

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2017

Post Event Press Release: Domestic Harmony Foundation 9th Annual Fundraiser

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, the Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF) held its 9th Annual Fundraiser at the Milleridge Cottage in Jericho, NY. Distinct from previous years, the theme of this year's awards luncheon, "Acclamation. Applause. Accolades" celebrated the guidance, compassion and loyalty of DHF's friends and supporters that have enabled the organization to continue the crucial work of ending gender-based violence.

The afternoon commenced at high noon as guests entered the beautiful venue to create an exciting and energetic hubbub in the lobby around the unique and colorful "I Promise" art exhibit – a new project designed to engage men in the conversation to promote healthy relationships and families. Guests filtered through to the charming Atrium of the Cottage where bright natural daylight was streaming through for the cocktail hour, fostering a wonderful environment to network and socialize together over scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and fruit drinks.

As guests were seated on round tables in the main ballroom, the formal program began with a touching Invocation given by Board Member Dr. Kushalata Jayakar Ahmed, followed by a warm welcome and highlight of DHF's programs and services by Program Director Jasia Mirza, who then introduced Neelofer Chaudry, DHF's recently hired new Executive Director. Neelofer introduced herself to the audience, thanked them and shared that she was inspired to join the team, as DHF was created as organization specifically designed to address the social injustice of domestic violence from a solution-oriented, transformational approach, rather than working 'against' the elements of a hidden problem that's controversial to talk about. As an Overview of DHF, Neelofer and Zuhail Abrar, DHF's first Mental Health Clinician, provided a thought-provoking power point presentation with a Domestic Violence "Myth & Fact" structure in the effort to dispel & demystify stereotypes and to promote education and prevention information; this involved a brief discussion of a client case study highlighting progress made from a mental health perspective, and statistics of DHF services provided from the 2016 Annual Report.

After the presentation, the audience was entranced by an expressive female dance troop performing Classical Kathak Dance at the center of the dance floor. This set the tone for the Award Ceremony where DHF awarded two group entities and three dynamic individuals who have greatly impacted DHF and its clients: The Islamic Center of Long Island, Project Niyyah, Rev. Thomas Goodhue, Shanti Kumar and DHF's board member Amal Wahib. The main highlight of the program was given by a DHF client relating her own story as a survivor that captivated and touched listeners with her personal journey from abuse and crisis to freedom and self-reliance; not a dry eye in the room! A delicious sit-down lunch was enjoyed by all and the afternoon's program ended with a powerful vocal performance and standup comedy routine, followed by the ending vote of thanks. DHF extends its' gratitude to this year's lead sponsors, HAB Bank, People's United Bank, Islamic Center of Long Island, Suleman Lunat MIII Partners, LI Urgent Care, Vass Pipe & Steel Co., Inc., Mr. Sajid Shah, Dr. Unni Mooppan, Drs. Fakihiuddin & Kushalata Ahmed, Rachel Hall, Senior V.P. of Investments Raymond James & Associates, Dr. Aziz R. Chaudry, and Abdulrahman Khwaja.

DHF is delighted with the success of this event and the opportunity to partner with the community in causing a shift in attitudes and perceptions about violence against women and to influence a new generation of changemakers creating the harmonious world that we all envision.