

**PRAB**



PARTNERS IN YOUR LIFE'S JOURNEY  
COMPAÑEROS EN EL VIAJE DE SU VIDA

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**October 19, 2017**

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**PUERTO RICAN ACTION BOARD (PRAB) HELD ITS 45<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA: HEALTHIER PRAB, HEALTHIER COMMUNITY AT THE PINES MANOR IN EDISON, NJ ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**

**New Brunswick, NJ – October 19, 2017...**PRAB (Puerto Rican Action Board), a comprehensive human services organization with headquarters in New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey, held its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, “Healthier PRAB, Healthier Community” on Friday, October 13, 2017. Nearly 350 guests gathered at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey, to celebrate PRAB’s accomplishments over the past 45 years, and recognize four deserving individuals and institutions:

**CORPORATE PARTNER AWARDEE:**

**Corporate Synergies**  
PRAB’s Health  
Insurance Broker



**COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDEE:**

**Healthier Middlesex**  
The CHIP partnership  
between Robert Wood  
Johnson & Saint Peter’s  
University Hospitals



**COMMUNITY PIONEER AWARDEE:**

**Blanquita B. Valenti**  
PRAB Co-Founder &  
Middlesex County  
Freeholder



**COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDEE:**

**Lauren Hernández**  
US Olympic Gold Medal  
Gymnast & Old Bridge  
Resident



“There was a real sense of togetherness and celebration,” said PRAB CEO, José Carlos Montes. “Everyone learned more about the work PRAB does for our Central New Jersey community. We also raised needed funds for our Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico and Mexico.” In addition to the 50/50 Raffle for Disaster Relief, the gala included a silent auction with over 60 items. The gala emcee was Ana Berdecía, CEO President, Potential Pathways, LLC, and Senior Fellow/Director Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children at the Thomas Edison State University.

Notable attendants included NJ State Senator Bob Smith; NJ State Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen; Middlesex County Freeholders Director Ronald Ríos, Kenneth Armwood, Leslie Koppel, Shanti Narra, and Charlie Kenny; Woodbridge Township Mayor John McCormac; New Brunswick Councilwoman Rebecca Escobar; Middlesex Vicinage Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas; Middlesex County College President Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales; and New Brunswick Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Aubrey Johnson.



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The main gala sponsors were Investors Bank, RWJBarnabas Health, Saint Peter's University Hospital, Conover Building Maintenance, Corporate Synergies, Trooper Foods, Pavese McCormick, M&T Bank, Karson Foods, Wells Fargo, WithumSmith+Brown, PC, Your Part Time Controller, Horizon NJ Health, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, Jackson Lewis, PC, Magyar Bank, New Jersey Solutions, PNC Bank, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, National Vision Administrators, Senator Bob Smith, and WellCare.



**About PRAB**

Incorporated in 1971, PRAB is the primary institution in Central New Jersey that provides diverse bilingual/multicultural services to the Central New Jersey community. PRAB operates 12 sites in Middlesex and Mercer counties, and serves approximately 30,000 individuals and families each year. PRAB's mission is to equip diverse individuals and families to achieve personal, family, and community development. As the Community Action Agency for Middlesex County West since 2009, we also address issues of poverty to change people's lives, bring hope, and improve our local communities.

To learn more about PRAB, its purpose, and programs, visit us at [www.prab.org](http://www.prab.org), and subscribe to our e-mail list. Also, join us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Tax-exempt donations are always welcome.



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