

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Adult Day Center of Somerset County Announces Laura DePrado as Recipient of the 2025 Steve Kalafer Community Leadership Award

**Bridgewater, NJ — August 13, 2025** — The Adult Day Center of Somerset County (ADC) is proud to announce that Laura DePrado, CEO of Final Touch Plantscaping, LLC and nationally recognized Horticultural Therapy Practitioner, will be honored with the 2025 Steve Kalafer Community Leadership Award at the ADC’s signature event, the Generations Gala. The celebration will take place on **Tuesday, October 28, 2025**, at **The Palace at Somerset Park**.

Now in its fourteenth year, the Generations Gala brings together community leaders and supporters to recognize individuals whose dedication and vision have made a lasting impact on the lives of Somerset County residents. The award was renamed in 2022 to honor the late Steve Kalafer—entrepreneur, philanthropist, and beloved ADC champion—whose legacy of generosity and leadership continues to inspire.

Steve Kalafer was a passionate advocate for nonprofits across New Jersey, and a loyal supporter of the ADC’s mission to provide compassionate, high-quality care for aging adults and their caregivers. His contributions helped shape the Center’s growth, from its building project to its inaugural gala in 2011, where he offered both support and visionary leadership. Steve received the Generations Gala Award himself in 2017, and the ADC is deeply grateful to the Kalafer family for allowing his legacy to live on through this honor.



This year’s recipient, **Laura DePrado**, exemplifies the spirit of the award through her groundbreaking work in horticultural therapy. As founder of Final Touch Plantscaping, LLC, Laura has designed and delivered nature-based programs that promote healing and connection for individuals of all ages and abilities—including cancer patients, caregivers, seniors in memory care, and those recovering from trauma or brain injury.

Award recipient, Laura DePrado, featured in her garden located in Branchburg, NJ

Her impact is felt not only through her programs, but also through her tireless advocacy and education. In 2012, Laura launched the ADC’s own horticultural therapy initiative, and in 2015, she authored the legislation that established **New Jersey Horticultural Therapy Week**, now celebrated statewide each March. Her work has earned recognition from the New Jersey Senate and Assembly, and she is a published contributor to the *Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture*.

Laura’s accolades include the **Somerset County Business Partnership 2025 Legacy Award**, a **Congressional Citation**, and the **Alice Burlingame Humanitarian Award** from the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Her passion has taken her across the globe to explore the ancient ties between plants and healing, and she continues to serve as a national presenter and thought leader in the field.

“Laura has been a true advocate for connecting people and our natural environment, demonstrated through her work promoting and using horticulture therapy to strengthen the individual.” Said Ed

Wengryn NJ Secretary of Agriculture. “Her passion for making the world a better place by using the beauty of plants and the impacts to the human senses of sight, smell, taste, and texture to heal the individual soul and spirit, makes Laura unique in her ability to touch and inspire people and why I am glad to call her a friend.”

“She is a friend to all of humanity and well deserving of this recognition,” Wengryn added.

The Adult Day Center of Somerset County invites all to join in celebrating Laura DePrado’s remarkable contributions at the 2025 Generations Gala. This inspiring evening will honor her legacy of compassion, innovation, and leadership—values that continue to shape the lives of aging adults and their caregivers across Central New Jersey.

To reserve your seat or explore sponsorship opportunities, please contact Key Sampson at [ksampson@adulthoodcenter.org](mailto:ksampson@adulthoodcenter.org).