

GREEN CHIMNEYS 2025 GALA

Welcome

Bill Fasano

President, Green Chimneys Board of Directors

Video

Setting Students on a Path to Success

Speakers

Kristin Dionne

Chief Executive Officer, Green Chimneys

Bob Vetere

Chairman, Green Chimneys Board of Directors

Dinner

Gala Speaker

Charlotte Stafford

Green Chimneys Student

Presentation of Awards

Bill Fasano

Honorees

Engelstad Foundation

Green Chimneys Impact Award

Donald Ross

Green Chimneys Leadership in Service Award





ABOUT GREEN CHIMNEYS

The story of Green Chimneys is a long and wonderful adventure that began in 1947 with the purchase of a 75-acre dairy farm. It was here that Samuel B. "Rollo" Ross, Jr. established an environment where children and animals could live together in a farm setting.

Rollo and his wife, Myra, became pioneers in the practice of animal-assisted activities as part of a child's education and emotional well-being. The integration of animals and nature grew into a core component of Green Chimneys' clinical approach, adding a dynamic and beneficial element to its special education and therapeutic treatment programs for children facing social, emotional and behavioral challenges.

Today, Green Chimneys is a premier nonprofit education and human services agency serving thousands of youth and families each year. Services include an accredited special education school on two campuses; residential treatment center; nature-based therapeutic programs; community-based support for youth and families; and public education and recreation opportunities for all ages. Each of our programs celebrates the dignity and worth of all living things and we strive to create a harmonious relationship among children, animals and the environment, incorporating an array of educational, residential, recreational, and mental health services. Through innovative therapies and tools to teach critical life skills, we help youth reclaim their childhood, discover their self-worth, and create a future for themselves as independent, contributing adults.

As a leader in animal-assisted and nature-based practices, Green Chimneys has achieved global recognition in education and advocacy for children with a unique focus on the human-animal connection. This interconnection of human well-being, animal welfare, and environmental stewardship is ingrained in Green Chimneys' founding principles, and alive in the community of dedicated professionals who work at Green Chimneys, among supporters and partners across the globe, and most importantly, in the children and families we have had the honor to serve.

We remain inspired by the legacy of our founders and the magnificent organization they built, and we continue our mission in helping young people to maximize their full potential by providing residential, educational, clinical and recreational services, in a safe and supportive environment that nurtures connections with their families, the community, animals and nature.



Message from Chief Executive Officer

KRISTIN DIONNE



On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and Board of Directors, welcome to Green Chimneys' Annual Gala. Tonight we celebrate not only the Healing Power of Nature and the incredible work of our organization but also the generosity, dedication, and compassion of each of you—our donors, volunteers, and partners. We extend a special thanks to our Gala Sponsors, who have ensured this will be a memorable evening.

For 78 years, Green Chimneys has been a place of hope and healing, where children and animals come together to learn, grow, and thrive. Through nature-based education, therapeutic programs, and committed care, we continue to create brighter futures for the children

and families we serve. We are proud of our work and applaud our generous donors, partners, and friends who have helped us better serve our children, families, and animals.

I am pleased to welcome Green Chimneys Board President Bill Fasano to his first gala serving in this new role. Bill has been working closely with me, and our leadership team, over the past nine months to continue to strengthen the partnership between our staff and board, and develop innovative strategies to ensure a strong path for the future of the agency. I thank Bill for bringing his professional expertise to our board over the past 10 years; the organization has benefited from his compassion, steadfast leadership, and strong fiscal oversight.

I am very excited to have our student, Charlotte, speak to us this evening. We are so proud of Charlotte's commitment and hard work during her time at Green Chimneys and know you will be, too.

Congratulations to our Impact Award recipient, the Engelstad Foundation. The Engelstad Foundation has championed many organizations like Green Chimneys, through leadership and innovation-driven funding to support programs and services that create positive outcomes for so many children and families. Their contributions have supported key services and initiatives for our students, and we are truly grateful for their partnership.

Tonight we also honor Donald Ross with the Leadership in Service Award. Don has a unique perspective of our work at Green Chimneys, and has been a dedicated supporter for decades. His commitment, advocacy, and tireless efforts on behalf of our children and families is inspiring and is part of the legacy of Green Chimneys. In working with Don throughout my tenure at Green Chimneys, I have a tremendous appreciation for his passion and humor, which make our work both meaningful and fun.

Thank you for being a part of this special evening and for your support of education and services for children, and the animals that help them.



Message from Board President

BILL FASANO



Thank you for joining us this evening for the annual Green Chimneys Gala.

About ten years ago, my friend and financial advisor, Paul Kupchok Jr., invited me to a Green Chimneys Gala. At the time, I was unfamiliar with the organization, but that evening proved to be a turning point. I was impressed by the breadth of services Green Chimneys provides, and how nature-based and animal-assisted therapies are seamlessly integrated into traditional treatment plans for children facing various challenges. The highlight of the evening was hearing a student's personal success story—an inspiring testament to the life-changing impact Green Chimneys has on children and their families.

Having recently retired as President and CEO of National Retail Services, I was eager to find meaningful ways to give back to the community. Shortly thereafter, I met with Joe Whalen, then Executive Director, to discuss different volunteer opportunities at Green Chimneys, where my background in Corporate Finance and Development could support the organization's growth. Our conversation left me energized, and soon after, I joined Green Chimneys as a Board Member, and served as Chair of the Finance, Facilities, and Compensation Committees.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working alongside the organization's dedicated professionals, clinicians, social workers, educators, and staff, who work tirelessly to support the children and animals in their care. Their commitment is nothing short of extraordinary. Tonight, Charlotte, a current student, will share her story of how Green Chimneys has significantly impacted her life. Just as I left the Gala ten years ago inspired by a Green Chimneys student, I am sure you will feel the same after Charlotte shares her story.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate this year's award recipients, Donald Ross and the Engelstad Foundation. Their passion, commitment, and generous contributions have been invaluable to Green Chimneys, helping us fulfill our mission and make a lasting impact.

In closing, as President of the Green Chimneys Board of Directors, I am deeply grateful for generous donors like you. Your support not only provides essential resources but also fosters the growth and transformation of our students. Thank you for making a meaningful difference.



DONALD ROSS

Leadership in Service Award



Donald Ross serves as the Vice President of Green Chimneys' Board of Directors and Executive Committee. In this role, he is deeply involved in governance, finance, long-range planning, facilities, and fund development. As the son of Green Chimneys Founders Sam and Myra Ross, Don has followed in their footsteps, continuing their legacy of commitment and service. His unwavering leadership, generosity, and dedication have been vital to helping Green Chimneys achieve its mission of providing life-changing experiences to children in need.

Professionally, Don brings over 46 years of experience in hotel, resort, and casino management. As Vice President of Meeting Operations at Caesars Entertainment, Don oversees the catering, conference services, culinary, banquets, and meeting services teams across nine Caesars properties in Las Vegas, NV. Additionally, he has played an instrumental role in aligning the convention services of Caesars properties outside of Las Vegas.

Before his tenure with Caesars Entertainment, Don held key positions in food and beverage at distinguished hospitality institutions, including the Boca Raton Hotel & Club, Royal Lahaina Maui, Waikiki Beachcomber in Oahu, Dallas Hilton, Fontainebleau Hilton Miami Beach, and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Don earned his Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from Florida International University.

As an industry leader, Don has been widely recognized for his contributions to the hospitality sector. He received The Vallen Award of Distinction and was named Industry Executive of the Year by the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality at the University of Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Hospitality Association also honored him with the Spirit Award, recognizing his passion and dedication to advancing the hospitality, travel, and tourism sectors. Don was also recently honored by UNLV School Hospitality with the distinguished Dom Perignon Award of Excellence at the 50th UNLVINO Grand Tasting.

Don's commitment to giving back extends far beyond his professional life. He serves as the Board Vice Chair for Three Square, Southern Nevada's largest food bank, and actively volunteers with the Anti-Defamation League. In recognition of his work in human rights and equal opportunity, he was presented with the ADL's Americanism Award. He has also been honored by Opportunity Village, an organization dedicated to people with disabilities, for his advocacy and volunteer efforts.

Don has served as a member of the Caesars Entertainment Philanthropy Committee and as Past Board President for both Congregation Ner Tamid and Anthem Country Club.



ENGELSTAD FOUNDATION

Impact Award



The Engelstad Foundation was created in 2002 by Ralph & Betty Engelstad for the purpose of partnering to create solutions in medical research, improving day to day living for people with disabilities and raising the possibilities for high-risk individuals. Since its inception, the organization has provided grants nationwide to groups focused on animal compassion, atrisk individuals, education, historical preservation, medical research and support, people with disabilities and veterans.

The Foundation has supported Green Chimneys' dynamic efforts for years. This support was first sparked by the Foundation's leadership visiting the nonprofit's New York campus, seeing, firsthand, the meaningful impact the programming has on children stemming from the state and well beyond. Green Chimneys is a model the Engelstad Foundation believes in, takes pride in investing in and genuinely believes should be replicated nationwide.

For additional information on The Engelstad Foundation, visit www.engelstadfoundation.com.



Guest Speaker

CHARLOTTE STAFFORD



My name is Charlotte Stafford and I'm 17 years old. I have been a residential student at Green Chimneys since April 2023. When I'm not at school, I live in New York City with my mum and my dog. Oscar.

One of the things I love most about Green Chimneys is caring for the animals, particularly the horses, as I like to walk them around campus. I'm hoping to be a mentor for the younger students and to help them with any issues they are having.

Green Chimneys has taught me a lot of things about how to care for animals. They have also helped me get to where I am today.

I love all the different programs that are offered, as well as the normal academic classes. I love music because I can sing, and I love cooking class because we learn how to make everything from lunches to desserts. The food in cooking is always really good and I have a lot of fun making and trying new things with food.

I have a lot of jobs at the school, such as helping the dorms with their laundry bins so the dirty towels can be cleaned. I also have a job where I share the morning announcements on the loud speaker for the school. I love doing it and this has really helped me to learn to speak clearly. Thank you to Green Chimneys for everything that has helped me through my journey.



2025 GALA SUPPORT

Thank you to our sponsors and donors who made this event possible!

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THANK YOU!

Please join Green Chimneys Development and Marketing Team in thanking all those who have given so generously of their time and talents to make our 2025 event a success.

GALA CHAIRMAN

Donald Ross

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Tony Melchior

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AT GREEN CHIMNEYS, EVERYTHING IS NATURE-BASED, SO IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THE APPLE DIDN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE!



Rollo and Myra trusted that Don would always be there for Green Chimneys.

With support and encouragement from Mary, and their two daughters, Samantha and Sara,
he has always been there... providing leadership and example, while continuing Rollo and Myra's dream.

We thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Green Chimneys every day!

Sincerely and with warmest regards,

Lynn and Terence Zaleski



Celebrating Green Chimneys 2025 Honorees

Donald Ross

The Green Chimneys Leadership in Service Award

Engelstad Foundation

The Green Chimneys Impact Award

Thank you for supporting the children and animals of Green Chimneys. We appreciate your help bringing innovative, nature-based programs to the special needs community and their animal friends. Congratulations on your well-deserved honors!

Proud Sponsor of the Green Chimneys 2025 Gala



CONGRATULATIONS DONALD ROSS!

YOUR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION INSPIRE US ALL. HONORED TO SUPPORT GREEN CHIMNEYS IN CELEBRATING YOU!

SINCERELY,

The Pressler Family





Congratulations to Don for continuing the legacy your family began.

The Lowell family honors your dedication and commitment to Green Chimneys.

Carol & Tom Lowell



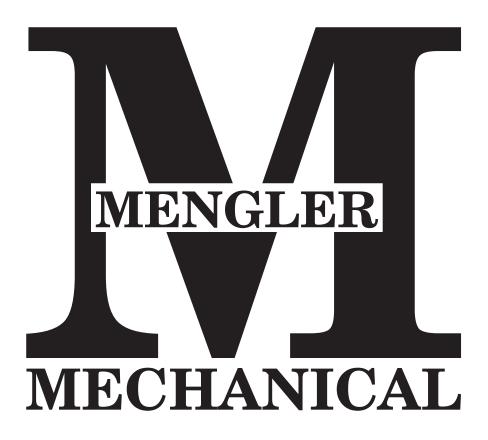


Best Wishes to Green Chimneys

from **Aviva Weintraub & Gordon Tapper**



In loving memory of Max Weintraub



John F. Mallon

President

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Don, congratulations on being honored for your lifetime of service to Green Chimneys and being a "Made Man"! We are all so proud of you and the rest of the crew would be so proud!

MUCH LOVE AND RESPECT,

Robin and Bill Baum





We are pleased to support

- GREEN CHIMNEYS

SPRING GALA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 HONOREES

Engelstad Foundation

The Green Chimneys
Impact Award

Donald Ross

The Green Chimneys Leadership in Service Award

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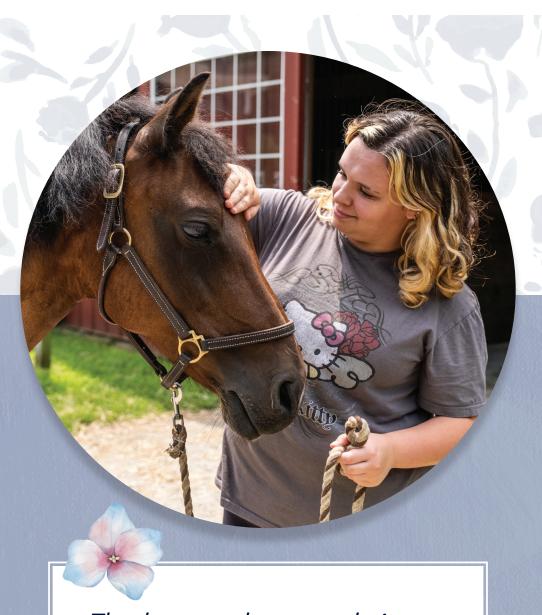
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Thank you and congratulations tonight's honorees—Donald Ross and the Engelstad Foundation.

Your advocacy and support have changed the lives of so many.

Kristin Dionne, Robert Katz, Leah and Sari



Congratulations Don on receiving the Green Chimneys Leadership in Service Award!

Mom and Dad would be very proud of you.

The Ross Family Lisa, Mary, Samantha, and Sara



Best wishes and continued success to Green Chimneys.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

The world is a better place because of what you do!







Paul K. Kupchok

Chief Executive officer

Kupchok Wealth Management, LLC 7 Skyline Drive Suite 220 Hawthorne, NY 10532 (914) 266-1505 Office (860)-733-9241 Cell paul@kwmfinancial.com



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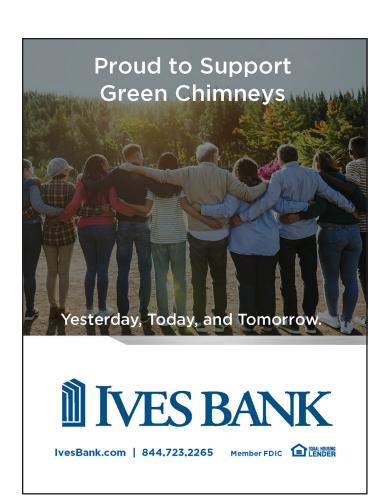
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Susan, Angelo and Peter Matra & Chooch





Freeman

Congratulations
To Tonight's Honorees

Engelstad Foundation

The Green Chimneys Impact Award

Don Ross

The Green Chimneys Leadership in Service Award

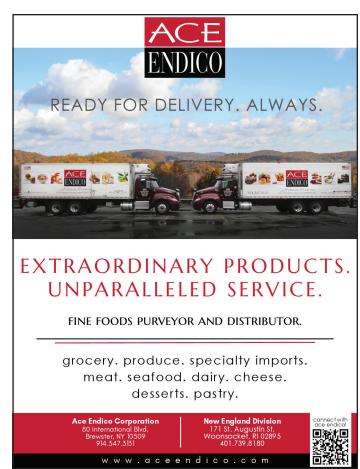


Rhonda Richardson

Chief Financial Officer
Green Chimneys









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Congratulations to Green Chimneys and tonight's Honorees!







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CONGRATULATE GREEN CHIMNEYS ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

We are so proud to be associated with **Green Chimneys** and want to congratulate **The Engelstad Foundation and Don Ross** on their recognition awards this year!

To the staff and volunteers involved in Green Chimneys, thank you so much!!!

Wayne, Adriana, Shaynna, Braz, Brendan, Wesley, and Maria Lilah