

Carver Foundation of Norwalk

The Child of America Gala

Friday, May 20, 2022



CARVER
FOUNDATION OF NORWALK, INC.
"Building Lifetime Achievers"

PROGRAM

FOUNDED ON VALUES BUILT ON INTEGRITY



THE RICHARD & BARBARA WHITCOMB
FOUNDATION

We gratefully support Carver and join with all those who care for the success of Norwalk's children.



EVENING PROGRAM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Welcome

DINNER AND PROGRAM

Invocation

Celebrating 84 Years
"Decades of Impact"

Dinner

Live Auction & Paddle Raise

CHILD OF AMERICA AWARD

Jerry Craft, Honoree

In Closing

Phil Butterfield

President, Board of Directors

DESSERT RECEPTION

Shorehaven Golf Club
Norwalk, CT

GALA COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

Kim & Drew Seath

Committee Members

Roz & Phil Butterfield

Susana & Brian Filanowski

Inwha Huh and Robert Kim

Jacqueline Novotny

Andy Whitcomb

PAST GALA HONOREES

In the first year of Carver's annual Child of America gala, 2002, Carver honored the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, journalist, and activist Roger Wilkins. Over the past two years, we virtually honored musician, singer, and composer José Feliciano, and Kamilah Forbes, the Executive Producer of the Apollo Theater.

Child of America honorees through the years included Sean “Diddy” Combs, songwriter, record executive, and entrepreneur; Geoffrey Canada, former President and CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone; Cynthia Thompson, National Chair of The Girl Scouts Of America; James Comer, the Maurice Faulk Professor of Child Psychiatry at Yale; Helene Gayle, CEO of CARE; The Reverend Dr. James A. Forbes, the Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York City; Debo P. Adegbile, then the Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF; and Richard Whitcomb, President Emeritus of St. Luke’s School and longtime Carver donor, volunteer, and member of Carver's Board of Directors.

GALA SPONSORS

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Kim & Drew Seath
Sound Control Technologies
Terrie & Jay Wood
Fred Wilms & Terri McCartney



MOFFLY MEDIA

JERRY CRAFT

Child of America Honoree

Jerry Craft taught graphic arts and writing to Carver kids for more than 10 years at the Carver Community Center. Jerry is an American cartoonist and children's book illustrator best known for his syndicated newspaper comic strip *Mama's Boyz* and his graphic novel *New Kid*.

Jerry is one of only a handful of syndicated African American cartoonists in the US. Jerry is the New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of the graphic novels *New Kid* and *Class Act*.

New Kid is the only book in history to win the John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature (2020), the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature (2019), and the Coretta Scott King Author Award for the most outstanding work by an African American writer (2020).

Despite attempts by lawmakers and some parents to remove his books from Texas schools, Jerry's books have actually gotten more attention thanks to the controversies. The director Prentice Penny, LeBron James' SpringHill, and Universal are teaming up to bring Jerry's *New Kid* to the big screen!



ROBBIE GORDY

Gala Auctioneer

Robbie Gordy is an Associate Vice President and Auctioneer at Christie's New York, where he works on the development and presentation of the auction house's most prestigious and high-profile consignments.

Robbie's work includes the notable collections of gallerists Ileana Sonnabend and Nina Castelli Sundell; London art dealer Leslie Waddington; President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan; groundbreaking Asian art dealer Robert Hatfield Ellsworth; legendary comedian Joan Rivers; financiers and businessmen such as John C. Whitehead and Edgar M. Bronfman; and the landmark sale of the estate of David Rockefeller.

A Fulbright Scholar and graduate of London's Courtauld Institute of Art, Robbie studied nineteenth-century European painting and sculpture, as well as international Modern and Contemporary art, before joining Christie's London salerooms.

In addition to auctioneering Christie's sales, Robbie is an enthusiastic Charity Auctioneer who works with many leading philanthropic, civic, and cultural organizations across the United States.



Welcome

May 20, 2022

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 Child of America celebration! Your generosity makes passion-driven learning possible for Carver youth. Together, we are helping Carver kids deepen their curiosity and grow into confident, self-directed adults. This evening we unite our hearts for the purpose of “Building Lifetime Achievers.”

We are proud to honor Carver’s longtime friend and advocate, Jerry Craft, and we are deeply grateful for our committee members and for the support of our many gala sponsors this year.

Now in its 84th year, Carver is operating year-round programs serving students in grades K through 12 in every school in the Norwalk Public Schools district, Side by Side Charter School, the Carver Community Center, and in the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport. Your support this evening will give Carver youth the opportunity to develop foundational life and academic skills and explore careers that inspire them.

Today’s Carver children are tomorrow’s college graduates and community role models. When students join the Carver family, Carver promises to do whatever it takes to guide them through to successful careers. Everything Carver does, and what we accomplish this evening, is designed to fulfill that promise.

Celebrating Carver youth brings out the best in us all!

Kim & Drew Seath

Kim and Drew Seath
Child of America Gala Committee Co-Chairs



The Carver Foundation of Norwalk, Inc.

Serving the community since 1938

7 Academy Street
Norwalk CT 06850
Telephone 203/838-4305
Fax 203/838-4197
www.carvernorwalk.org

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Chief Executive Officer
Novelette Peterkin

President Emeritus
Charles Burns, *Clairol, Retired*

Immediate Past President
Diana Napier, *The Workplace*

May 20, 2022

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Carver Board of Directors, our inspired gala committee and generous sponsors, our dedicated staff and volunteers, our faithful alumni, and our amazing students and their families, thank you for joining us this evening!

It is our privilege to honor Jerry Craft with our Child of America award this year. This recognition follows the many prestigious awards Jerry has received for his important literary works for children, including his many years of inspired service to our youth at the Carver Community Center.

The Child of America gala reflects our deep belief in the importance of education and the success and well-being of all students. Thank you for generously answering the call for increased philanthropic investments that will help our young people, families, and schools continue to recover from the COVID19 pandemic. Your support this evening helps us to reimagine and strengthen our work, provide the resources needed so that every student can be successful, and helps us to seize the many exciting opportunities ahead.

We are committed to ensuring that an education beyond high school is accessible and affordable for Carver scholars. We are creating stronger college and career pathways between our K-12 programs, our students' two- and four-year colleges and universities, and our many workforce partners such as Norwalk Hospital.

Thank you for your vital part in "Building Lifetime Achievers" as we celebrate our achievements this evening with joy and as we look with confidence to the work yet to be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Novelette Peterkin
Chief Executive Officer





CITY OF NORWALK
Office of the Mayor
Harry W. Rilling

hrilling@norwalkct.org
www.norwalkct.org

P: 203-854-7701 / F: 203-854-7939

125 East Avenue
Post Office Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856-5125

May 20, 2022

Dear Friends,

As Mayor of the City of Norwalk, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Child of America gala.

This gala celebrates the City of Norwalk because each year the Carver Foundation of Norwalk reaches into every Norwalk neighborhood with its excellent afterschool, summer, and community programs. Carver operates in every school in the Norwalk Public Schools district, Side by Side Charter School, and in the Carver Community Center. Carver's programming aligns with in-school curricula because each school's daytime certified teachers lead Carver programs.

I applaud Carver's staff, volunteers, program partners, donors, and especially Carver's amazing students and families for demonstrating such remarkable diversity and for helping to sustain the spirit of inclusivity that defines our great city.

On behalf of the City of Norwalk, congratulations to this year's Child of America honoree, Norwalk resident Jerry Craft. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful celebration this evening and to Carver's continued success.

Sincerely,


Harry W. Rilling
Mayor

SENATOR BOB DUFF
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Twenty-fifth District
Norwalk & Darien



State of Connecticut
SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
Capitol: 860-240-8600
Home: 203-840-1333
Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov
www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov

May 20, 2022

Friends and Guests of the Carver Foundation
7 Academy Street
Norwalk, CT 06850

Dear Friends and Guests of the Carver Foundation,

It is with great pleasure that I lend my support to the Carver Foundation's 2022 Child of America Gala celebration. I share your excitement in gathering in person for the first time in several years. Your involvement here makes a direct impact on the lives of area children and I thank you for taking time out to help.

Tonight, we are honored by the presence of Carver's own Jerry Craft, the award-winning artist who worked for a decade teaching right here in Norwalk. We stand in awe of your accomplishments and look upon you with pride. Welcome back.

Thank you for including me in this special night. I wish the Carver Foundation success this year and for the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Duff".

Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader



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HUMAN SERVICES

May 20, 2022

Novelette Peterkin | CEO
The Carver Foundation of Norwalk
7 Academy St.
Norwalk, Connecticut 06850

Dear Novelette,

As state representative for Norwalk and Darien, one of my deepest pleasures has been to witness and celebrate the many successes of The Carver Foundation over the years.

The Carver Foundation — founded in 1938 — has been true to its mission to close opportunity gaps and make sure students graduate on time from high school, prepared for college and careers. Enthusiastic parent support and community engagement is the foundation of your success. Believing in and supporting students to achieve not only their potential, but also their dreams is inspirational.

Running collaborative programs in twenty-one Norwalk schools assures all students the opportunity to learn and achieve. Each time I visit, I can feel the positive energy and compassion in supporting all Carver scholars. The Carver Foundation holds the bar high for themselves and their students with great success each year.

Sending lots of good spirit to you and your team for many years of joyful accomplishments!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Terrie'.

Thank you for your
support this evening!

Every day Carver students prove that
they can succeed in school and life
when presented with the right
opportunities and support.

Roz and Phil
Butterfield



CHILD OF AMERICA

celebration

Congratulations to the Carver community
and to honoree Jerry Craft!

ROD JOHNSON

DIVERSITY. INCLUSION. EQUALITY.

Ideals we truly live by.



Diageo congratulates Carver and Jerry Craft
for your work in the community.

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GE Capital is proud to support the Carver Foundation in its mission to help children reach their greatest potential by providing educational, social and recreational programs in a positive, safe and fun environment.



Because Caring Matters



Norwalk Hospital is proud to join the Carver Foundation of Norwalk, Inc. in honoring the achievements of cartoonist, children's book illustrator and former Carver teacher, Jerry Craft.

nuvancehealth.org





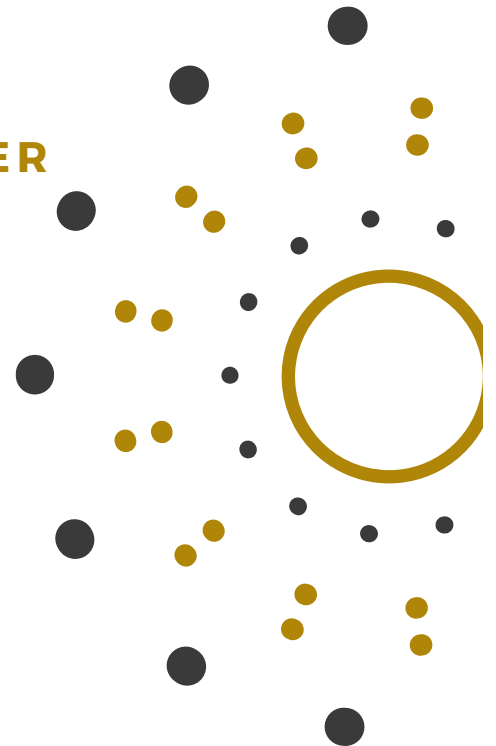
Here's wishing Carver scholars every success

When students join the Carver community, Carver promises to guide them through to college graduation.

Everything Carver does—including what we help Carver to accomplish this evening—is designed to fulfill that promise.

Kim and Drew Seath

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARVER
FOUNDATION OF NORWALK ON 84
YEARS OF BUILDING LIFETIME
ACHIEVERS, AND BEST WISHES TO
HONOREE JERRY CRAFT AND TO
EVERYONE JOINING US THIS
EVENING FOR THE 2022**



Child of America Gala

**INWHA HUH
& ROBERT KIM**

Carver students dwell in possibility with a passion for the possible.

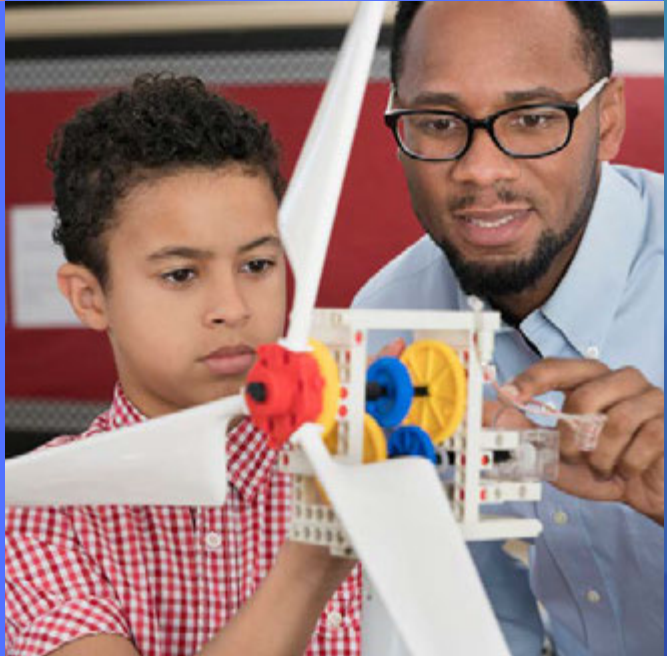
ANNETTE & OSCAR VILLALONGA

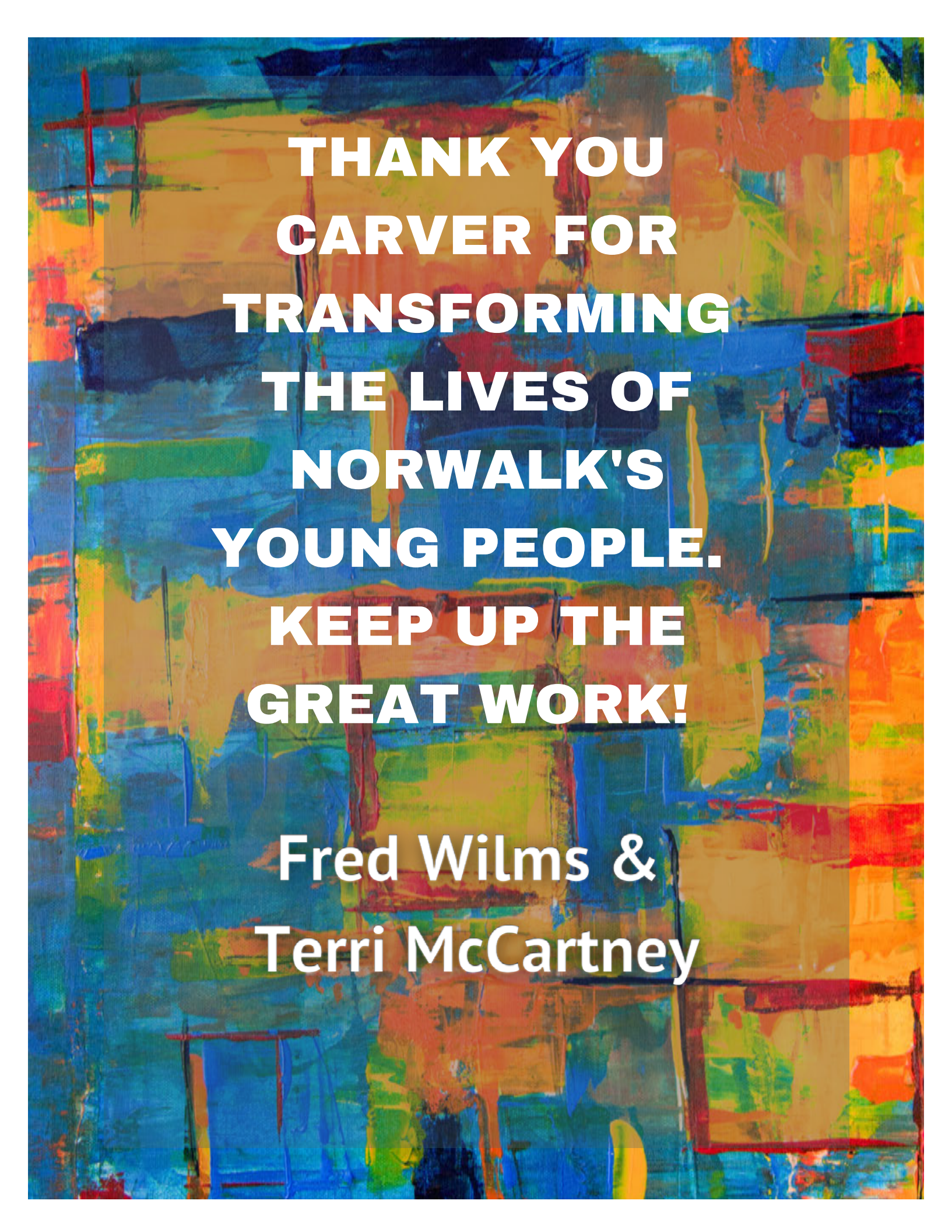




With admiration and gratitude -- we celebrate the positive can-do good spirit of the Carver Foundation of Norwalk to create opportunities for a lifetime of learning, curiosity, and success for all students in Norwalk!

State
Representative
Terrie Wood
and
Jay Wood



An abstract painting with a vibrant, multi-colored palette. The colors include deep blues, bright yellows, oranges, reds, and greens, applied in thick, expressive brushstrokes. The composition is layered and textured, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. The overall effect is one of energy and movement.

**THANK YOU
CARVER FOR
TRANSFORMING
THE LIVES OF
NORWALK'S
YOUNG PEOPLE.
KEEP UP THE
GREAT WORK!**

**Fred Wilms &
Terri McCartney**

Congratulations and best wishes to Carver scholars and the Carver community on your next adventures!



**Africaplan
Foundation**

CHILD OF AMERICA GALA

LIVING UP TO PROMISING FUTURES

Today's children are tomorrow's college graduates and community role models. Carver does not stop until all of their students are prepared for self-sufficiency and lifelong success. It is a privilege to be a part of the Carver community and to help Norwalk's youth climb their individual ladders to successful careers.

Ardsley Partners

Thank you!



**Bankwell is proud to support
The Carver Foundation of Norwalk.**

*Thank you for helping the children in our community
reach their greatest potential!*



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THE CARVER FOUNDATION OF NORWALK BUILDS LIFETIME ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the Carver community and to the 2022 Child of America honoree Jerry Craft.

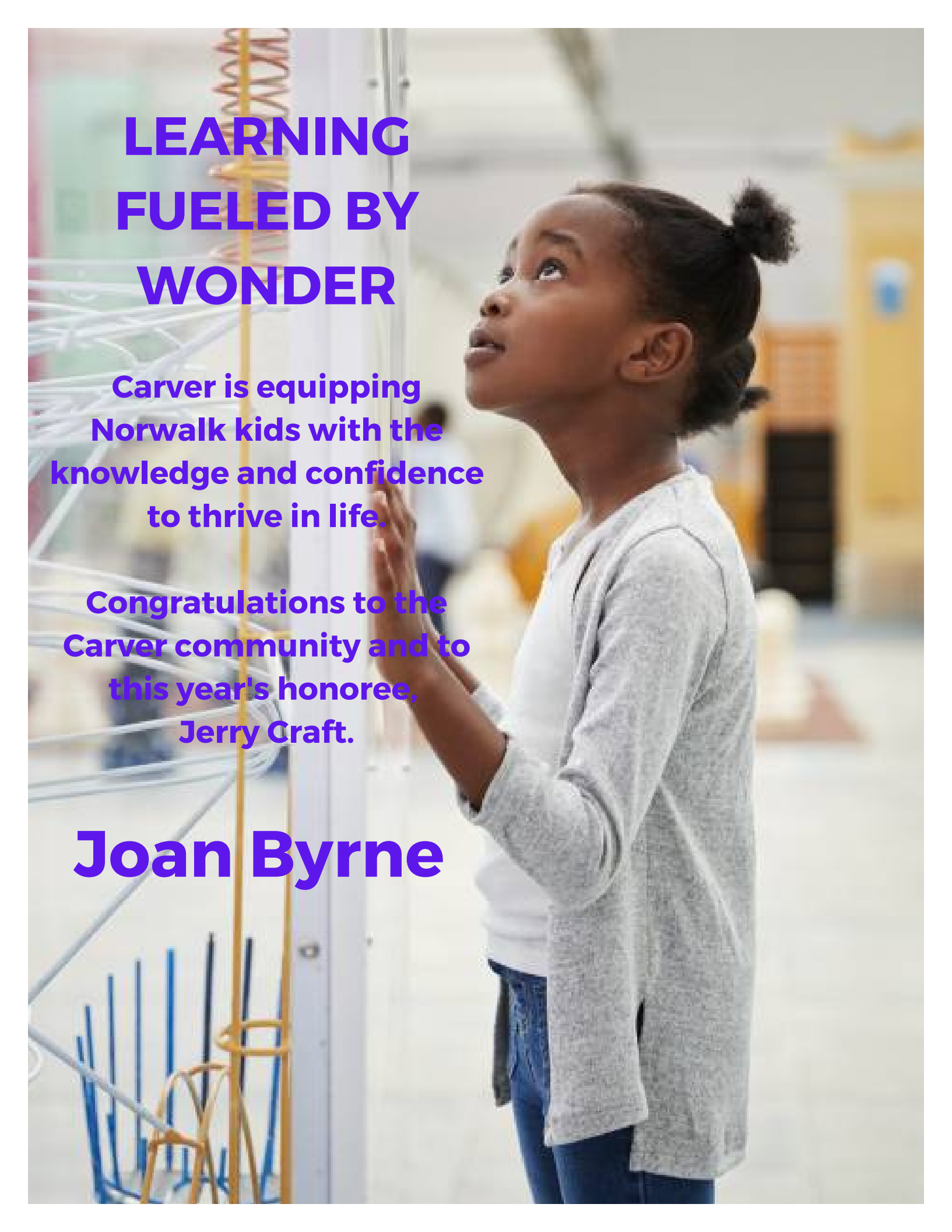
Thank you Carver for sparking each child's enthusiasm for learning and for your commitment to fostering an exciting environment where young people can deepen their curiosity and grow into confident adults.

WENDY & RICH BASKIN

**CONGRATULATIONS
AND THANK YOU
TO CARVER FOR
EDUCATING, CARING,
AND HELPING CHILDREN
TO REALIZE THEIR
POTENTIAL.**

**Alexandra & Richard
Baudouin**



A young girl with her hair in a bun, wearing a grey cardigan over a white shirt and blue jeans, stands in a gymnasium with her hands clasped in prayer and looking upwards. The background shows a basketball hoop and other gym equipment.

LEARNING FUELED BY WONDER

**Carver is equipping
Norwalk kids with the
knowledge and confidence
to thrive in life.**

**Congratulations to the
Carver community and to
this year's honoree,
Jerry Craft.**

Joan Byrne



HERE'S WISHING CARVER 84 MORE YEARS OF
SUCCESS!

**BARBARA ERDMANN
PHOTOGRAGHY**



We are Proud to Support
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Congratulations
Carver on 84 years of
Building Lifetime
Achievers!

Jim Fitzpatrick & Sarah French



**CARVER IS REDEFINING
WHAT'S POSSIBLE IN
EDUCATION.**

**WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE
CARVER COMMUNITY. WE JOIN ALL OF
YOU IN FOSTERING IN NORWALK'S
YOUNG PEOPLE A LOVE OF LEARNING
WHILE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO BECOME CRITICAL
AND CREATIVE THINKERS, BUILD LIFE
SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE, PURSUE
PASSIONS, AND SECURE EXCEPTIONAL
CAREERS.**



WE SUPPORT THE CARVER MISSION

TO BUILD LIFETIME ACHIEVERS

TOGETHER WE KEEP THE

(ARTS IN STEAM!



NORWALK
SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA



Darien Pediatric Associates



We Congratulate the Carver Foundation of Norwalk and Honoree Jerry Craft!

Thank you for helping the children in our community
reach their greatest potential!



From left to right: Dr. Dubaz, Dr. Bader, Dr. Shenoy and Dr. Tsimoyianis (Dr.T)

The background is a dark maroon color with a pattern of lighter brown hearts of various sizes. In the top right and bottom left corners, there are decorative orange brackets consisting of three parallel lines.

Thank You

**to the Carver staff,
the Gala Committee, and
everyone here tonight for
investing in our next
generation
of leaders, dreamers,
believers, and achievers.
WE ARE CARVER!**

The Klein Family

When educating the minds
of our youth, we must not
forget to educate their hearts.

~Dalai Lama

Thank you Carver Foundation 



MICHELLE 
TEAM AT WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE

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Thanks for being great neighbors!

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YOU
INSPIRE
US!



pitney bowes

Best Wishes!

**MARIANNE AND VINNY
PROCACCINI**

Carver Builds Lifetime Achievers





Carver

Inspires

Enriches &

Educates!

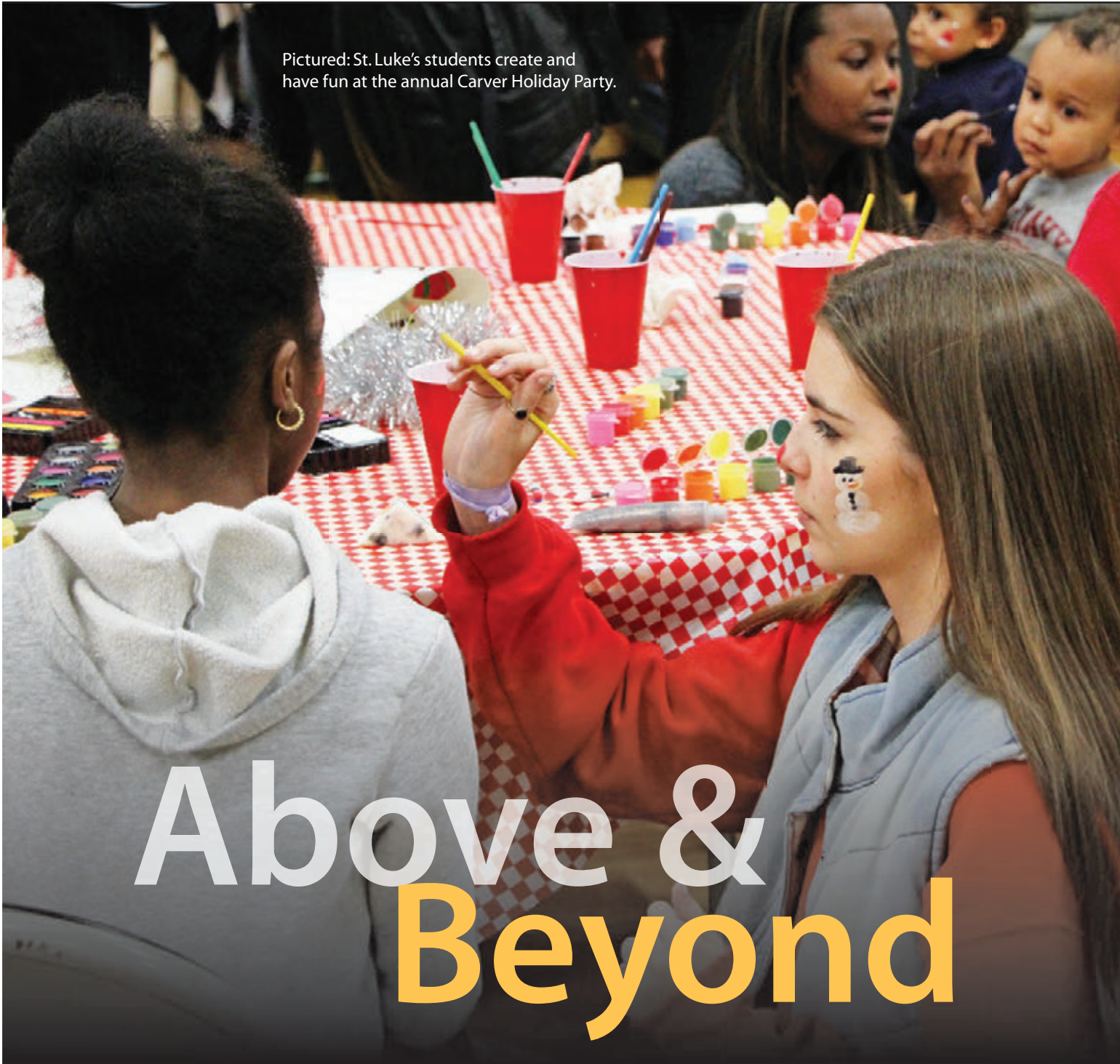


Sound Control
Technologies

*Best
Wishes!*

**TO THE CARVER FOUNDATION OF NORWALK
AND TO THE CHILD OF AMERICA HONOREE
JERRY CRAFT**

RUTH WINNICK



Pictured: St. Luke's students create and have fun at the annual Carver Holiday Party.

Above & Beyond

“It is simply service that measures success.”

George Washington Carver

What a joy to celebrate the Carver Center and its mission of creating lifetime achievers, St. Luke's salutes everyone at Carver for going *above and beyond*.

info@stlukesct.org | 203.801.4833 | www.stlukesct.org
St. Luke's is a secular, college-preparatory day school for grades 5-12.

st Luke's
SCHOOL



As we celebrate our 18th anniversary,
we are honored to call the
Carver Community Center
the home of our
county-wide youth
initiatives through the
Chelsea Cohen Fitness Academy.

Thank you for providing
guidance and caring to
strengthen our children's
health and well-being.



CHELSEA COHEN
FITNESS ACADEMY



**WE SALUTE CARVER
FOR PREPARING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF LEADERS**

**SUSAN AND NORMAN
WEINBERGER**

**THANK YOU CARVER
FOR TRANSFORMING
THE LIVES OF NORWALK'S
YOUNG PEOPLE.**

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



Heidenreich Enterprise, L.P.

**BEST WISHES TO CARVER
SCHOLARS AS THEY
PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.
WE ARE PROUD TO BE A
PART OF THEIR EXCITING
JOURNEY.**

**BARBARA
& PETER
GODFREY**



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THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY.



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16 Isaac Street, Norwalk, CT 06850

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Greens Ledge Light is proud to support Carver scholars on their life and career journeys.

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL GALA

Greens Ledge Light is a historic lighthouse in the western Long Island Sound near Norwalk and Darien. It is one of 33 "sparkplug" lighthouses still in existence in the United States and remains an active aid to navigation. savegreensledge.org



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**you're
the
best**

**CARVER FOUNDATION
OF NORWALK**

The supportive programs you provide children and youth
in our community are nothing short of amazing.
We're thrilled to support the Carver Community Center.
Thank you for all that you do!

NORDSTROM

Our Pledge of Accountability to You!



The Carver Foundation of Norwalk is among the very few nonprofits in Connecticut to consistently receive Charity Navigator's highest rating each year, far exceeding industry standards for financial health, transparency and accountability to our donors.



Carver also receives Guidestar's Platinum Seal each year, the highest rating after the Bronze, Silver and Gold seals, for organizational transparency and performance measurement. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about nonprofit organizations.
