

WJCS annual gala raises \$800,000

The Westchester Jewish Community Services 2016 Gala, which honored board president Barry Kaplan and board member Nina Ross April 5 at the Willow Ridge Country Club, was the most successful gala in the agency's history, raising \$800,000.

The honorees were lauded for their countless efforts to ensure the agency continues to provide leading-edge programs and services. Kaplan, who has served as president for the past three years and a member for 10, was recognized for his hands-on involvement and leadership marked by respect, humility and keen intelligence during very difficult financial times. He is president and founder of Maple Tree Capital Management LLC, a private investment firm and a former partner and managing director of Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Nina Ross, a board member for six years and a prolific volunteer, has served the agency in several capacities, rolling up her sleeves to write and win grants. She has created significant volunteer programs to enrich the lives of students attending after-school programs in Mount Vernon, and most recently founded an art exploration program.

In thanking the attendees for their commitment, Robert Stavis, managing director of Bessemer Ventures Partners, WJCS past president and current board member said, "Support from the community for the work of WJCS is essential now more than ever. With the transition to managed care and decreasing government re-



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WJCS COO Bernie Kimberg with gala honorees Nina Ross and Barry Kaplan and WJCS CEO Alan Trager.

imbursement for the essential services WJCS provides to thousands of our most vulnerable residents, the generosity of local philanthropists and other concerned community members is critical."

The 300 guests in attendance heard compelling stories from clients who have benefited from the agency's array of mental health, trauma, disabil-

ity, youth, home care and geriatric services.

WJCS is one of the largest providers of mental health and human services in Westchester County and each year serves 20,000 people of all ages and diverse backgrounds who are confronting significant challenges.

For more information on WJCS, go to wjcs.com.