



INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER



Diane Kuppermann

President & CEO, Make-A-Wish Central New York

Diane Kuppermann has served as President & CEO of Make-A-Wish® Central New York for 34 years, beginning as the organization's first paid staff member. Under her leadership, the chapter has grown into a vital regional nonprofit serving 15 counties and granting life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses. Since its founding in 1985, Make-A-Wish Central New York has fulfilled more than 2,500 wishes and now operates with an annual budget exceeding \$2 million, supported by a dedicated staff and strong network of volunteers.

Deeply committed to community service, Diane has held numerous leadership roles throughout Central New York. She currently serves on the Board of Syracuse Hebrew Day School and remains active with Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood. A 1994 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse, she helped create Youth Leadership Greater Syracuse and co-chaired the program for many years. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Central New York and its Community Relations Committee, including co-chairing its Super Sunday event and helping establish the Youth Co-Chair initiative to expand leadership opportunities for young people.

Diane's contributions have been widely recognized, including the National Council of Jewish Women's Hannah G. Solomon Award, the Hiram Weisberg Young Leadership Award, BizEventz 40 Under 40 and Women in Business honors, The Post-Standard Women of Achievement Award, and recognition as one of Central New York's Top Nonprofit Executives. She was also named a Woman of Distinction by New York State Senator John DeFrancisco.

Diane's leadership is grounded in service, compassion, accountability, gratitude, and the belief that lasting impact is built through relationships. Reflecting on more than three decades as a nonprofit leader, she shares, "One of the most important lessons I've learned is that relationships matter more than results alone. Results are important, but lasting impact comes through trust, collaboration, and investing in people."

That philosophy also shapes Diane's connection to InterFaith Works. She believes communities are strongest when people lead with empathy and choose connection over division, and she is honored to contribute to a more compassionate and inclusive Central New York.

Diane holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder and is a graduate of Syracuse University's Maxwell School Executive Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations Program and the Center for Creative Leadership. She is also a certified Montessori teacher and fully certified ski instructor.

Diane lives in Fayetteville with her husband, Brett. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Leah and Elana (John) Zimmerman.

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