



**For Immediate Release**

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**Urban Resource Institute Hosts Third Annual URI Celebration Raising Funds to Provide Shelter and Services for Domestic Violence Survivors and New York City's Most Vulnerable Populations**

New York, NY – October 25, 2018—[Urban Resource Institute \(URI\)](#), the largest provider of domestic violence shelters and services in the country, raised critical funds for continued growth at its third annual URI Celebration fundraiser on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ziegfeld Ballroom.

“This year marks two significant milestones for URI – we merged with the Center Against Domestic Violence, an organization working toward a society free of violence and abuse, and we are celebrating URI’s 5<sup>th</sup> year of empowering people and pets through our PALS (People and Animals Living Safely) Program,” said Nathaniel Fields, president and CEO of Urban Resource Institute. “URI is constantly striving to expand our resources and reduce potential barriers to individuals and families seeking shelter and services. Along these lines, we’re also thrilled to be opening PALS Place at the end of the month, the first-ever domestic violence shelter of its size in the country specifically designed and outfitted for survivors and their pets to live and heal in the same apartment.”

After merging with the Center Against Domestic Violence this summer, URI now has the capacity to shelter more than 1,000 individuals, including survivors and their families, on any given day and offer an even more comprehensive portfolio of services. URI programs like PALS, the only program in New York City that allows co-living between survivors of domestic violence and their pets, and WIN (the Working Internship Network), which helps survivors in shelter gain financial independence through financial literacy and job training as well as professional development opportunities, will continue to operate alongside groundbreaking initiatives introduced by CADV. These include RAPP (Relationship Abuse Prevention Program), which educates tens of thousands of high school students year-round about relationship abuse, sexual harassment, and building healthy relationships.

The event celebrated URI’s achievements of the past year and honored the families, children, individuals, and pets that PALS helped to escape domestic abuse and begin healing together in safety. The URI Celebration also recognized three of New York City’s leading champions of protecting and serving domestic violence victims in an award ceremony. The honorees were as follows:

- URI presented the **Trailblazer Award** to **Allie Phillips**, the Founder and CEO of Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)<sup>™</sup>, the first and only global initiative working with domestic violence shelters to create on-site pet housing. She is a former prosecuting attorney and an internationally-recognized author, educator, and advocate for animals and vulnerable victims. She is a legal expert on the linkage between violence to animals and people, and the benefit of therapy animal. Allie has worked for the National District Attorneys Association where she founded and directed the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse and was the deputy director of the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse.
- URI presented the **Visionary Award** to **The Links, Incorporated** Greater New York Chapter, an international nonprofit comprised of nearly 15,000 professional women of color in 288 chapters around

the world. It is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. For over a decade, The Links, Incorporated have successfully leveraged public and private partnerships to benefit survivors in need – providing goods and services for domestic violence shelters, including legal workshops, and financial management and job readiness skills.

- **URI presented the Triumph Award to Devon Arnold**, an actor, writer, and award-winning talk show host. Born in California and raised in New York City, Arnold began acting and writing when he was 10 years old and joined the Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP) at Manhattan Theatre Lab High School in 2015, where he served as a Peer Leader. Through RAPP, he has led and participated in a wide range of workshops, addressing topics like anti-bullying, LGBTQ acceptance, and healthy relationships. Arnold currently serves as Creative Director of the Apollo Theater’s Young Producers Club and co-host of the cable access talk show, NIGHTCAP. A passionate artist and youth advocate, Arnold is currently pursuing acting as well as screenwriting in TV and film.

This year’s URI Celebration was generously sponsored by the following organizations:

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**About Urban Resource Institute**

Urban Resource Institute (URI) is a leading non-profit organization that provides comprehensive, holistic, and supportive social services that aid and empower New Yorkers in times of crisis. URI’s programs provide care for survivors of domestic violence, individuals with developmental disabilities, homeless families, and other at-risk populations, allowing them to live in safety and recover from trauma in both residential and non-residential settings. With deep community relationships and a flexible, innovative approach to program development and service delivery, URI is uniquely equipped to provide solutions to the challenges affecting New York City’s most vulnerable populations. URI merged with the Center Against Domestic Violence in 2018, the first licensed provider of domestic violence shelter in New York. With nearly 80 years of combined experience, the organization will be the largest provider of domestic violence residential services in the country, with the ability to shelter over 1,000 individuals, including survivors and their families, on any given day. For more information, please visit [www.urinyc.org](http://www.urinyc.org).