



# 2024 **URI** CELEBRATION

A Decade Honoring the Human-Animal Bond

THURSDAY | **MAY 9** | 6:00 p.m.



**URINYC**  
Urban Resource Institute



**PALS**

Celebrating  
**10**  
Years

People & Animals Living Safely



## FROM OUR CEO

### Nathaniel M. Fields

Chief Executive Officer  
Urban Resource Institute

#### Greetings and a warm welcome to the Urban Resource Institute 2024 Celebration!

We are especially thrilled to commemorate the 10th anniversary of URI's groundbreaking People

and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program. We are especially thrilled to commemorate the 10th anniversary of URI's groundbreaking People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program.

The theme for this year's event is "A Decade Honoring the Human-Animal Bond." We reflect on ten years of transformation through PALS, recognizing the profound connection between individuals and their pets and the crucial journey of staying and healing together. PALS has been a beacon of hope for survivors of domestic violence, offering a path where they don't have to choose between safety and leaving their beloved pets behind. We also celebrate the new phase of PALS with the recent launch of the pilot program at our newest shelter, Uplift Family Residence, for families experiencing homelessness.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you - our supporters, partners, board members, elected officials, staff, clients, friends, and family. Your unwavering support is integral to the success of PALS and our mission at URI. Together, we are working towards a world free from these challenges, ensuring safety, stability, and thriving communities for all.

URI is dedicated to comprehensive solutions for domestic violence and homelessness, offering safe shelters, direct services, and proactive programs. We are proud to lead as the largest provider of domestic violence residential services nationwide and a key shelter and services provider for homeless families, sheltering 3,700 individuals every night and impacting the lives of 40,000 individuals annually through our programs. Your continued support fuels our commitment to

creating lasting positive change in the lives of those we serve.

Special thanks go to our event host, **John Quiñones**, anchor, correspondent at ABC News, and host of "What Would You Do?" Tonight, we are honored to present the Trailblazer Award to philanthropist **Jean Shafiroff** for her outstanding support of women's issues and animal welfare. We also celebrate **New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams** with the Visionary Award for her unwavering advocacy for vulnerable populations, equity, justice, and domestic violence awareness. In commemoration of the PALS Anniversary, we proudly present the PALS Animal Champion Award to **Banfield Foundation** for their remarkable contributions to improving the lives of pets and their human companions. Lastly, we present the Triumph Award to **Elizabeth Rose**, whose resilience serves as inspiration for survivors and their beloved pets.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to **Danielia Cotton**, singer, songwriter, and guitarist, for sharing her inspiring music with us tonight.

We extend deep gratitude to the generous sponsors of 2024 URI Celebration, especially our Platinum Sponsors — **Churchgate Services, Cresa, Monadnock, and Gotham**.

Finally, we acknowledge the unwavering commitment of the **URI Board of Trustees** and the **2024 Celebration Event Committee**. Your dedication and support make events like tonight possible. Together, we are driving change, and empowering individuals to create safe, stable, and thriving lives and communities.

In solidarity,

*Nathaniel Fields*  
Nathaniel M. Fields





### VISION

A world free of domestic violence, homelessness, poverty, and trauma, where individuals and communities are safe, stable, and thriving.

### MISSION

To empower individuals, families, and communities, particularly communities of color and other disenfranchised populations, to end cycles of violence, homelessness, poverty, and trauma by increasing safety and resiliency.

## HOST

### John Quiñones

Anchor, Correspondent, ABC News, 20/20 & Host of *What Would You Do?*



Combining a moving life story, an exceptional career, incomparable insights, and a powerful presence, John Quiñones has emerged as one of the most inspiring keynotes in the speaking world today. His moving presentations focus on his odds-defying journey, celebrate the life-changing power of education, champion the Latino American Dream, and provide thought provoking insights into human nature and ethical behavior.

A lifetime of “never taking no for an answer” took Quiñones from migrant farm work and poverty to more than 30 years at ABC News and the anchor desk at *20/20* and *Primetime*. Along the way, he broke through barriers, won the highest accolades, and became a role model for many.

Known for truly connecting with audiences and leaving them uplifted and inspired, Quiñones delivers a powerful message of believing in one’s self, never giving up, and always, always doing the right thing. As host and creator of *What Would You Do?*, the highly-rated, hidden camera ethical dilemma news magazine, Quiñones has literally become “the face of doing the right thing” to millions of fans. It’s a role that he has enthusiastically embraced off camera, with a popular book and keynote presentations that challenge both business and general audiences to examine the *What Would You Do?* moments we face every day. This work and his many achievements were recently recognized with honorary Doctorate degrees from Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia and Utah Valley University.

## FEATURED ARTIST

### Danielia Cotton

Singer, Songwriter & Guitarist



With a voice instantly recognizable as hers and hers alone, Danielia Cotton emerges again with a powerful soulful/rock sound and uncompromising artistry. Having been compared to rock counterparts both male (Lenny Kravitz, The Black Crowes) and female (Janis Joplin, Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt) she dares to borrow from the greats to fight in that arena and manages to come out with a truly original sound.

Danielia Cotton came from a small town in New Jersey with few faces of color like her own. Although her hometown is now a fairly racially diverse area, it was her angst-ridden youth that helped her discover rock'n roll music, which turned out to be her perfect soundtrack. She is music legacy — she grew up watching her mother and aunts, who were professional vocalists perform until she herself became inspired and brave enough to take the leap and perform her own self-penned songs.

Cotton took no short cuts, as her single mother stressed education and supported her attending Bennington College. She was one of the first of three generations in her family to attend college. After graduating she eventually found herself relocating to New York City, where she began her professional musical journey. After being discovered and basically having a label created to launch her, Danielia's city connections led her to producer Kevin Salem (Rachael Yamagata, Chocolate Genius etc.) and a powerful first album that launched her career, *Small White Town*. Shortly prior to her release she was selected as Artist to Watch by WXPB out of Philadelphia.

All of Cotton's original work has been influenced and pulled from her life. She makes a habit of choosing the events and experiences that affected her, that she is able to emotional recall safely as her powerful performances, as she puts in her own words, "are a recreation of those life defining moments".

## 2024 HONOREE

### TRIUMPH AWARD

### Elizabeth Rose

#### Advocate & Former PALS Client



Elizabeth Knights, our esteemed 2024 URI Celebration Triumph Award recipient, epitomizes resilience and courage. In 2019, alongside her daughter Hazel and their cherished cat, Bebe, Elizabeth courageously escaped an abusive home and sought refuge at an Urban Resource Institute (URI) domestic violence shelter.

At URI, Elizabeth found solace in the People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program, which provided her with a safe haven and a supportive community. Despite enduring injuries from the abuse, Elizabeth found safety and healing at URI. With the unwavering support of URI staff and programs, she underwent surgery and quietly healed in her newfound home with Hazel and Bebe, all while embarking on their journey to permanent housing.

As a survivor of domestic violence, Elizabeth fearlessly shares her story, highlighting the invaluable role of the PALS Program in her healing journey. Her remarkable resilience serves as an inspiration and beacon of hope for survivors and their pets, everywhere. Let us come together to celebrate Elizabeth's unshakable spirit and advocacy at the 2024 URI Celebration.

## 2024 HONOREE

### TRAILBLAZER AWARD

## Jean Shafiroff

Philanthropist, Author & TV Host



Jean Shafiroff is a philanthropist, humanitarian, TV host, writer, and the author of the book *Successful Philanthropy: How to Make a Life by What You Give*. Jean is often referred to as “the first lady of philanthropy” by the press because of her generosity and extensive work as a volunteer fundraiser and leader in the

philanthropic world. She serves on the boards of many charitable organizations and each year, she chairs upwards of eight different charity galas. She also hosts and underwrites large cocktail parties for different charities in her New York homes. Among the many causes she champions are those involved in women’s rights, the rights of underserved populations, health care, and animal welfare.

Jean serves on the boards of the Southampton Hospital Association, Mission Society of NYC, Couture Council of the Museum at FIT, French Heritage Society, Casita Maria, the NY Women’s Foundation, Global Strays, and Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation Honorary Board. A Catholic, she has served on The Jewish Board, a large mental health service charity, for 28 years and now is one of their Honorary Trustees.

Jean served as the national spokesperson for American Humane’s “Feed the Hungry” COVID-19 program, an initiative that raised \$1,000,000 to provide food for over 1,000,000 animals living in 109 different shelters across the United States.

Jean Shafiroff has been honored many times by groups including American Humane, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Mission Society of NYC, French Heritage Society, Southampton Animal Shelter, Surgeons of Hope, Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation, Operation Warrior Shield, Viennese Opera

Ball, Al Sharpton’s National Action Network, the Ellen Hermanson Foundation, Dominican Women’s Development Center, Fashion for Development, NYS Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright’s Women’s Leadership Awards, *She Exist Magazine*, Pet Philanthropy Circle, Animal Zone International, Health Advocates for Older People, Southampton African American Museum, Women’s eNews, Youth Counseling League, the NYC International Film Festival Foundation, The Jewish Board, and Hadassah. In December 2020, *Dan’s Papers* named her “Philanthropist of the Year” at its Power Women of the East End award ceremony. Since then, *Dan’s Papers* has honored Jean Shafiroff at least three additional times for her philanthropic work.

In September 2022, she was officially proclaimed the “First Lady of Philanthropy of New York” by New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, who represents New York’s 76th District, in Manhattan. Then in November 2022, the 117th US Congress recognized Shafiroff for her work in philanthropy. This recognition was given by US Representative Carolyn Maloney, who represented the 14th Congressional District, in New York.

Jean is the producer and host of the television show “Successful Philanthropy,” which airs six times weekly through LTV studios in East Hampton, NY, and several times each week on Sun20TV in Southampton, NY. On her TV program, Jean interviews politicians, celebrities, business leaders, philanthropic leaders, and has even interviewed a US presidential candidate.

Jean is a graduate of Columbia University and the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University. She holds a BS in Physical Therapy and an MBA in Finance all from Columbia. In between college and graduate school, she worked for one year as a physical therapist at the inner-city hospital, St. Luke’s Hospital in New York City. She worked with patients living at or below the poverty level. After earning her MBA, she worked as an investment banker on Wall Street for a number of years.



**2024 HONOREE****VISIONARY AWARD****Adrienne E. Adams****Speaker of the New York City Council**

Adrienne Eadie Adams is the Speaker of the New York City Council, leading the most diverse and first women-majority Council in city history as the body's first African American Speaker. She is also the first woman to represent Council District 28, which includes the neighborhoods of Jamaica, Richmond Hill, Rochdale Village, and South Ozone Park. Under the leadership of Speaker Adams, the Council has been tackling long-standing inequities through legislation and budget investments, including women's health, racial disparities in maternal health, support for underserved crime

victims, and inequities in the city's workforce. Speaker Adams also helped establish CUNY Reconnect, a program that has helped thousands of former CUNY students of working age return to college in pursuit of a degree that advances their economic opportunities. Her leadership has set a new tone for the Council's leadership in addressing the housing crisis, resulting in the approval of over 40 land use projects in 2022 that will produce 12,000 housing units. She also released an aggressive Housing Agenda with a Fair Housing Framework that prioritizes deepening affordability, housing preservation, and homeownership. Speaker Adams previously served as Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus. Prior to serving in the City Council, Speaker Adams served as Chair of Queens Community Board 12, a Trustee of the Queens Public Library, and Co-Chair of the Jamaica NOW Leadership Council. She previously worked as a Corporate Trainer and a Child Development Associate Instructor. A mother and grandmother, Speaker Adams lives in Jamaica with her husband.



## 2024 HONOREE

### PALS ANIMAL CHAMPION AWARD

#### **Banfield Foundation**

Accepted by Lane LaPlante, MBA



Banfield Foundation was launched in 2015 with a vision to make preventive care possible for the pets that need it most through programs that serve to break barriers to veterinary care, shelter and disaster relief. Since then, more than \$22 million in grants and resources has been awarded to nonprofit and animal welfare partners, including URI and the PALS program.

Grants in support of the Harmony House Banfield Foundation Pet Haven in 2019 and the Banfield Foundation Pet Park in 2021 are two of the Foundation's most significant awards that speak to URI's partnership and commitment to helping pets and people stay together. A charitable arm of Banfield Pet Hospital, a segment under the

Mars Veterinary Health umbrella, the Banfield Foundation also works to deploy teams of veterinary professionals to make care accessible in under-resourced communities across the nation. Together with its sister charities, BluePearl Cares and VCA Charities, Banfield Foundation strives to support programs and initiatives that ultimately work towards one collective purpose: A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS.



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**Thank You  
Urban Resource Institute  
for letting us be part of  
the 2024 URI Celebration:  
A Decade Honoring the  
Human-Animal Bond!**

We look forward to continuing  
our partnership as well as  
assisting you in the important  
work you do for New Yorkers,  
their families, and pets.

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A DECADE HONORING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND.

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of people and animals living safely (PALS) and the program's remarkable impact in honoring the important bond between domestic violence survivors and their pets.





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**Congratulates**  
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**and All Honorees & Awardees**





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2024 celebration**

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**It is a privilege to be part of  
your endeavor to combat  
homelessness and domestic  
violence. Congratulations to  
the entire URI team on your  
continued work to develop the  
PALS program.**



A modern lounge interior featuring a large, curved orange leather sofa. In front of the sofa are several cylindrical ottomans in white and yellow. Two dark wood armchairs with light-colored cushions are also visible. The floor is made of light-colored wood planks. A large window on the left side of the room provides natural light. A prominent blue glass block wall is on the right. A large, circular orange pendant light hangs from the ceiling.

Congratulations to **URI** and  
all **2024 Honorees** for their  
steadfast commitment  
to improving the lives  
of those in need.



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## Congratulations

On celebrating the 10th anniversary of the People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program. Your continuous devotion to those within our communities is truly making a difference.



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The Wright Group NY (TWG) is proud to support URI and celebrate the 10th anniversary of PALS. This incredible program has had a remarkable impact on domestic violence survivors and their pets.

**Congratulations, URI!**

### THE WRIGHT GROUP



Asian Americans  
for Equality

**Congratulations on ten  
impactful years of PALS!**

We are honored to work alongside URI in pursuit of housing secure, resilient futures for our communities.





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and commends the People and Animals Living Safely program for 10 years of service.

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And we are so proud to support URI as they celebrate the 10th anniversary of People and Animals Living Safely.



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# Congratulations to the Urban Resource Institute!



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**Congratulations to URI for a decade of  
supporting and serving survivors and their pets!**



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To all my friends at URI, heartfelt  
congratulations on a decade  
of dedicated commitment to  
nurturing the profound bond  
between survivors and their pets  
through the People and  
Animals Living Safely  
(PALS) program.

~ Carla Smith, EdD





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