



**2017 Community Leader
Community Service/Volunteerism Award**



Maritza Vega

Maritza is a volunteer and community organizer extraordinaire, best described by the word “energy”. A Certified Application Counselor for Kaleida Health systems, she uses her bilingual skills to help the uninsured or underinsured obtain coverage on the New York State Market Place. Maritza is concerned with helping people, and is always searching for ways to get involved and make a difference.

Maritza is very proud of her Puerto Rican heritage, where her parents were born, and over the years she has been involved with several organizations that focus on immigration reform, minority and women business enterprise, education, health, arts, community-neighborhood, and family. She started the diverse bicycle group “Urban Bike Riders” and owns her business, “VP Home Improvement Contracting LLC”.

Maritza is Vice President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, the first woman to hold that post, through which she hopes to encourage the understanding and knowledge of Spanish speaking countries and cultures. An ardent believer in the concept of pay-it-forward, she knows the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and she works hard to promote unity both within the diverse Hispanic community and among the larger WNY community.

For her boundless energy and her work to build a healthier, more inclusive community, the NFJC is proud to present Maritza Vega with the 2017 Community Leader Award in Community Service/Volunteerism.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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