

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALKER'S 19TH ANNUAL LIVES IN BLOOM GALA RAISES \$400,000

NEEDHAM — On Saturday, May 11th, Walker held its 19th annual Lives in Bloom Gala at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel and raised \$400,000 in support of the non-profit's mental health, academic, therapeutic, and community-based programs for children and families. With emcee Trenni Kusnierek of NBC Sports Boston, nearly 350 guests enjoyed the event featuring silent and live auctions, dinner, and dancing to the music of Soul of Boston.

Guests viewed a welcome video from Congressman Joseph Kennedy to start the dinner program. Two honorees were awarded the 2019 Distinguished Community Leadership Award. Jennie Shaw, LICSW was recognized as outstanding staff member, and Paul Shorthose & Family as outstanding community partners.

Lead corporate sponsors of the 2019 Lives in Bloom Gala included AE Events, Bank of America, Bowdoin Construction, Citizens Bank, Comprehensive Benefit Administrators, Intex Solutions, and Leonard, Mulherin & Greene.

"I am delighted by the generosity of Walker's supporters at this year's Gala," said Gene Takahashi, Walker's President and CEO. "This event gives us a chance to celebrate as a community while we raise vital funds in support of children and families served by Walker, as well as build awareness in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month."

Walker is grateful to the Lives in Bloom Gala Committee who helped shape the event. Chaired by Shimna Sameer of Mansfield, a member of the Board of Directors, the committee includes Jennifer DeSisto of Needham, Jack Harrington of Boston, Laurel Lyle and Wendy Paul of Wellesley, and Janet Zuroske of Dover.

Walker provides an array of academic, therapeutic, and community-based services for children, youth, and families facing significant mental health, emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Founded in 1961, Walker's programs positively impact 1,000 children and families from more than 160 communities in Massachusetts each year. Walker provides services through campuses in Needham and Watertown, community-based clinical and youth development programs, professional seminars, training, and consultation services.

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