

October 20th, 2006

**Neighborhood Leaders of Lower Manhattan celebrate at Annual
Neighborhood Dinner of NYWF®**

(New York, NY) October 20, 2006 -- Two women community leaders of Lower Manhattan will be honored by The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) at a dinner at Colors Restaurant this Thursday, October 26th. The Honorees will be Dr. Cydney Pullman, founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Labor & the Community and Damaris Reyes, Executive Director of the Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) & Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side (PHROLES). Cydney Pullman works to bring gender-oriented and community-based programs to Lower East Side youth. Damaris Reyes is an outspoken activist on public housing issues and is devoted to tenant organizing and affordable housing. Each will receive The New York Women's Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Award, which recognizes committed involvement in neighborhood-based work on behalf of women and girls over a substantial period of time.

This New York Women's Foundation event will bring together New York's philanthropic and grassroots community for a special celebration of women in Lower Manhattan. Over 150 guests are expected to attend. Saru Jayaraman, Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), will keynote the event. ROC-NY was founded by Saru in the aftermath of September 11th to provide support and organize restaurant workers citywide for improved working conditions. ROC-NY is also the creator of Colors Restaurant, Manhattan's first cooperative restaurant owned and governed by its workers, the site of the Neighborhood Dinner.

"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 Cydney Pullman and Damaris Reyes do the real hard work of lifting women and families from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope," said Ana L. Oliveira, the Foundation's President & CEO.

The 19-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 \$1.65 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. To learn more about The New York Women's Foundation, visit www.nywf.org.