

NEW YORK Amsterdam News

Vol. 102 No. 24 June 16-June 22, 2011
© 2011 The Amsterdam News

The new Black view
www.amsterdamnews.com

\$1.00 New York City

Community Access gala

By **RENEE MINUS WHITE**
Fashion & Beauty Editor

After attending this year's Community Access (CA) gala at NYU's Kimmel Center for University Life, it was a pleasure to learn about this wonderful, behind-the-scenes organization and applaud its 2011 award winners, which include Carole Darden Lloyd, Capital One Bank and HLS Builder Corp. CA transforms lives, neighbor to neighbor.

The event, held on May 19, was a delightful evening. The view of New York City from the center's Rosenthal Room was exquisite. Dinner was delicious. The live jazz and CA's video presentation added a special touch. Overall, the festive fundraising affair was a huge success.

CA is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit organizations in New York City. They are dedicated to providing housing (even building the houses themselves), education, wellness and recovery opportunities for people overcoming mental illness and homelessness. CA also offers programs to meet the needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, veterans, those with histories of substance abuse and the formerly incarcerated.

CA has been making a positive difference since 1974 in the lives of thousands of individuals and families who have turned to them for a home, a place to learn and a chance to thrive as active, empowered citizens in the community. Over the years, they learned "when people are given the opportunity to learn skills and tap into their innate abilities, a powerful transformation is triggered that benefits the individuals, their immediate community and society as a whole."

Working as a board member for the last 20 years, Lloyd came to the organization asking the hard questions. She was met by the determination of the people working in the organization to succeed.

Lloyd, a mother and new grandmother, has volunteered hundreds of hours to help the organization expand its reach and impact the community. From organizing committees to rallying friends and local businesses around CA's cause, she defines what it means to be a good neighbor. Lloyd was honored with the 2011 Community Access Humanitarian Award for her selfless use of time and resources to create opportunities for people with



Community Access CEO Steve Coe, 2011 Humanitarian Award Winner Carole Darden-Lloyd and Suzanne Coley, director/artist-in-residence

mental disabilities to live productive lives without fear or stigma.

After working as a child therapist for many years, Lloyd now runs the family real estate business and is a consultant for Spoonbread Inc., a successful catering company owned by her talented sister, former fashion model Norma Jean Darden. The sisters co-authored "Spoonbread & Strawberry Wine: Recipes and Reminiscences of a Family," a user-friendly cookbook that is now in its 25th edition in print. The sisters have also

appeared on TV's Food Network, on "Martha Stewart Living" and in O, the Oprah Magazine.

Capital One Bank received this year's Community Access Good Neighbor Leadership Award. Partners Henry Landsman and Steven Wecker, the principals of HLS Builders Corp., were honored with the 2011 Good Neighbor Partnership Award.

For more information about Community Access, go to www.communityaccess.org. They definitely create a platform for change.