

dUX SOUP

SUMMER 2007



"Dux" IS THE LATIN WORD FOR LEADER. DUX SOUP IS THE SEMI-REGULARLY PUBLISHED NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP BUFFALO, INC.

20 YEARS OF GROWING AND LEARNING

On November 16, 2007 Leadership Buffalo will celebrate the graduation of its twentieth group of participants from our core program which has come to be known as Class Experience. We will also celebrate the conclusion of our fifth Rising Leaders program. These successes are the result of a partnership that occurred between the Junior League of Buffalo and the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce (now known as the Buffalo Niagara Partnership) who were independently investigating community

leadership training programs in the late 1980's. They joined forces in a true collaborative nature and set to work with others developing the business plan for this venture. Because of their vision and efforts, the Western New York community has been enriched by over 1000 graduates of the Class Experience and the Rising Leaders programs as well as another 600 plus young leaders that Youth Leadership Erie County contributed.

CLASS EXPERIENCE

Class Experience brings together a diverse array of leaders from all sectors of our community who wish to enhance their understanding of the strengths, opportunities and issues facing our community and their abilities to engage in thoughtful and effective community leadership. The Class Experience begins with an overnight retreat and continues with a series of monthly day sessions. The day sessions are designed to enhance participants' understanding of issues facing our community. Each day session brings new insights into how our community functions and where people, individually and collectively, can make a difference. Their immersion in issues of local importance creates as many questions as it does answers.



PAULA LEARNING WITH HER 2007 LB CLASS

REFLECTIONS OF AN LB '07 MEMBER

When invited to join Leadership Buffalo, I was curious and excited about what kind of a group Leadership Buffalo is, who are the people that choose to belong, what the commitment is, what value I would bring to the table as well as take-away, what relationships I would make and so many other questions.

What I found, through my experience, is a very open-minded, dedicated group of people who are clearly interested in our community being the best and brightest it can be.

By addressing the widespread issues of poverty, access to healthcare, need for better education and the vast layers of government, we become change agents.

We can assist in the preservation of our diverse cultures, our unique heritage,

our natural resources and the architectural treasures of our wondrous city and surroundings.

Each of us has the ability to bring into play insightful and meaningful changes that will allow WNY to flourish and learn how we can be impactful in leadership roles.

Doors and access to people and places have been opened by Leadership Buffalo that may otherwise have been closed and great ideas have been generated through these opportunities.

The relationships that are developing through the Leadership Buffalo Class Experience are invaluable from both a professional and personal level.

People that were strangers walking in are now comfortable calling each other to ask for their insight and assistance. It is a kinship for one another that has developed, a common bond of mutual understanding, respect and consideration.

*Paula Sciuk LB '07
Director, Corporate Relations
American Cancer Society*

President **Gretchen Fierle, LB '02**
Independent Health

Secretary **Stephanie Barber, LB '88**
United Way of Buffalo &
Erie County

Treasurer **Robert Tocker, RL '05**

Treasurer-Elect
Allen "Pete" Crum, LB '02
Rand Capital Corporation

Vice President – Strategic Plan Chair
Francisco Vasquez, LB '04
People Inc.

Vice President – Marketing & Development
Jennifer Parker, LB '03
Black Capital Network LLC

Vice President – Programs
John Schmidt, LB '02
Phillips Lytle LLP

Vice Presidents – Member Activities
Kathy Egan, LB '05
Snyder Corporation
Stephen O'Neill, LB '05
Damon & Morey LLP

At-Large **Archie Amos, LB '88**
NYS Department of Civil Services
Aimee Gomlak, LB '01
Catholic Health System
Don Erb, LB '04
University at Buffalo
Christopher Jacobs
Avalon Development
Michael Keating, LB '98
Wegmans Food Markets
Charles Maclay, LB '95
next Point LLC
Ann Monroe
Community Health Foundation
of WNY and CNY
Zachary Schneider, RL '05
Schneider Digital & Buffalo
State College
David Smith, LB '90
National Fuel Gas Company
Thomas Van Nortwick, LB '92
NYS Division of Housing &
Community Renewal

Non-Voting
Deborah DiMatteo, LB '97
M&T Bank

THE LATEST ON LEADERSHIP BUFFALO



Dear LBers,
The Fourth Values Awards Luncheon was a resounding success.

Thank you to Peter Hunt, Patty O'Brien, LaToya Cunningham, Shelly Hiller and the Planning Committee for all their efforts. Over 450 people attended, every class was represented and we raised over \$50,000 to support



Leadership Buffalo programs.

Forty six students graduated from the Youth Leadership Erie County program on May 20, 2007 at the Pierce Arrow Transportation Museum. The students delighted their parents and other guests as they generously shared their thoughts and reactions to the program. It is truly astounding to observe the growth in the students from September to May. The 2007/2008 class has been selected and represents over thirty school districts from across Erie County and will begin their program in September.

Shortly we will begin our active recruitment for the 2008 Class Experience and Rising Leaders programs. Experience has taught us that the highest quality applicants come from personal referrals. You, as a graduate of the programs, know who the best candidates are and can share most succinctly the case for embarking on the LB journey. Our goal is to have 100 qualified applications for Class Experience in our offices by September 20th and 40 qualified

applications for Rising Leaders by Thursday, October 18th.

And we need your help. We will be implementing several new strategies including providing an electronic version of the application to all candidates. Second, each class has been asked to host informal individual "recruitment receptions" for prospective candidates. If your class has not yet organized one, take the lead. All you need is a time and place. Please let the office know how we can support your efforts.

Third, every attempt will be made to contact each candidate individually. If you have shared the name of a candidate, please be sure to reach out to them in August to answer any questions they may have and to encourage them to complete the application.

Again, applications for Class Experience are due Thursday, September 20th. Rising Leaders applications are due Thursday, October 18th.

Leadership Buffalo will celebrate its 20th year on October 20th with a speaker and all class reunion. Frances Hesselbein, President of Leader to Leader Institute (formerly the Drucker Institute), will join us at the Albright Knox Art Gallery to share her thoughts on leadership and change. We will then adjourn to the Sculpture Court to celebrate our 20th year. Please mark the date and watch your email for further details.

We thank you for all your support of our efforts to enhance the leadership of our community.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Fierle
President

Mary Jo Hunt
Exec. Director

OFFICIAL RECRUITMENT FOR 2008

The official recruitment for Class Experience 2008 and Rising Leaders 2008 begins August 1, 2007. Applications will be available on the website www.leadershipbuffalo.org or by

contacting the office at 849-2626 ext. 17. Class Experience applications are due September 20, 2007 by 5:00 pm and Rising Leader applications are due October 18, 2007 by 5:00 pm.

RISING LEADERS

Leadership Buffalo's Rising Leaders program brings together up-and-coming 21st century leaders, ages 22 - 35, from diverse backgrounds and perspectives in order to increase their ability to be effective agents of change. Rising Leaders class members will be able to become

more influential in important decisions facing the region by developing an in-depth knowledge of the critical issues facing Western New York, understanding and practicing effective collaborative leadership, sharing hands-on experiences, and by networking with other leaders.

REFLECTIONS OF A RISING LEADER



NICOLE AND CLASSMATES AT THE RISING LEADERS OPENING RETREAT.

Last October I was sitting at my desk thinking about how to become better at my job. I had some experience meeting with other leaders in the corporate and nonprofit world, yet wanted to learn more about being as confident and collected as they were. It was then I remembered a program called Leadership Buffalo. Little did I know when I signed up how much more the program would be than just 'leadership.'

Since our initial retreat at Beaver Hollow (which initially I didn't want to lose my weekend for), I've been more enlightened about all Buffalo has to offer, as well as what I have to offer. Through our tours and lectures and readings I've learned not only about leadership, but also about the hidden jewels of our city, as well as forged friendships with peers who understand the pains and rewards young careers have to offer.

Without Rising Leaders, I wouldn't have known that half of these opportunities in Buffalo existed. It's allowed me to speak my mind in front of prominent

Buffalonians, bringing them to my level, and having them listen to what I want for the future of my city.

Mostly, I look forward to seeing my friends in the program. We are usually all so busy that it's hard to find time outside of RL, but during classtime we have the opportunity to get together and discuss not only our personal lives, but what we foresee for the city. Never in my life have I met such talented, energetic, intelligent, and creative forces.

I recently lost my job, and one of my first concerns was losing my place in LB. I was assured that just because my work had failed me, the group wouldn't, and of course I'd be allowed to stay. LB has kept me excited and engaged about my city, and driven me even more to stay and work here while doing everything I can for this place. I can only hope what I learn in LB will help me to achieve these goals. It certainly has provided me with the foundation for all that I dream.

Nicole Schuman, RL '07

- Class of 1988* **Robert Murphy**, D'Youville College
Sr. Judith Justinger, Diocese of Buffalo
- Class of 1989* **Kate Bukowski**, M&T Bank
- Class of 1990* **Susan Bring Tobe**
Judi Spear, The Spear Group, Inc.
- Class of 1991* **Gayle Barton**, The United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
- Class of 1992* **Kristin Kight**, KALEIDA Health
John Davanzo, Mercy Hospital
- Class of 1993* **Anthony Latona**, Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP
- Class of 1994* **Amy Stromberg**, Attorney at Law
Tom Giles, Citizens Bank
- Class of 1995* **Barbara Miller-Williams**, Buffalo Police Department
- Class of 1996* **Becky Landy**, MJ & Associates
- Class of 1997* **Courtney Walsh**, University at Buffalo
- Class of 1998* **Jeff McArthur**, HSBC Bank USA
- Class of 1999* **David Granville**, City of Buffalo – Dept. of Economic Development
- Class of 2000* **Max E. Donatelli, Jr.**, Baker Victory Services
- Class of 2001* **Katie Hoffman**, The Hoffman Group
Maura Cohen, RMC Marketing Services
- Class of 2002* **Claude Imagna**, EDS
- Class of 2003* **Paul Muck**, Jones Lang LaSalle
Kelly Tyler, NYS Energy Research & Development Authority
- Class of 2004* **Kathleen Christy**, The BISON Scholarship
- Class of 2005* **Stephen O'Neill**, Damon & Morey LLP
Tina Stenhouse, Moog Inc.
- Class of 2006* **Anthony Billoni**, The Park School of Buffalo
Todd Bushway, Colucci & Gallaher, PC
- Class of 2007* **Holly Bowser**, Catholic Health System
Steven Harvey, Every Person Influences Children, Inc.
- Rising Leaders 2004* **Collin Gehl**, Buffalo Museum of Science
- Rising Leaders 2005 B* **Caroline Roeder**, People Inc.
- Rising Leaders 2006* **Amity Lippes**, Time Warner Cable
- Rising Leaders 2007* **Carl Millender II**, Legend
Daniel Weinrieb, SourceOne Professionals

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NEWSLETTER CREATIVE SERVICES
PROVIDED BY FLYNN & FRIENDS, INC.

LUNCHEON EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Once again the Fourth Annual Leadership Buffalo Values Awards Luncheon honored seven individuals in the community who have exemplified the core values of service, diversity, inclusion and openness to change in their personal and professional lives. The numbers say it all! More than 500 guests attended this year's event to congratulate, honor and hear about these great leaders in our community. This year a new award, the Leadership Impact Award, was presented to three individuals that worked collectively on a very significant project that had a tremendous impact on everyone in Western New York. Again, we say congratulations to the following honorees:

NANCY BLASCHAK – SERVICE

Our recipient of the Service Award, Nancy Blaschak, LB '88, reminded us how important community service is in America, especially in these days and times. She said that we are "at a time when this country needs to unite around something rather than continue to focus on our differences, community service is certainly something upon which we can all agree." Introduced by Thelma Roberts, LB '98 Nancy spoke about the positive influence of her role models, her parents. She said their busy lives were never too busy to volunteer their help. Nancy has shown her commitment with American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter by creating programs to help meet the needs of the community above and beyond that of emergency services. In addition, Nancy also extends her service to Gilda's Club, the Western New York 211 Planning Committee and the United Way Agency Executives Association.

ELLEN GOLDSTEIN – DIVERSITY

Ellen Goldstein, LB '05, introduced by Dr. Robert Perelli, LB '89, said she embraces the LB core value of diversity by "helping the general community to

understand Judaism, and as a member of a minority holding the door open for the other minority members so they can walk through and sit at a table, talking with everyone." As the marketing and community relations director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Ellen has received local and national recognition for her efforts in bringing Judaism into the mainstream community, as well as bringing the Jewish community into contact with other religious and ethnic groups.

DR. YVONNE MINOR-RAGAN – INCLUSION

Max Donatelli, LB '00, introduced our honoree for inclusion, Dr. Yvonne Minor-Ragan. As principal of Westminster Community Charter School, Dr. Ragan has illustrated inclusion by developing a program that discusses critical community issues, including parental involvement, student goal setting and affecting positive and systematic change.

She said that inclusion "taps into the multitude of talent, experiences and perspectives. It results in ownership, accountability, and team building.

These are the key ingredients for achievement." With the support from M&T Bank, staff, parents and students, she has taken the school from being one of Buffalo's lowest performing neighborhood schools to one of New York State Education Department's famed "Most Improved School."

THOMAS E. BAKER – OPENNESS TO CHANGE

Beverly Foit-Albert, recipient of last year's award for openness to change, presented this year's award to Thomas E. Baker. As past president and director, The John R. Oishei Foundation and first chair of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority, Mr. Baker has seen many changes in our community. When referring to change, he reminds us that, "instead of waiting for change to be imposed on us, we need to initiate the kind of change we want to see for ourselves." This explains his reputation as one of the key leaders in the response to the needs of the Western New York community. He also says that instead of fearing change, it should be embraced. "We have to stop focusing on why we can't do something, but instead, focus on how we can get it done."



THE HONOREES AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP BUFFALO VALUES AWARDS LUNCHEON.

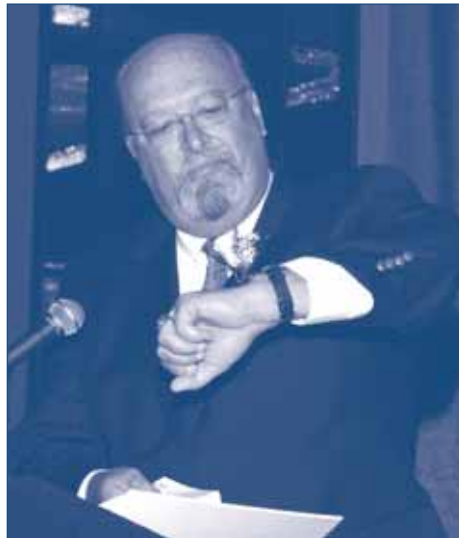
YOUTH LEADERSHIP LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

CARL PALADINO, MICHAEL POWERS
AND DAVID SWARTS –
LEADERSHIP IMPACT

Michael Powers, Partner, Phillips Lytle, LLP accepted the Leadership Impact award from Leadership Buffalo board president, Gretchen Fierle on behalf of the other two honorees, Carl Paladino, CEO, Ellicott Development Company and David Swarts, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. These gentlemen came together with one goal in mind: to eliminate the toll barriers at Ogden Street. Their vision, dedication and working with others in the community were instrumental in achieving this goal on October 30, 2006. This monumental event will have a remarkable economic impact in the community by putting \$11 million per year back into the WNY economy. Mr. Powers stated that he “believes this crusade reveals that optimism can defeat pessimism, provided the optimistic are willing to persevere.”



A VIEW OF THE CROWD AT THE AWARDS LUNCHEON



TOM BAKER WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO RECEIVE HIS AWARD.

THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AND SUPPORTERS OF THE VALUES AWARDS LUNCHEON HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR. NOT ONLY WAS THE EVENT WELL ATTENDED, BUT MEMBERS FROM ALL 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP BUFFALO CLASSES WERE REPRESENTED. THIS YEAR'S CHAIRS, PETER F. HUNT LB '88 AND PATRICIA O'BRIEN LB '95, STATED THAT MORE THAN \$50,000 WAS RAISED TO SUPPORT LEADERSHIP BUFFALO PROGRAMS. WHAT A WAY TO CELEBRATE OUR 20TH YEAR!

UPDATES TO 2007 ROSTER

Inadvertently, Dan Carey, Class of 2002, was left off the In Memoriam page.

Nancy La Tulip
Senior Vice President, Community Lending
Greater Buffalo Savings
2421 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214
Phone: 961-1930
Email: nlatulip@gbsb.com

WNED-AM 970 and Leadership Buffalo present



Summer 2007

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007

SPEAKER: JAKE HALPERN,
AUTHOR OF *FAME JUNKIES*
WNED STUDIOS, 12 NOON

Fall 2007

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

SPEAKER: JUAN WILLIAMS, AUTHOR AND
NPR SENIOR CORRESPONDENT
WNED STUDIOS, 12 NOON

CLASS NOTES – NEWS, UPDATES & INFO

CLASS OF '88

Peter Hunt was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

CLASS OF '89

David Edmunds Jr. has been appointed to a three-year term on the independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission for the Eighth Judicial District.

CLASS OF '92

John Davanzo has been named fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation's leading professional society for health care leaders.

John Frederick was a 2007 nominee of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County's Community Hero Awards.

Joseph Gentile was recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Education.

CLASS OF '93

Paul Ciminelli was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

Susan Grelick was installed as president for Buffalo/Amherst Business and Professional Women.

CLASS OF '94

Brenda McDuffie was elected president of the National Urban League's Association of Executives, made of 102 local affiliate presidents.

Eugene Meeks has been elected to the People Inc. board of directors.

Sharon Porcellio has been appointed to serve on the Fourth Judicial Department Judicial Screening Committee.

CLASS OF '95

Patricia Barry was elected president of Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services Foundation, Inc. board of directors.

James Boldt received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Niagara University College of Business Administration Accounting Society at its annual banquet.

Peter Cammarata was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

Donna DeCarolis has been named president of National Fuel Gas Company and a member of the board of directors for Horizon Power Inc. and Horizon LFG Inc.

Thomas Pleban has been elected to a three-year term to the Cradle Beach board of directors.

CLASS OF '96

Jill Bond has been promoted to senior vice president and general counsel at Rich Products Corp.

Ronald Krukowski was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

CLASS OF '97

Paul Kolkmeier received the Chairman's Award from the Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce at its Awards for Business Excellence.

Gerald Murak's company, Murak & Associates LLC, was recognized as a Small Business finalist of the Business Ethics Awards sponsored by Business First.

Steven Weiss was appointed co-chair of the Low Income & Affordable Housing Committee, a subcommittee of the NY State Bar Association Real Estate Committee.

CLASS OF '98

Cynthia Firey was re-elected and **Denise Hanlon** was elected to Kevin Guest House's board of directors.

Glenn Pawloski was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

CLASS OF '99

Stephan Bell has been appointed to the Buffalo Urban League board of directors.

Mark Brand has been appointed to the Community Impact Council, a sub-committee of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

Michelle Mazzone has formed a new company, American Capital Real Estate.

CLASS OF '00

David Nasca was recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Banking & Finance.

CLASS OF '01

Sally Crowley has joined the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo as communications director.

James Domagalski was recognized in late April as Orchard Park Republican of the Year for 2007.

James Keefe was recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Banking & Finance.

Gustavo Lima was honored with the Professional Achievement Award from Hispanics United of Buffalo, Inc.

Gerald Mead was appointed to the Visual Arts Academy Advisory Board for the West Seneca Central School District.

Sylvia Nadler received the William B. Hoyt Memorial Advocacy Award for commitment to advocacy by Child & Family Services.

CLASS OF '02

Joseph Abdallah has been elected to the People Inc. board of directors. Joseph recently graduated from the University at Buffalo's Executive MBA program. He also has been recognized by Be A Friend: Big Brothers/Big Sisters for his lifelong contributions to mentoring with the inaugural Friend of Youth award.

Sean Beiter was elected president of the board for the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Niagara Frontier Council.

Jay Hennig has been re-elected to a three year term on the Buffalo Museum of Science board of directors.

Laura Monte has joined Hodgson Russ LLP as a partner in the real estate and finance group.

Frank Polino has been named interim executive vice president, consumer banking at First Niagara Bank.

Lora Warkentin was installed as second vice president for Buffalo/Amherst Business and Professional Women.

CLASS OF '03

Marc Adler was elected president of the UB Alumni Association board of directors.

John Ciminelli renewed his position on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns Foundation.

Susan Feneck has accepted a position in international operations with the BSC Group responsible for the renovation of the Statler Towers.

Carol Kostyniak has been appointed as Secretary of Education for the Diocese of Buffalo by Bishop Kmiec.

Jennifer Parker is a newly elected director on the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo board of directors.

Robert Romeo was recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Banking & Finance.

CLASS OF '04

Susan Asquith was re-elected to the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services Foundation, Inc. board of directors.

CLASS OF '05

Janet Barnes' firm Stand Advertising won a national gold award in the Service Industry Advertising Awards and three merit awards for TV, newspaper and logo design.

Richanne Mankey received her doctorate in adult education from Columbia University Teachers College.

CLASS OF '06

Peter Anderson has been appointed board vice president of Explore & More Children's Museum's board of directors.

Celeste Curley was elected to the 2007 board of directors of Gilda's Club Western New York.

Kofi Fynn-Aikins received an award from the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs.

Tamiaka Johnson was recognized as a graduate of the CSTEP GEM program.

Sarah Mugel has been promoted to general counsel for National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp., the utility segment.

Robert Roeder and **Caroline Hassett Roeder** RL '05B are the proud parents of a baby boy, Ian Richard William Roeder born on June 6th.

Richard Suchan was recognized for his leadership in the fight against cancer at Roswell Parks Cancer Institute's All Star Night gala.

YLEC GRADUATION

CLASS OF '07

Jennifer Buehler has been promoted to vice president/human resources manager at Greater Buffalo Savings Bank.

Kristi Hunt has been elected vice president of education of the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association board of directors.

Linda Mallia was recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Banking & Finance.

Paula Sciuk has been inducted into the Buffalo Society of Artists.

RISING LEADERS '05B

Caroline Hassett Roeder and **Robert Roeder** LB '06 are the proud parents of Ian Richard William Roeder born on June 6th.

RISING LEADERS '07

Joseph Hanna was honored by the American Bar Association naming his article among the best articles published by the association's magazine.

Kathryn Tarquin was promoted to manager, marketing and communication at Stampede.

EXPERIENCE BUFFALO (FIRST IMPRESSIONS)

Alphonso O'Neil-White is a newly elected director of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. Alphonso was co-chair of the 2007 Scholarship Gala to benefit the All-Honors Program at Buffalo State College.

Thomas Kucharski was recognized in Business First's Who's Building Western New York.

YLEC

Craig Bucki has been hired by Phillips Lytle LLP as an associate. Craig has been elected secretary of the Western New York Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

2007 Athena Award Nominees

Donna DeCarolis LB '95
Lavera Johnson LB '02
Margaret Paroski LB '94

2007 YWCA Leader Luncheon Nominees

Lana Benatovich LB '89
Carol Cassell LB '95
Kristi Hunt LB '07
Jessica Pirro LB '03
Sharon Townsend LB '92



MEMBERS OF THE 2007 YLEC CLASS ARE PANELISTS ON EDUCATION DAY OF 2007 CLASS EXPERIENCE.



DAVID STEBBINS, BUFFALO URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORP., TALKS WITH THE 2007 YLEC CLASS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DAY.



KIMBERLY TRENT AND DON ERB LB '04 AT YLEC GRADUATION.



Leadership Buffalo 20th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007
ALBRIGHT KNOX ART GALLERY
4:00 PM

SPEAKER: FRANCES HESSELBEIN, LEADER TO LEADER INSTITUTE

**Watch your e-mails and the Leadership Buffalo web site for more details.*

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SUPPORTERS!



Founded in 1911, Hunt Real Estate Corporation has grown into the largest family owned real estate company in the area. With 24 residential and two commercial real estate offices strategically located throughout Buffalo Niagara, Rochester and Syracuse, it has become a leader in the industry with more than 95 years experience in developing consumer-oriented real estate products and services.

Through the real estate firm and its affiliates, the organization provides all of the services that make buying, selling and owning all kinds of real estate easier and more satisfying. All real estate and homeownership services are available to consumers on the Internet at www.r-house.com.



The Buffalo News is an organization of more than 900 Western New Yorkers who are committed to bringing their friends and neighbors news every day that is timely, accurate, honest, and fair.

We believe that being a good paper also means being a good citizen. For that reason, we either initiate or are asked to help support many causes throughout the region each year.

Community service is an important part of our commitment to Western New York. We often lend our support to events and organizations that may impact one or all of the following areas: education, civic involvement, community life, and arts and cultural life.

By assisting those who address specific community needs we feel we can help to enhance the quality of life in WNY.



Independent Health's mission is to improve the health and well-being of those who live in the communities we serve. We accomplish this through our efforts with our physicians and providers to improve access to quality care.

Through our Foundation, we offer education and outreach programs, including Healthy Options, which was developed with area restaurants to provide heart-smart menu offerings. Our "Good for the Neighborhood" program shares messages about the importance of seeing a doctor regularly, the benefits of exercise, and the ill effects caused by smoking.

Independent Health is consistently rated among the nation's top health plans for customer service and member satisfaction. In consecutive years, J.D. Power and Associates recognized us as a Distinguished Health Plan for providing "An Outstanding Member Experience." Our products and services have been ranked among the best in the U.S. by *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *First for Women* and *Managed Healthcare*.



Phillips Lytle LLP is a full-service law firm with the farthest geographic reach of any law firm in NYS. Because New York is so diverse, companies that do business here need a law firm that recognizes the nuances of each area. The firm's practice is built around our clients' foremost legal needs: corporate, commercial, family wealth planning, trial, and labor, employment, and immigration. Each practice group is comprised of highly experienced, client-focused attorneys. This model enables the firm to address the varied needs of our clients – from Fortune 500 companies to small, family-run firms.

Phillips Lytle puts a strong emphasis on being a good corporate citizen. Therefore, we support more than 350 community/national organizations each year, and our attorneys serve on more than 200 boards.

The firm recognizes the importance of Leadership Buffalo's efforts in WNY. Among our attorneys are many LB graduates, current and former board members, legal counsel, and donors. That's why Phillips Lytle is honored to serve as a Diamond Sponsor of the Annual LB Values Awards. We look forward to the continued success of this signature event.



Manufacturers and Traders Bank opened its doors at 2 East Swan Street in Buffalo, N.Y. for the first time on August 29, 1856 with \$200,000 in capital. More than a century later, M&T Bank Corporation is one of the country's 20 largest banks, with more than \$55 billion in assets, 14,000 employees and 650 branch offices in six states plus the District of Columbia. M&T was recently cited by *Forbes* magazine as one of the best-managed companies in America, and by *Fortune* magazine as one of the nation's most admired super-regional banks.

M&T supports organizations that strengthen Buffalo and Western New York, and the bank is recognized locally and nationally as a philanthropic leader. M&T contributes millions of dollars – and thousands of volunteer hours – to hundreds of local non-profit organizations. More than 2,600 M&T employees volunteer their time in support of more than 3,700 community groups, and serve on the boards of more than 900 organizations. For the second straight year, M&T Bank was ranked by *BusinessWeek* magazine as one of the 10 most generous companies in the U.S.