

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES:**  
Tuesday, March 2, 2010

**CONTACT:** Andrew Yarbrough – [ayarbrough@globalstrategygroup.com](mailto:ayarbrough@globalstrategygroup.com)  
(212)-260-8813/(646)-652-9018

## **Kendall Farrell, Executive Director of Bottomless Closet, Receives Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Work**

---

### *Farrell Honored at Luncheon Hosted by Women United in Philanthropy*

New York, NY – Kendall Farrell, Executive Director of Bottomless Closet, was honored today at the Women United in Philanthropy luncheon. The event celebrated women who have made a significant impact on their communities through philanthropic giving, advocacy, and volunteerism. All proceeds from the luncheon go to benefit the Women United Fund, which supports United Way of New York City’s youth empowerment initiatives.

Women United in Philanthropy is an all-volunteer group that taps into the power, talent and passion of women to transform our communities. Members are accomplished women leaders who have taken an active role in advancing the work of United Way of New York City. Farrell, along with the eleven other honorees, was praised at the luncheon for her remarkable efforts through philanthropy and the mark she has made on New York City.

“The women honored here today are role models to the community, and we are proud to partner with them,” said Gordon Campbell, President of United Way of New York City. “Their leadership truly changes our city for the better, especially the lives of those who need the most help.”

“The outstanding women being honored today are making a real and significant difference in their communities,” said Melissa Hall, Co-Chair of the Women United in Philanthropy Steering Committee. “By honoring women passionate about giving back through charity, Women United is encouraging a spirit of social investment in the community. I know that Women United will continue to do great work in the years ahead.”

“I think we all recognize the incredible importance of helping New York’s at-risk youth succeed in school and graduate,” said Wilhelmina Manzano, Honoree and member of the Women United Steering Committee. “The fact that we can do it in a way that draws on the skills and talents of women leaders from a number of different backgrounds makes our efforts all the more meaningful.”

In 2007 Kendall Farrell joined Bottomless Closet as executive director. With her more than 20 years experience in the nonprofit sector, she is leading the organization into its second decade.

Before coming to New York, Farrell served as executive director of Vermont CARES, the state’s largest HIV/AIDS service organization. Prior to that, she was assistant director of the Women’s Rape Crisis Center. Her experience spans direct client services, program development, fundraising and special events in addition to leadership and management. Throughout her career, Farrell has supported people who were dying in hospice, worked with homeless individuals and families, developed residential housing for people living with HIV, advocated for public policy legislation to support equality for transgendered individuals and acted as a first responder to women and men immediately following sexual assaults.

Committed to advancing meaningful social and individual change, Farrell appreciates the value of self-

transform the way you see yourself, build confidence and, ultimately, land a job. It is in this spirit that she promotes Bottomless Closet's mission to not only outfit women with professional attire but provide programming that will improve professional skills, personal confidence and self-determination.

Farrell graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges with a BA in sociology and an independent major in HIV/AIDS.

Along with Farrell, the other Women United honorees were: **Peggy Blumenthal**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Institute of International Education; **Arminda "Mindy" Figueroa**, President and Founder, Latin2Latin Marketing + Communications; **Ann Limberg**, Northeast Division Executive, US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management; **Ellen Fine Levine**, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, DTCC; **Darlane Hoffman**, Managing Director, BNY Mellon; **Katherine Hunt**, Major Account Manager, Reuters Media and Founder, Jiamini Scholarship Fund; **Sharné Jackson**, Director of Mid-Atlantic Special Events, Macy's; **Wilhelmina Manzano**, MA, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officers, New York-Presbyterian Hospital & Healthcare System; **Nereida "Neddy" Perez**, Vice President of Inclusion and Diversity, National Grid; **Dara P. Richardson-Heron**, Chief Executive Officer, Susan G. Komen for the Cure (New York City Affiliate); **Sylvia Wagner**, Executive Vice President of Human Resources, Assurant; and **Sheena Wright**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Abyssinian Development Corporation.

**For photographs of the event please contact Andrew Yarbrough at 212-260-8813/646-652-9108**

###