

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**Neighborhood Leaders of Brooklyn celebrate at Annual Neighborhood Dinner  
of The New York Women's Foundation®**

(New York, NY) October 26, 2005 -- Two women community leaders of Brooklyn were honored by The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) at a dinner at Cibo e Gente restaurant in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn last night, Tuesday, October 25th. The Honorees were Sister Mary Paul Janchill, Founder and Program Associate of Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, an organization which offers a comprehensive range of preventive social services necessary to support families and children in the area; and Isis Sapp-Grant, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Empowerment Mission in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and creator of their Blossom Program for Girls, which focuses on the needs of at-risk girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years-old. Each received The New York Women's Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Award, which recognizes committed involvement to neighborhood-based work on behalf of women and girls over a substantial period of time.

This New York Women's Foundation event brought together New York's philanthropic and grassroots community for a special celebration of women in Brooklyn. The featured speaker was Marilyn Gelber, Executive Director of The Independence Community Foundation. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz was in attendance to give introductory remarks. Just under 200 women and a few brave men were present to participate in this dinner celebration.

"The New York Women's Foundation encourages and celebrates women, like our awardees, who are developing solutions to the challenges in their own neighborhoods and communities. Through their vision and passion, women like Sister Mary Paul Janchill and Isis Sapp-Grant do the real hard work of lifting women and families from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope," said Sandra Lamb, the Foundation's Interim Executive Director.

The 18-year-old New York Women's Foundation is a philanthropic organization where the donations of hundreds of women are pooled to fund grassroots nonprofits throughout the five boroughs. This year, the Foundation gave over \$1.5 million in grants to help New York City's low-income women and girls. The Neighborhood

Dinner celebrates a different neighborhood every year. Previous dinners have been held in the Bronx, Chinatown, Harlem, Bedford- Stuyvesant and Astoria.