

## Maddy Schiering Philanthropy Day Acceptance Remarks

11/10/22

Good morning!

Thank you, Amy for the lovely introduction. I am truly honored to have been nominated for Rockland Development Council's Outstanding Nonprofit or Fundraising Professional Award by you, an icon in the Rockland nonprofit community.

Thank you, Sue Lynne for your leadership, and thank you to my RDC colleagues, whom I hold in the highest regard, for selecting me to receive this honor along with my fellow esteemed award winners today and to be among such exemplary past honorees.

When I think back on my younger days, the time period many of us are often asked the age-old question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I recall considering education, law, psychology, and business. These are all great fields, but within a year of graduating from College my journey led me to the non-profit path, and it has since become so much of who I am. I've come to realize it makes perfect sense that nonprofits are my life's work. Volunteering and donating were values that were modeled for me. I vividly remember my grandma Pearl, who helped raise me, dropping coins into charity boxes and sending checks in response to annual appeal letter requests- we're all familiar with those! Although I don't remember the specifics of which agencies they were, I know that my grandma reached out to various nonprofits here in Rockland when my mom became a single parent to me and my brother, and I'm deeply grateful for that support.

It's no surprise then, that I am inspired by working with non-profits, and although they are businesses, nonprofits are first and foremost mission driven to help those they serve. Fundraising in particular is all about working with people who care about causes near and dear to them, and nothing is better than helping people make an impact in our community.

I want to note that, today, November 10<sup>th</sup> in addition to being RDC's Philanthropy Day, is also International Accounting Day, National Forget-Me-Not Day, National Vanilla Cupcake Day, and the United States Marine Corps Birthday, and as we know tomorrow is Veterans day, so I want to say a special thank you to all of those who served in our Armed Forces.

Thank you, also, to all of you, my community for helping me celebrate this honor. Thank you to my colleagues, especially my Dominican University New York family (Go Chargers!), my fabulous friends that I know from all walks of life and of course, my wonderful family: my in-laws, Margie and George, whom I call mom and dad, my sister Alyssa, my son and daughter Jared and Rayna whom I adore and learn so much from, and my incredible husband, Matt- as my business partner and partner in life, my achievements are just as much yours as mine, and I am so grateful for your unconditional love and support.

Thank you all for being here today, and I urge everyone to continue supporting our local nonprofits-- as I often write in grant applications- the impact is exponential.