



## MHA-NYC Gala Raises Over \$1 Million And Spotlights Companies Committed to Hiring Veterans

*ABC News Correspondent Bob Woodruff Emceed Event*

*Honorees Gregory Fleming, President of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and Investment Management, and Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta Spoke Passionately About Giving Our Nation's Heroes the Support They Need to Achieve Emotional Wellness When They Return Home*

NEW YORK, NY – October 1, 2014 – The Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC) brought together over 500 business leaders, government officials, and veterans and their families to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, tonight, for its Annual Gala, “**Working for Wellness and Beyond.**” The evening was dedicated to companies and their leaders who are committed to supporting hundreds of thousands of America’s Armed Forces service members who have returned to civilian life with significant reintegration challenges, specifically those related to mental health and unemployment. The sold-out affair raised more than **\$1 million.**

The event paid tribute to longtime advocate for veterans and their families, **Gregory J. Fleming**, President of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and Investment Management, and Staff Sergeant **Salvatore A. Giunta**, **Medal of Honor Recipient**, and the first living person since the Vietnam War to receive the honor. Special Guest **Col. Jack H. Jacobs**, also a Medal of Honor Recipient, presented the award to Giunta.

MHA-NYC has long worked in partnership with veteran service organizations and other key stakeholders, including the Veterans Administration, to address the myriad of emotional and social challenges veterans face after leaving the battlefield. “Once upon a time, we thought veterans went to war, came back, and picked up neatly where they left off,” said **Kevin Danehy**, Chairman, MHA-NYC Board of Directors. “Now we know better. We know many returning veterans struggle not only with physical injuries but also with the psychological injuries of war. We need to help veterans weave back in to the fabric of daily life and re-establish caring, supportive communities,” he added.

While MHA-NYC offers specific programs that are designed to help veterans make better transitions and lead emotionally stable lives, the 50-year-old not-for-profit agency addresses the needs of all people struggling with mental health issues. “This year, MHA-NYC has provided services to over a million people in emotional distress,” said **Giselle Stolper**, President and CEO, MHA-NYC. “Wherever we see need, we identify the problem; we make communities aware of it; we convene people and advocate for resources to address it; and, we develop innovative solutions using tools that range from face-to-face services to the latest technology,” she said.

Maurice Davis, 24, a client currently enrolled in MHA-NYC’s programs, shared his personal story about being diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and how MHA-NYC was instrumental in his recovery. “Today, I’m clean, I am taking medication, and I am part of a community of people who want to see me succeed,” said Davis. “I want to go college. I want to become a psychologist so that other young people can have what I didn’t have - someone who understands mental illness and knows firsthand that it is nothing to be ashamed of.”

Event Dinner Chairs included **Frank J. Branchini**, Chairman and CEO of EmblemHealth; **Ric Clark**, Chairman and CEO of Brookfield Property Group; **Kevin Dunleavy**, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley; **Laurence D. Fink**, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock; and **Duncan Niederauer**, Former CEO of the NYSE. Other notable guests were NFL champions **Dwight Hollier** and **Mark Bavaro**; and television personalities **Cheryl Wills** of NY1, **Tamsen Fadal** and **Scott Stanford** of WPIX, and **Mike Woods** and **Teresa Priolo** of FOX Good Day New York.

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**About the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC):**

MHA-NYC is a not-for-profit organization that addresses mental health needs in New York City and across the nation. Through our three-part mission of service, advocacy and education, we identify unmet needs and develop culturally sensitive programs to improve the lives of individuals and families impacted by mental illness while promoting the importance of mental health. Our subsidiary, [Link2Health Solutions](#), is a leading innovator developing technology and communications infrastructure critical for supporting the emotional wellness of individuals and communities in need. Together, MHA-NYC and Link2Health Solutions provide high-quality services that reach more than one million people every year. For more information, visit [www.mhaofnyc.org](http://www.mhaofnyc.org).

For press information on the Annual Gala “Working for Wellness and Beyond” or the Mental Health Association of New York City, contact James Grant at JGPR: [james@jamesgrantPR.com](mailto:james@jamesgrantPR.com) or (917) 626-1300.