standard, with several cities and states now implementing it. He currently leads an effort to develop a regional response mechanism that includes 22 jurisdictions in the New York area, the first multi-state mass fatality response system in the nation. He has conducted research and written protocols — frequently referred to as “benchmark documents” — for crisis response and disaster recovery operations. He makes all his research public and gives it to city, state and federal agencies.

The job he takes most seriously, however, is serving the families of victims. For this, he receives accolades from staff, other City agencies and the families themselves. Mr. DePaolo is responsive, compassionate and professional, providing families with critical information at a difficult time and, above all, carrying out his duties with respect for those who have perished and for the loved ones they have left behind.



*"She fulfills the promise of
public education."*

CHRISTINA FUENTES

Principal, PS 24, Sunset Park Elementary School

Principal Fuentes joined the Department of Education in 1990, as a librarian and reading teacher at the Brooklyn New School. In 1998, she joined the newly established PS 24 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, as the literacy coach. In 2000, she became an assistant principal there and was named principal in 2005.

What is remarkable about PS 24 — which is one of a handful of city public schools to be rated as outstanding in all areas in the 2008–2009 Quality Review — is that it is a Dual-Language school for its 800, low-income, 90-percent Hispanic, pre-kindergarten through 5th-grade students. Beginning in the 1st-grade, children are taught half the day in English and half the day in Spanish. PS 24 is now a model for Dual-Language Schools in the city and around the country.

Principal Fuentes' approach is to teach to the whole child, without making test scores the school's major focus. She ensures that her students have classes rich in social studies, math and science as well as in art, music and conflict resolution. PS 24 is nationally renowned for its reading, writing and social and emotional learning programs, its involvement of parents, its after-school programs and the development of its teachers. As a colleague says, "She keeps her eyes on the prize — what's good for the kids. She's beaten the odds, with fantastic success in an overenrolled school, with students who are English-language learners."



*"Hers is a total commitment.
She is a force of nature. What
she's doing is saving lives."*

SONIA GALARZA

Director of Program, Department of Juvenile Justice*

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is responsible for the care of the 6,000 young people in secure and non-secure detention facilities who have pending cases in one of the City's courts each year. What stands out about Ms. Galarza is that, given the short time the youth spend in the system (the average length of stay is 30 days), she has made a crucial difference in their lives. For the last 25 years she has been able to engage the minds and hearts of thousands of young people in detention: she develops personal relationships with them, introduces them to new ways of thinking with creative programs, and helps young people and their parents understand the services that are available to them when they are released. She goes the extra mile because of her deep faith that these young people are worth the effort.

A co-worker described her as “the best networker I’ve ever met.” Among the programs she has brought to DJJ facilities

include dance, journalism, swimming instruction, violence reduction, writing, painting, business skills training, financial literacy, dressing for success and how to interview for a job. She involves the families at family program fairs at each of the three secure facilities, where over two dozen City agencies and nonprofits provide assistance on topics such as fatherhood, immigration, literacy, parenting skills and health and nutrition. She organizes clothing drives so that young people are dressed in suits and ties when they appear in court. Among the organizations that have responded to her requests are Lincoln Center, John Jay College's Swimming Team, Hostos Community College, the NY Yankees, the Hispanic Bronx Chamber of Commerce and a dry cleaner who contributed hundreds of unclaimed white shirts.

* On January 20, 2010, the Department of Juvenile Justice was incorporated within the Administration for Children's Services



“He is personally responsible for the success of the City’s recycling program. He succeeded because he’s brilliant, adaptive and creative.”

ROBERT LANGE

Director, Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, Department of Sanitation

In 1988, Mr. Lange joined the Department of Sanitation's newly created Recycling Programs and Planning Division. Since then he has helped it become the largest, most ambitious recycling program in the country, one that is nationally recognized for its excellence. Some say this happened against all odds, with opposition at times from community groups, environmentalists, other City agencies, elected officials and even City Hall itself. As a colleague noted, "He doesn't easily get discouraged — he pushes forward with unrelieved, dogged optimism."

Under his leadership, the Bureau has initiated dozens of recycling programs throughout the City, including those with hospitals, prisons, botanical gardens and large apartment complexes. It has also performed trend-setting research on the limits and viability of recycling, waste prevention and composting as a solid waste management solution. These

reports have helped educate both the Department and advocacy groups, who may be eager for recycling but are naïve about its costs and limitations. He recognized early that the private sector was essential to the recycling effort, and his long-term contracts with private companies, which accommodate price fluctuations in commodities, have allowed these companies to make significant capital investment in New York City. Most notably, this spring one such company will build the largest municipal recycling plant in the country on a Brooklyn pier. When it opens, it will be able to process 30,000 tons of recyclables per month, under a 40-year contract. Mr. Lange's next project, working with nonprofit organizations, is to collect coats, rugs, and other textiles that can be reused, thereby reducing the City's waste collection stream by an additional 7 percent each year.



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