

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **The New York Women's Foundation® Honors Two Dynamic Women Leaders in the Bronx**

New York, NY—Over 130 supporters, friends, advocates and neighborhood leaders joined The New York Women's Foundation® in honoring Josephine Infante and Nurah Amat'ullah, recipients of the 2008 Neighborhood Leadership Award for their transformational and extraordinary leadership and work to improve the lives of women, families and communities in the South Bronx.

Josephine Infante, is a native New Yorker and the founder and CEO of the Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation (HPEDC). "It took community activism from the bottom up to bring back an entire community" said Infante, "It was easy to sell Hunts Point especially if you believe in blue collar workers and the dignity of work."

Founder and E.D. of the Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development (MWIRD), Nurah Amat'ullah, was born in Trinidad and Tobago and immigrated to the US in 1987. "Drawing on the Islamic tradition of the servant leader, MWIRD works with community members, empowering them to meet their basic needs with the understanding that when our basic needs are not met everything else is fantasy" remarked Amat'ullah.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, New York State Secretary of State, NYWF® board member and Co-Chair of the event. Hosting the event was Tuhina De O Conner, Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Dinner and NYWF Board member. The awards were designed by artists from Studio 889. Musical performer for the evening was Charmaine DaCosta and spoken word performances were by Kathryn Gil and Gina Villanueva of the New Settlement Apartments' Girls' Program Initiative, a grantee partner of the Foundation.

"I would like to thank our Neighborhood Dinner co-chairs Tuhina De O Conner and Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez for their incredible leadership and dedication in making this event possible" said NYWF® President and CEO Ana L. Oliveira. "We live in a bitter sweet time. Although we are facing many difficulties, we know that when we focus on

the bonds that unite us all and come together in a powerful alliance, we can create incredible responses to the challenges we face”.

For more information about The New York Women’s Foundation®, visit [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org) The New York Women's Foundation® (NYWF®) was established in 1987 as a public philanthropy to be a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equal and just future for low-income women and girls.