

34TH ANNUAL ROBERTO CLEMENTE GALA

Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc.

> Friday, July 22, 2022 Delta Hotel / Woodbridge 515 Route 1 South Iselin, NJ 08830

We are proud to support PRAHD's 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala.



Congratulations to all the honorees!



Perth Amboy Branch 598 State Street • Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 Catarina Matos , Branch Manager

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Dear Honored Guests,

On behalf of the PRAHD Board of Directors and staff, we welcome you to our 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala. Tonight, we celebrate the Agency's outstanding achievements and honor individuals and organizations that embody the values at the core of PRAHD's mission. We hope all of you join us in congratulating our honorees, as the recognition they will be receiving tonight is well-deserved.

Our Annual Roberto Clemente Gala honors the legacy of Roberto Clemente, a true humanitarian, and celebrates the wonderful work PRAHD does each and every day. Clemente was quoted as once saying, "There's no difference between you and me. You need something, a glove, a place to live, you let me know." Over the course of 48 years, PRAHD has consistently provided exceptional and meaningful services to our community. As a human service agency, we operate with Clemente's mindset, you need something, you let me know. We touch thousands of lives every year, and our staff is often faced with difficult and challenging circumstances presented by individuals facing life altering obstacles. The pandemic exponentially increased the needs in our community and PRAHD rose to the occasion.

In fact, it is during the most challenging times that our staff shines the brightest. Channeling Roberto Clemente's humanitarian spirit – PRAHD immediately took action when the pandemic caused many families to not only suffer with the illness but also sustain losses of life and employment. We offered no contact grocery delivery, large scale food distributions, virtual learning pods, COVID-19 testing, emergency rental assistance, supermarket gift certificates, and COVID-19 vaccinations. Recognizing PRAHD's history of helping the community in times of crisis, and its efforts to mitigate some of the collateral damage caused by the pandemic, PRAHD secured funding and assistance from the Hispanic Federation, the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (CHPRD), the Office of Faith Based Initiatives, the City of Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, and private foundations earmarked specifically for COVID-related initiatives. This allowed PRAHD to not only continue providing its traditional services but also create new programs to meet the needs caused by the pandemic. As always – when presented with a unique challenge – our staff navigated through the storm providing kind, compassionate, and effective services without compromising the multitude of services provided daily through our eleven programs.

As both current and prospective supporters, it is important that you understand the impact your gifts make to the Agency. Throughout the evening, you will have the opportunity to see and learn about many of the activities, events and services provided by PRAHD for the community. Your support makes it possible for PRAHD to provide those services by contributing to the growth and strength of our programs. We truly appreciate your support and hope you know just how much it means that you could celebrate our accomplishments with us tonight.

We thank you all for your partnership with this wonderful organization that makes a real impact on each life it touches. We look forward to your continued support as we set our sights on next year which we know will be filled with continued success.

Thank you for coming to this year's gala!

Sincerely,

Robert Durso Chairman

Kind Kim V. Ruiz Executive Director/CEO



OUR MISSION

'PRAHD is dedicated to developing human potential and promoting self-sufficiency through programs designed to improve the social, economic, health and educational status of the community in a culturally sensitive environment."

OUR VISION

The organizational vision is to empower the individual to reach their highest potential and to participate meaningfully in their community. PRAHD is an active community provider and steward that constantly campaigns for the rights, dignity and betterment of impoverished individuals and communities.

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34TH ANNUAL ROBERTO CLEMENTE GALA COMMITTEE

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&

Lillian Martinez

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Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all those gathered today to celebrate the Roberto Clemente Gala hosted by the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD).

Since 1974, when PRAHD was created in Perth Amboy to serve the youth, this venerable organization has expanded its reach to assist individuals in need and has become an exemplary institution in the state. Today, PRAHD helps individuals with housing needs, food security, senior services and so much more. The organization also prides itself in having programs for the development of young women and children. As the highest-ranking Latino in the United States Congress, I sincerely value your dedication, persistence and efforts over the years. I am also grateful for all you have done for our state and I hope that you continue leaving a lasting legacy of human advancement and good will.

I would also like to recognize the special honorees tonight. Assemblywoman Lopez deserves recognition for her exemplary public service and for her leadership as Deputy Speaker and as a member of the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus. And Hispanic Federation deserves recognition as one of our nation's most distinguished Latino non-profits with a proven track record of accomplishments and service.

Congratulations and have a great celebration,

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez United States Senator





Congressional Record

proceedings and debates of the 117^{tb} congress, second session

House of Representatives

EXTENSION OF REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF THE 34TH ANNUAL ROBERTO CLEMENTE GALA HONOREES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

July 12, 2022

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez and Hispanic Federation as they are honored by the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) at its 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala on July 22, 2022. It is my privilege to recognize the outstanding efforts of PRAHD and this year's gala honorees.

Former Executive Director/CEO of PRAHD, the Honorable Yvonne Lopez represents the 19th Legislative District of New Jersey and currently serves as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. She is also Chair of the Housing Committee, a member of the Transportation and Independent Authorities committee, Financial Institutions and Insurance committee, and Joint Committee on Housing Affordability, as well as a member of the NJ Legislative Latino Caucus and National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. She also served on the Complete Counts Commission and the New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission and previously worked in the private sector as Vice President/Community Affairs Manager for Wachovia Banks. In her capacity at PRAHD, Assemblywoman Lopez oversaw the operations and management of the organization while cultivating community and public relations. Assemblywoman Lopez truly embodies the spirit of the Roberto Clemente Award and I join with PRAHD in applauding her leadership and service to the community.

Partner of the Year Award recipient, Hispanic Federation, echoes the mission of PRAHD. Its advocacy efforts, programs, and public education initiatives support community organizations and strengthen individuals and families. Its work assists individuals to obtain health insurance, citizenship and civics education, job training, childhood literacy skills, college preparation, and more. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hispanic Federation provided relief and recovery grants to local organizations and small businesses and held a national outreach campaign to educate Latinos on COVID-19 vaccines. Hispanic Federation continues to promote Latino interests and uplift the Hispanic community and its efforts are to be commended.

For nearly 50 years, PRAHD has provided outstanding support to our local communities. Its comprehensive services and programs promote self-sufficiency and community involvement. I applaud PRAHD for its dedication to improving the well-being of our communities and the evening's honorees for their commitment to service and action.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez and Hispanic Federation for their contributions to the community and congratulating them on this well-deserved recognition by PRAHD.



JOSEPH F. VITALE Senator

CRAIG J. COUGHLIN Speaker 569 Rahway Avenue Woodbridge, NJ 07095 YVONNE LOPEZ Assemblywoman 211 Front Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Ms. Kim V. Ruiz, Esq. Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. 100 First Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Dear Ms. Ruiz,

Congratulations to the leadership, volunteers and staff of the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. on your 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala. The planning and organization needed for this gala is an immense task and we commend the organization for its tireless work.

The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. remains a key organization in the 19th Legislative District and thanks to your hard work our residents had a vital resource to turn to during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your work literally saved lives and we cannot thank you enough for your continued dedication to our constituents and communities.

We have the pleasure of a strong partnership with the organization, and we look forward to our continued work together in helping the families, children, and residents of the 19th District.

Tonight, we congratulate all the leaders being recognized for their achievements and with great respect and appreciation for your work in our community we wish you success in your annual gala.

Sincerely,

del

Joseph F. Vitale Senator 19th Legislative District

Craig J. Coughlin Speaker 19th Legislative District

Yvonne Lopez Assemblywoman 19th Legislative District



Ronald G. Rios County Commissioner Director

Shanti Narra Deputy Director

Claribel A. Azcona-Barber Charles Kenny Leslie Koppel Chanelle Scott McCullum Charles E. Tomaro County Commissioners



John A. Pulomena County Administrator

Amy R. Petrocelli, RMC Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kim V. Ruiz, Esq. PRAHD, Inc. Executive Director/CEO

It is with great pleasure that we continue to celebrate the PRAHD organization at the 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala.

For 48 years, PRAHD has been dedicated in their efforts to improve the social, health, economic, and educational status of communities throughout Middlesex County, as well as Hudson and Union Counties. Offering over 10 programs for more than 17,000 clients annually, PRAHD continues to strive in its excellence in serving those communities.

On behalf of the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to congratulate all the Honorees who are being recognized at this year's Annual Roberto Clemente Gala: The Hispanic Federation, receiving the Partner of the Year Award and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, former PRAHD CEO, receiving the Roberto Clemente Award.

I would like to thank you for your continuous efforts, and best of luck in your future accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Conald S. Rio

Ronald G. Rios Director, Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners

75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 Phone: 732-745-3080 www.middlesexcountynj.gov





MAYORAL PROCLAMATION Puerto Rican Association Human Development, INC. 34TH Annual Roberto Clemente Gala

WHEREAS,

The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD), is an active community provider and steward for the rights, dignity, and betterment of impoverished individuals since 1974; and

WHEREAS,

PRAHD celebrates its 34th annual Roberto Clemente Gala in appreciation of the many contributions made by past, present, and future honorees for their pursuit of the highest quality of life for all; and

Through PRAHD's leadership, continues to make a difference in the lives of others through education, culture, civic, health, recreation, philanthropy, environment, and other diverse needs of people; and

WHEREAS,

WHEREAS.

The Roberto Clemente Gala offers a unique opportunity to join together in appreciation of the many contributions made by PRAHD; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Mayor Helmin J. Caba, do hereby recognize the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) and encourage all to recognize its positive impact on the quality of life of residents of the City of Perth Amboy.

> GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the City of Perth Amboy, this twenty-first day of July in the year two thousand and twenty-two.

Helmin J. Caba, Mayor City of Perth Amboy

ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD



Yvonne Lopez was elected to the State of New Jersey General Assembly in November of 2017 representing the 19th Legislative District (Carteret, Woodbridge, South Amboy, Perth Amboy, Sayreville). Assemblywoman Lopez currently serves as Chair of the Housing Committee and member of the Transportation and Independent Authorities and Financial Institutions and Insurance committees respectively. Assemblywoman Lopez also serves as Deputy Speaker and is a member of the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus.

Assemblywoman Lopez previously served as a Commissioner on the New Jersey Complete Count Commission and the New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission. The Assemblywoman also

serves as the Chair of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators Latino Voting and Elections Task Force.

Assemblywoman Lopez served as the Executive Director /CEO of the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD). In her role the Assemblywoman was responsible for the day-to-day operations of PRAHD and its 80 employees and 10 programs. Assemblywoman Lopez provided direction and leadership while creating a highly successful integrated fundraising, community relations and public relations strategy.

Prior to joining the non-profit sector, Assemblywoman Lopez served as the Vice President/Community Affairs Manager for Wachovia Bank and several of its predecessor banks. She was responsible for setting the direction for and achievement of community relations' goals and objectives relative to philanthropy and employee involvement in the tristate region.

Assemblywoman Lopez managed a \$5 million foundation budget and a public relations/sponsorship budget of \$1.5million. She managed Wachovia's annual workplace giving campaign and New Jersey's signature program with the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the Wachovia/DCA Housing Scholars Program. The Assemblywoman actively developed and deployed integrated community plans including programs and charitable giving to support Wachovia's community priorities and community development efforts. She also worked as the Director of Donor Relations for the Trinitas Health Foundation and was responsible for cultivating new donors for the Foundation. Assemblywoman Lopez supported the management and implementation of the Foundation's comprehensive stewardship and donor campaigns, including strategic and visionary thinking for greater community outreach. She secured \$1.5 million in funding for the Trinitas Regional Medical Center's capital project the Center of Regional Education (CORE).

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ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD



Assemblywoman Lopez is also a member of the New Jersey State Democratic Committee and a former North Brunswick Democratic Committeewoman. She is the founder of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy, NJ and has served on several boards and commissions—including the Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council, the Local Advisory Committee for Hackensack Meridian Health, Raritan Bay Medical Center, the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, the North Brunswick Zoning Board, the Board of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, the Board of Friends & Families United Inc., the Rutgers University Corporate Advisory Board, the Supreme Court of New Jersey District VIII Ethics Committee and the Board of Coming Home of

Middlesex County.

Assemblywoman Lopez has been recognized by several organizations for her years of tireless public service and humanitarian efforts. Among the awards are the: President's Volunteer Service Award—USA Freedom Corps; United Way of Central Jersey Hometown Heroes Award; Pioneer Award— Rutgers University, Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership; Peter T. Maher Board Volunteer of the Year—Boys and Girls Clubs of New Jersey; Woman of Distinction —La Tribuna Newspaper; Outstanding Role Model Award, Friends & Families United Inc.; Honorable Mathias E. Rodriguez Humanitarian Award— Learning Empowerment Achievement Foundation (LEAF); the Beacon of Light Award— Stop The Funeral Foundation; Non-Profit Advocate of the Year Award— Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey; The Nuestros Niños Award—The Latino Institute, Inc.; the Diversity Award – The Positive Community, the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians – Public Service Award, the National Foundation of Women Legislators – Woman of Excellence Award, the Mental Health America 2019 Legislative Award, the LUPE Fund's Legislator of Distinction Award and Cathedral International's Community Leader Award.

Assemblywoman Lopez studied at Rutgers University and completed several advanced certificate programs with Boston College, Union School of Business and Rutgers University Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership Institute.

Assemblywoman Lopez currently resides in Perth Amboy with her husband Sam Delgado.



PARTNER OF THE YEAR



hispanic federation

Hispanic Federation (HF) is the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization. Founded in 1990, HF seeks to empower and advance the Hispanic community, support Hispanic families, and strengthen Latino institutions through work in the areas of education, health, immigration, civic engagement, economic empowerment, disaster relief & the environment.

Hispanic Federation serves as a national model for Latino social, political, and economic empowerment. With a strong presence in New York, Florida, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and other key states throughout the U.S., HF works to uplift millions of Hispanic children, youth, and families across the country. Its Washington, DC office gives HF a true national advocacy presence. HF works locally, state-wide, and nationally to strengthen Latino nonprofits, promote public policy advocacy, and bring to scale a portfolio of innovative community programs.

The Federation's COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts committed nearly \$30 million in grants to 1,000 community-based organizations and small businesses across 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. HF has reached over 30,000,000 individuals via Univision, Telemundo, and NBC. Its Inmunidad NY PSA was aired during Telemundo's broadcast of Super Bowl LVI. As a result, HF helped vaccinate more than 350,000 Latinos though its national efforts.



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PRAHD Housing Program

PRAHD Food Pantry

Project BEST (Better Eye-Health Services and Treatment)

Resources for Independent Living (REFIL) Program

Senior Services Center (SSC)

For more information about our programs, please visit us at www.prahd.org or contact the agency's main office at 732-442-1081/732-638-2800



ROBERTO CLEMENTE



In the minds of many baseball fans, Roberto Clemente is the greatest player in baseball history. His tremendous philanthropic legacy pays testament to the kind of player and person he was. In his illustrious eighteen-year career, Roberto Clemente was the National League battling champion four times, was awarded the Gold Glove for outstanding fielding twelve times, appeared in twelve All-Star Games and in 1966 was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP.) He also became the

eleventh player in baseball history to get 3,000 hits. After his tragic death, he became the first Latino player to be elected to Baseball's Hall to Fame.

Aside from his athletic prowess, Roberto Clemente was committed to serving and helping others. He swerved in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1958-1964. Roberto Clemente was also a magnanimous human-being with a strong interest in helping the less fortunate. The star rose to fame from humble beginnings; his first baseball was a branch for a bat and an old coffee sack to catch the tight knots of rags that was his first baseball.

Roberto never forgot his upbringing and as such engaged in charity work during most of the off-season. After hearing the news of a terrible earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua, Clemente went to work organizing emergency relief flights; however due to unforeseen circumstances, the packages were never received by those affected. Upon discovering that the relief flights were not reaching the intended victims, Roberto boarded a fourth flight hoping to secure a successful trip; however in a tragic accident, the plane crashed immediately after takeoff.

On Sunday, December 31, 1972, Roberto Clemente passed away leaving his wife and three children behind and a lifetime of baseball skill and philanthropic activities. To those that knew him, it came as no surprise that Roberto Clemente died trying to help others. Roberto Clemente will always be remembered as an exceptionally skilled player and an equally compassionate humanitarian.



The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) was founded in Perth Amboy, New Jersey by a group of concerned community leaders/professionals who sought to provide supportive services to disadvantaged Perth Amboy youth. In May 1974, PRAHD was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and began to operate state funded anti-delinquency programming within Perth Amboy.

After the success of PRAHD's youth services, the organization expanded into more comprehensive activities and re-dedicated its efforts towards ensuring the success and advancement of individuals in need. Forty-six years later, PRAHD has grown into a thriving comprehensive human services agency that serves thousands of New Jersey residents throughout Middlesex, Union and Hudson counties.

PRAHD's mission is to develop human potential and promote selfsufficiency through programs designed to improve the social, economic, health and educational status of the community in a culturally sensitive environment. Complimentary to PRAHD's mission, the organizational vision is to empower the individual to reach his/her highest potential and to participate meaningfully in his/her community. PRAHD is an active community provider and steward that constantly campaigns for the rights, dignity and betterment of impoverished individuals and communities.

PRAHD operates 12 programs across a wide spectrum of unmet human service needs, which target education, housing, benefits access, youth development, preventative health, respite home care, and senior services. All agency programs integrate a variety of methodologies to maximize positive results and ensure sustainable social impact. Furthermore, all activities are designed to afford clients the opportunity to become self-sufficient allowing for the achievement of their personal, educational and financial goals.







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is proud to support **PRAHD's vision** to empower individuals to reach their highest potential and to participate meaningfully in their community

> HF is honored to accept the Partner of the Year Award

> > hispanic **federation**.org 1844 HF AYUDA

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Congratulations, honorees



Aetna Better Health[®] of New Jersey is proud to support and partner with The Puerto Rican Association For Human Development, Inc. and it's 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala.

We salute your dedication and efforts in providing vital supportive services and ensuring the success and advancement of individuals in need throughout Middlesex, Monmouth, Union and Hudson counties.

Congratulations to Assemblywoman, Yvonne Lopez and Hispanic Federation!



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Felicidades PRAHD

on your 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala!

Valley Bank Congratulates

Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez and the Hispanic Federation for the impactful work in the communities we serve!



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🖈 BOARDING PASS

Congratulations to Assemblywoman

Yvonne Lopez

& hispanicfederation



Recipients of the Roberto Clemente Award.





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PRAHD

Thank you for helping our community take one more step forward.



BINC BANK Make today the day."

Congratulations, Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, for taking the steps that help our community make strides. And we celebrate and thank the honorees at this year's Roberto Clemente Gala.

Contact Yolanda Swiney Vice President 732-220-3313 yolanda.swiney@pnc.com

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Creating vibrant communities

When we come together to build stronger communities, we give our time, energy, and ideas to help influence positive change. And as we watch progress take root, we grow as well.

PRAHD, it's an honor to recognize your commitment and service to the community.

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PRAHD



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M&T Bank is proud to support the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development.

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Your prosperity is our purpose.

Santander applauds the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development for making a real difference.

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CONGRATULATIONS

ASSEMBLYWOMAN YVONNE LOPEZ ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD

HISPANIC FEDERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT PRAHD

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Congratulates Assemblywoman Yvonne <u>Io</u>pez as the 2022 Roberto Clemente Award Recipient

> + Hispanic Federation as the Partner of the Year!





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Congratulates

Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez as the 2022 Roberto Clemente Award Recipient

87

Hispanic Federation as Partner of the

Year.

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Congratulations To The Puerto Rican Association For Human Development, Inc. On Over 45 Years of Outstanding Service To The Community

Special Congratulations To This Year's **PRAHD** Honorees

PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ASSEMBLYWOMAN YVONNE LOPEZ Roberto Clemente Award



FOR HER ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD

WE THANK YVONNE FOR HER PERSISTENT Leadership, Dedication, and commitment to our communities, especially her work with vulnerable families with young children in Middlesex county!

YVONNE, TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE YOU!

United Way of Central Jersey 32 Ford Ave, Milltown, NJ 08850 (732) 247-3727 • uwcj.org



United Way

Congratulations GRANDMOTHER YVONNE LOPEZ

My grandmother has always been an inspiration to me since I was a child. I looked up to her in every way. In my eyes, she's a fashion icon, a boss, and a very smart woman. Throughout my life as a young adult, I have integrated these qualities into my life. Without her, I wouldn't be the woman I am today. I am so proud to be her granddaughter.

I'm so proud of my grandmother and her countless accomplishments over the years. She's loving, smart, witty. I admire her determination and will to succeed. She's not just my grandmother but is also my friend.



2022 ROBERTO CLEMENTE GALA HONOREES

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CATHEDRAL INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

We congratulate PRAHD on the amazing work it does in the community and on its 34th Roberto Clemente Gala.

We extend <mark>congratulations</mark> also to Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez and the Hispanic Federation.

May God bless you as you continue to show compassion to those who are the less fortunate and in need of support.



Bishop Donald & Pastor Phyllis Hilliard

277 MADISON AVENUE, PERTH AMBOY, NJ







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Congratulations to PRAHD and this year's honorees of the 34th Annual Roberto Clemente Gala!





PRAHD

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