



NEWS RELEASE

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Trailblazer Awards Honors Three Outstanding Women of Achievement

Albany, NY– On Friday, March 3, 2023 at Wolfert's Roost Country Club, [The Women's Fund of the Capital Region](#) will recognize this year's Trailblazers and the Capital District Women's Employment Resource Center's Community Leading Star, at the [13th Trailblazers Awards Luncheon](#).

Three prominent women in the Capital Region will present a panel discussion: ***Igniting the Shero Within***. They will share stories from their lives on how they've sparked their inner "shero" in a conversation moderated by Benita Zahn, MS, DPS, CHWC. The Honorary Committee Chair is Hon. Dr. Dorcey L. Applrys. The honorees are:

- **Dr. Gladys I. Cruz**, District Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer, Questar III BOCES
- **Gwen Wright**, Interim Executive Director, New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- **Hope DeRocha**, PHR, Whole Life Leader, Transformational Coach, The Hopeistic Way

In addition, The Women's Fund will announce the new **Kathy Russom Memorial Scholarship**.

100% of the funds raised from the event will go to continuing The Women's Fund mission; to provide assistance to financially-insecure and nontraditional female students in the Greater Capital Region.

Jenn Malave, a Women's Fund Scholarship recipient and recent graduate of SUNY Schenectady County Community College, was struggling to complete her studies while working multiple jobs to get by on her own. Receiving a scholarship from The Women's Fund changed the trajectory of her life.

"When I won the scholarship, it was such a relief, such a huge burden off my shoulders. I was able to fully concentrate on my schoolwork, made the President's List, and was elected president of the Student Government Association," she said. "The work that they do really does change lives. None of the blessings that have come my way would have happened if it wasn't for their initial help."

For more details and to register, visit: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/trailblazers2023>

The Women's Fund is a program of the [Capital District Women's Employment & Resource Center \(WERC\)](#).

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