

# EXPONENTS

*Annual Gala*

*Vision*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025**

**E-JOURNAL**

# GREETINGS

## FRIENDS OF EXPONENTS,

Tonight it is our profound honor to welcome you to Exponents' Annual Gala. For over 35 years, our organization has stood as a beacon of hope and transformation in the New York area, dedicated to the belief that everyone deserves a chance at wellness, recovery, and dignity. It is because of supporters, sponsors and friends like you that we have not only survived the challenges of the past, but we are ready to meet the uncertain headwinds of the future. As we gather in this beautiful space, we celebrate not only these achievements but also the extraordinary resilience of those we serve and the unwavering commitment of those who make our work possible. Your presence here is not merely attendance at an event; it is a powerful statement of solidarity with our mission and a testament to what we can accomplish when we join together in service of our most vulnerable neighbors. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of the Exponents family.

Samantha, Joe & Regina



# HONORING

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## OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

### DEBBIE PANTIN



This award recognizes a tireless leader who has made exceptional contributions to the field while demonstrating an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others within the field of substance use and addictions.

For more than three decades, Debbie has worked in the substance and mental health treatment, housing & homeless, and healthcare fields. She began her career as a social worker and rose to executive positions. Leveraging her leadership skills, she instituted organizational changes that redefined agencies. She strategically expanded services, adding substance use treatment facilities (residential, outpatient, ambulatory detoxification & mental health), housing and special projects. She has held senior leadership positions, including CEO of Outreach and VIP Community Services. We are proud to present Debbie with her award.



# HONORING

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## INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

### MAIA SZALAVITZ

This Award celebrates a trailblazing thought leader for their career of service to the underserved communities of New York City. This year, we are honored to recognize literary science journalist, Maia Szalavitz.

Maia is the author, most recently, of *Undoing Drugs: How Harm Reduction is Changing the Future of Drugs and Addiction*, which is the first history of harm reduction in drug policy. Her *New York Times* bestseller, *Unbroken Brain: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction* wove together neuroscience and social science with her personal experience of addiction. It won the 2018 media award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times* and has written for numerous publications including *TIME*, *Wired*, *the Nation*, *Vice* and *Scientific American*. We are thrilled to present Maia with her award.

# Vision

*We envision a New York City  
where all individuals and communities have  
access to the resources needed to obtain  
optimal health and achieve economic security.*

*"We meet them where they're at, but  
we don't leave them there!"*

**EXPONENTS** Improving health. Igniting hope.

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Regina Edwards  
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**Congratulations Exponents  
on 35 years of supporting  
New Yorkers in need.**

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The Exponents Annual Benefit

We Congratulate Debbie Pantin and Maia  
Szalavitz for their inspiring efforts and  
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# **Samaritan Daytop Village**

*congratulates  
the honorees of*  
**Exponents'  
Annual Gala:  
Vision**

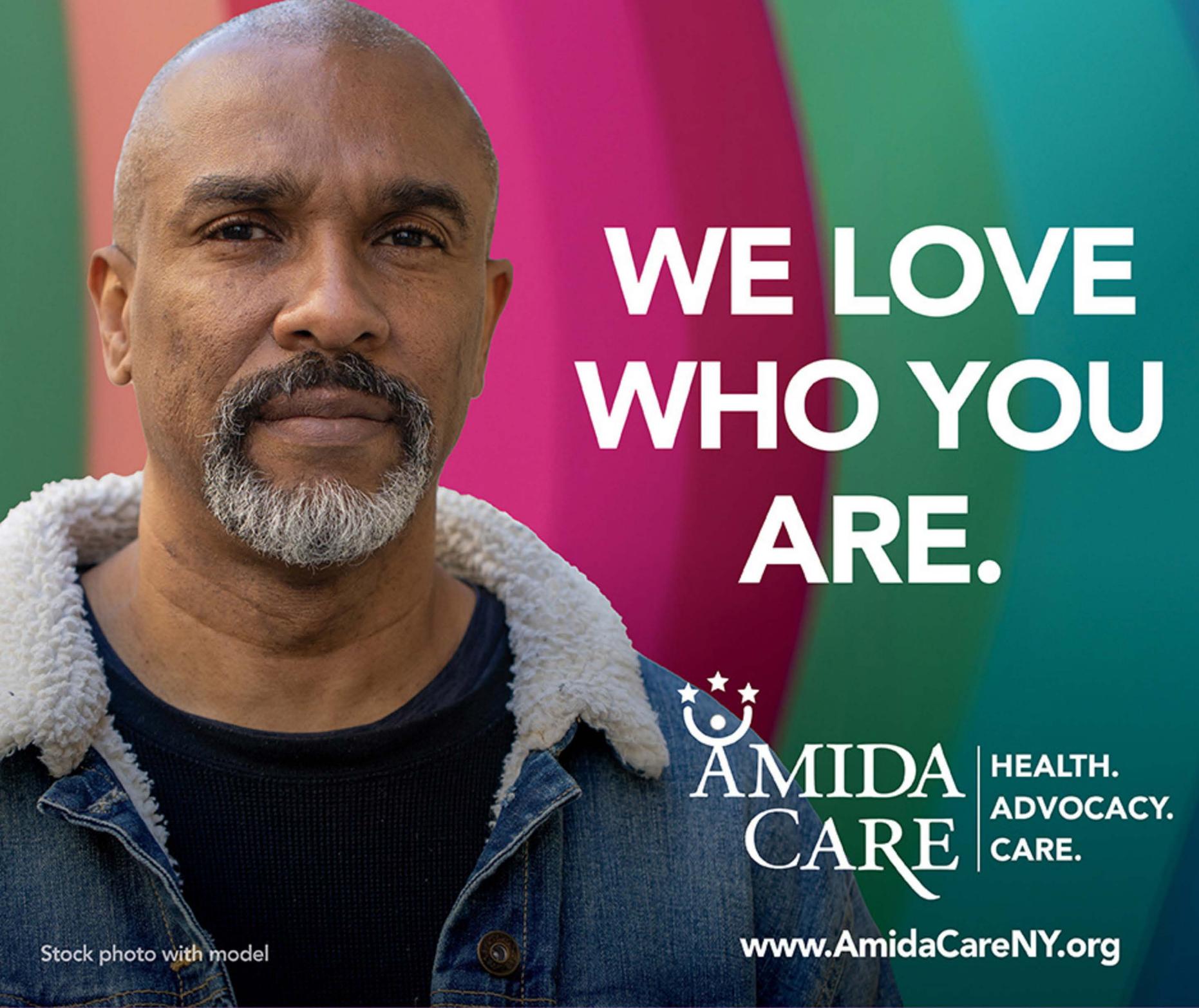
**OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
Debbie Pantin, President & CEO, Outreach

**INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
Maia Szalavitz, Bestselling Author &  
Contributing Opinion Writer,  
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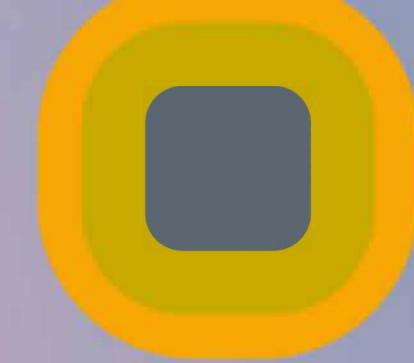


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