

< WOMEN OF INFLUENCE AWARDS

Career & Workplace

Announcing the 2023 Women of Influence honorees



By Donna Collins - Editor, Buffalo Business First

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Buffalo Business First will honor 25 area women for their contributions to the community.

The Women of Influence awards, presented by platinum sponsors BestSelf Behavioral Health and Lake Shore Savings Bank, will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Windsong Radiology is the diamond sponsor.

The 17th annual awards recognize the business acumen and community spirit of these women, said Business First Publisher John Tebeau, adding that the number of nominees totaled 175 for this year's program.

"The panel chose these women based on their ability to rise above a very talented pool of competitors," Tebeau said. "We're honored to recognize their accomplishments;"

This year's Businesswoman of the Year is **Anne Constantino**, recently retired president and CEO of Horizon Corps. She joined Horizon 37 years ago as a senior counselor in the addictions clinic and was president and CEO since 1994.

During Constantino's tenure, the nonprofit grew to the region's eighth largest nonprofit with \$73 million in revenue and 800 employees in 20 locations.



Anne Constantino, the recently retired president and CEO of Horizon Corps. is this year's Businesswomen of the Year.

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The 2023 winners are listed below with the category in which they were chosen:

- **Jennifer Halbach**, partner, Summer Street Capital Partners, Corporate Executive category
- **April Baskin**, legislative chair, Erie County Legislature, Public Policy category
- **Jamie Batt**, equity partner, Rupp Pfalzgraf LLP, Corporate Executive category
- **Martha Buyer**, principal, Law Offices of Martha Buyer, Community Supporter category
- **Sara Dayton**, managing partner, Lumsden & McCormick LLP, Community Supporter category

- **Kimberly Desimone**, director of Master's in Leadership Program, St. Bonaventure University, Inspiration category
- **Kathleen Fieramusca**, owner/CEO, Foxy Delivery Service, Family Business category
- **Megan Gomez**, vice president, senior deputy general counsel, Univera Healthcare, Corporate Executive category
- **Shelly Gordon**, owner, Premier Dog Sports & Event Center LLC, Entrepreneur category
- **Kathleen Granchelli**, CEO, YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, Nonprofit Leadership category
- **Sheila Hunt**, chief officer, community services, OLV Human Services, Nonprofit Leadership category
- **Rachel Leidenfrost**, executive vice president of people and projects, FeedMore Western New York, Behind the Scenes category
- **Laura Linneball**, managing partner, Wilder and Linneball LLP, Corporate Executive category
- **Christine Lorenz**, president & CEO, Globalquest Staffing Solutions, Community Supporter category
- **Betsy Mitchell**, board member and capital campaign leader, Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inspiration category
- **Sonya Noor**, M.D., managing partner and co-founder, Buffalo Endovascular and Vascular Surgical Associates, Entrepreneur category
- **Margaret Paroski**, M.D., president & CEO and chief medical officer, Catholic Medical Partners, Corporate Executive category
- **Chandra Redfern**, CEO, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers Inc., Nonprofit Leadership category
- **Anne Reif**, COO, YMCA Buffalo Niagara, Nonprofit Leadership category
- **Anne Ryan**, executive director, Read to Succeed, Nonprofit Leadership category
- **Carmen Snell**, vice president, deputy general counsel, Highmark Western and Northeastern New York, Corporate Executive category

- **Siobhan Smith**, founder and co-president, Catapult, Entrepreneur category
- **Sister Nora Sweeney**, social worker/community outreach case manager, Catholic Health, Community Supporter category
- **Robyn Zimmer**, CEO & founder, Embrace the Difference, Community Supporter category

The judges, all former Women of Influence winners, were Mary Brennan-Taylor, YWCA Niagara; Michelle DeBergalis, American Realty Group Inc.; Laura Edsberg, Ph.D., Daemen College; Rebecca Farbo, Phillips Lytle LLP; Rachel Foley, Lake Shore Savings Bank; and Catherine Roberts, Resource Council of Western New York.