



PRESS RELEASE

Danny Wegman, Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman, Sherrese Clarke Soares and Janice Hart will be Honored at the 2023 Hummingbird Gala, NYC

New York, NY, (September 20, 2023) – On Friday, October 27th, the American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. (AFJ) will host its 2023 Hummingbird Gala at the iconic Plaza Hotel in New York City. This year's Gala will recognize honorees Danny Wegman, Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., and his wife Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman, Social Entrepreneur, with the presentation of the AFJ International Humanitarian Award. Sherrese Clarke Soares, Founder of HarbourView Equity Partners, will receive the Blue Mountain Award and Janice Hart of Yale New Haven Hospital will receive the Lignum Vitae Award.

Danny Wegman currently serves as Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., which operates 110 stores along the East Coast and employs more than 53,000 people. He also chairs the board of the Wegmans Family Charitable Foundation and has served on countless community organization boards and task forces, supporting all the communities that Wegmans serves. His wife, Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman, served as a Director of the Barnett Group of Companies in Jamaica for 30 years, where she had direct oversight of company investments and the business development strategy. She was recently appointed Ambassador of Investment and Philanthropy by the Government of Jamaica. Danny and Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman share a passion for helping the people and communities of Jamaica.

Sherrese Clarke Soares is a visionary 2-time Founder and CEO having spent over 20 years in corporate finance, capital markets, investment banking, and private equity. She is the Founder and CEO of HarbourView Equity Partner and is also a board member of Evoqua Holdings and Planned Parenthood Federation of America where she serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Janice Hart is a phenomenal speaker, author and performing artist. In addition to her work at Yale New Haven Hospital, she holds a Doctorate in Philosophy and Theology, founded a project to feed the homeless in New Haven and has been instrumental in securing donations of hospital equipment and supplies for Jamaica.

The Gala dinner, silent auction, and entertainment make for New York's premier fundraising event to support initiatives in Jamaica. A musical performance by internationally renowned Grammy nominee, Maxi Priest and dancing to the selection of Max Glazer will top off the evening.

Over the more than four decades of service, the AFJ has awarded over U\$20M in grants to provide well-needed support in education, healthcare, and economic development across the island. Funds raised during the Gala will go directly toward the AFJ Grant Program and specific programs which will be highlighted at the Gala.

“We are honored to be recognized by The American Friends of Jamaica for helping to carry their mission forward by assisting charities that improve the lives of the people of Jamaica.” - Danny and Paula Kerr-Jarrett Wegman

“We are thrilled to celebrate AFJ’s legacy and mission for Jamaica pausing to focus on our past, present and future work. We are very excited to spotlight the passion of our honorees that intersects with the vision of the AFJ.” - Caron Chung, Executive Director

Corporate sponsors of the 2023 Hummingbird Gala include Wegmans Food Markets Inc., Sands Family Foundation, JetBlue, GraceKennedy Ltd., Cari-Med Group Ltd., Steuart Foundation, and Hegemon Capital.

If you missed purchasing the 2023 Hummingbird Gala tickets, limited Gala After Party Soirée tickets are available on the AFJ website at www.theafj.org. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are not available at the door. For more information please contact events@theafj.org or call 212-265-2550.

About the AFJ

The AFJ is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit built on the principles of service and philanthropy. For over 40 years, the organization has been rendering assistance in the areas of Education, Healthcare, and Economic Development. The AFJ Grant Cycle begins at the end of each year and grants are disbursed in April of the following year. For information on how to purchase tickets or become a sponsor to support our mission for Jamaica, email info@theafj.org or visit www.theafj.org.