



Volunteers of America®


UPSTATE NEW YORK

6TH ANNUAL GALA

PAST, PRESENT & POSSIBILITIES

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

APRIL 16, 2026

Presented by **BANK OF AMERICA** 





We're proud to support Volunteers of America Upstate New York

Bank of America proudly supports Volunteers of America Upstate New York and applauds your dedication to the Rochester community. Your compassionate approach to providing essential services makes a meaningful difference every day.

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/rochester

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Schedule of Events

5:30 p.m. - Event Begins!

- Enjoy a variety of stationed food options.
- Two complimentary drink tickets provided; cash bar available. Be sure to try the signature drink!
- Visit our Impact Tables to learn more about VOA's programs.
- Check out the photo booth and audio guest book.
- Select an envelope at our donation wall to help us reach our fundraising goal.
- Bid on the great selection of silent auction packages.

6:15 p.m. - Program & Speakers

- Opening remarks by News10NBC's Deanna Dewberry
- Impact Video
- Enna Pietrantoni, Chair of VOAUPNY's Board of Directors
- Yversha Roman, Monroe County Legislator, District 26
- Mayor Malik Evans, City of Rochester
- New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney, 56th District
- Awards and Recognitions
 - Community Impact Award
 - Collaboration in Caring Award
 - Heart & Hands Award
- Colleen Matteson, President, Bank of America Rochester and Presenting Sponsor
- Dr. Junior Dillion, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Upstate New York

7:00 p.m. - Live music by The Dawgs

Thank you to Steve Ball, Chrissy Ferreracchio, Lou Germano, Ryan McNally, and Roy Stein.

8:00 p.m. - Event Concludes

Thank you for your support!
We hope to see you again next year.



About VOA

At Volunteers of America, we are dedicated to restoring hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging for people facing challenges. Our mission is to foster self-reliance and stability by delivering essential services in **housing, education, and health**.

Each year, we serve more than 10,000 people in Upstate New York. Our vision is to provide compassionate care today to create thriving communities tomorrow.

We do this through holistic person-centered solutions that remove barriers and promote housing stability, greater access to resources, and improve financial well-being.



Impact Tables

Visit our Impact Tables to learn more about VOA's programs.

Shelter services addresses the needs of unhoused families and individuals through emergency shelters and Code Blue shelters. We also provide extensive on-site supportive services, including case management, to help people move towards more stable housing.

The VOA **Children's Center** provides child care and educational programs focused on early childhood development and school readiness through play-based learning for children ages 6 weeks up to 12 years of age. We provide infant and toddler daycare, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and after-school and enriched full-day summer programs for school-age children.

VOA provides a continuum of supportive **housing programs**, including permanent housing for individuals and families who have experienced homelessness; senior housing; and specialized housing for Veterans. In addition, we offer reentry housing and services for men and women exiting incarceration.



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MAKE MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

I Remember Mama

Volunteers of America honors mothers across generations who may be isolated, separated from family, or struggling to rebuild their lives.

With your support, VOA will deliver gift bags and flowers to women in our community as a simple reminder that they are seen, valued, and remembered on Mother's Day.



Donate online at voaupny.org/IRM





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Emcee: Deanna Dewberry



Deanna Dewberry is a multi-award winning anchor and investigative reporter at News10NBC team with three decades of experience in television news. She anchors the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. newscast and also reports on consumer advocacy issues.

Deanna is a four-time cancer survivor and is actively involved in community activities that enrich the lives of cancer survivors and promote research. She has received numerous awards and recognitions including The New York Broadcasters Association and the Associated Press.



The Dawgs

The DAWGS are an award winning five-piece rock and roll party band based in Rochester, playing classic-to-current, high energy party music guaranteed to get any crowd on their feet! The band has been performing throughout the Greater Rochester New York area since 2017, delighting audiences and helping to raise over \$225,000 for some of the area's most impactful nonprofits. The DAWGS have never taken compensation for their fundraising event performances.



Thank you to Chrissy Ferreracchio (Lead Vocals), Lou Germano (Guitar), Steve Ball (Bass), and Roy Stein (Drums), and Ryan McNally (Keyboards, Sax and vocals).

Thank you to

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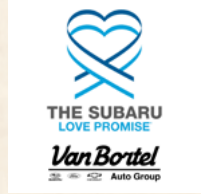
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Awards

Community Impact Award

Through the Subaru Loves to Help program in partnership with Operation Warm, **Van Bortel Automotive Group** has brought warmth and dignity for the third consecutive year to children at the VOA Children's Center and those staying in our emergency family shelters by delivering brand new winter coats proving that being a successful business also means being a compassionate neighbor.



Collaborating in Care Award

Regional Health Reach shares our belief that not having a home should never mean going without quality healthcare. Through their partnership, we've been able to provide expanded access to health care on-site at our shelters and housing programs.



Heart & Hands Award

For nearly nine years, **Phyllis Robinson** has been a valued member of the VOA Children's Center. Under her guidance as lead teacher, her universal pre-kindergarten classroom is more than just a learning space but a nurturing environment where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Ms. Robinson leads with patience, consistency, and heart and and inspires both her students and colleagues every day.

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HIKE TO END HOMELESSNESS

SAVE THE DATE

September 2026

Join us for a family-friendly community walk to raise awareness and strengthen supportive housing in our community.



voaupny.org/event/walk



Celebrating 130 Years

For 130 years, Volunteers of America has shown up in the moments that matter most. What began in 1896 as a movement rooted in compassion has grown into a vital source of housing, care, and support throughout Upstate New York. As we honor this milestone, we celebrate both our rich history and the difference being made every day.

- **1896** – Volunteers of America founded by social reformers Maud and Ballington Booth.
- **1900s** – First shelter for homeless individuals opens in Rochester.
- **1930s** – VOA establishes food/clothing distribution and vocational training programs during the Great Depression.
- **1987** – Child care programs open in Rochester.
- **1995** – VOA programs in Monroe and Broome County join together.
- **1997** – Residential Reentry Center opens in Rochester.
- **2008** – First family shelter opens.
- **2016** – Cobblestone Place Senior Housing opens for older adults.
- **2020** – VOA keeps all programs open and operating throughout COVID.
- **2023** – The Farm opens to address food insecurity.
- **2024** – Moving Forward Family Shelter opens.
- **2025** – VOA expands shelter services into Tompkins County.



Silent Auction



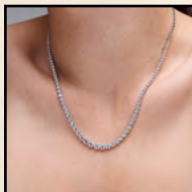
Visit VOAgala2026.ggo.bid
to bid now on silent auction items!

Auction closes at 9 p.m. on April 16.

Thank you to all the businesses
that provided an in-kind contribution.

BayCreek Paddling Center
Bert's Bikes & Fitness
Blackfriars Theatre
Breathe Yoga
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Stretch Labs
Summit Federal Credit Union
Target
The Gem Lab
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Yoga Farm Ithaca





making a difference together

We are devoted to being a good neighbor in every community we serve. That's why we're working with customers like you to help our communities thrive. Your support allows us to give more and do more to improve lives and make our neighborhoods stronger.

Thank you for helping us make a difference.

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