



## Because Children Need More Than Medicine to Thrive

Children of Bellevue: Get Connected

Featuring Information For Our Friends Who Care About Children in the Hospital

### TOAST TO THE CHILDREN

by Ron Longe, Board Member - Chair, Public Relations and Marketing Committee



The 21st annual Toast to the Children, the eagerly-anticipated annual Food & Drink event, will take place on Tuesday, April 25th, 2017 from 7:30 PM-10:00 PM.

(VIP guests are welcome to arrive at 6:30 PM) at riverpark in the Alexandria Center on 29th Street and the East River. Toast to the Children is Children of Bellevue's biggest fundraiser and proceeds from the event support the innovative, life-changing pediatric programs at Bellevue Hospital.

Famed chef and CoB Board member, Tom Colicchio of Craft Restaurants and Bravo's *Top Chef*, spearheads this wine and food sampling extravaganza. This year, CoB will be presenting the Children's Champion Award to Judith Dunn, Ph.D., Vice President and Global Head of Clinical Development, Roche Innovation Center New York, and Selenis Leyva, Advocate/Actress *Orange Is The New Black*.



Photo Credit - Jennifer Liseo

A few of this year's participating restaurants are: The Beatrice Inn, Craft, Fowler & Wells, La Boite, The Musket Room, Pearl Oyster Bar, Rappahannock Oyster

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### Upcoming Events

April 25th, 2017:

[Toast to the Children 2017- Purchase Tickets, Journal Ads and Sponsorships](#)

May 2017:

Zumbathon- Stay tuned for more details.

June 19, 2017:

Leave a Lasting Mark, 80's Concert. Look out for your invitation!

[Watch our website](#) and your email for more details!





Photo Credit- Jennifer Liseo

Don't miss this opportunity to raise money for a good cause, mingle with friends, and sample signature dishes from some of New York's most celebrated restaurants and wines from around the world.

Visit <https://www.501auctions.com/toasttothechildren> to purchase your tickets or support Children of Bellevue today.

**MEET CHILDREN OF BELLEVUE SUPPORTER AND ONE OF ITS CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS AT TOAST TO THE CHILDREN 2017**  
By Ron Longe, Board Member- Chair, Public Relations and Marketing Committee



Dr. Judith Dunn has been named one of the Children's Champion award winners at the 2017 Toast to the Children.

Judy is a member of Roche's pharma Research and Early Development Leadership Team, focused on discovery and development of new medications that significantly improve the lives of patients. As Vice President of Clinical Development, Judy leads several functions which contribute to the design and execution of clinical programs in the areas of Immunology & Inflammation, Infectious Diseases, Neuroscience, Oncology, Ophthalmology and Rare Diseases. Judy also heads the Roche

Innovation Center in New York City.

Judy has more than 25 years of international experience in the pharmaceutical industry. She began her career as a discovery scientist in biotech, held positions in both the research and commercial divisions of Pfizer, and led Psychiatry Clinical Development efforts at Sepracor, a specialty pharma company. She attended Wesleyan University and the University of Rochester, obtaining undergraduate and graduate degrees in Neurobiology. She was the recipient of a Research Fellowship in Neuropharmacology from the Center for Brain Research at Strong Memorial Hospital, as well as a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Research from Pfizer.

Children of Bellevue's board member, Ron Longe, posed a few questions to this dedicated supporter of the organization and one of the recipients of this year's honor.

*How did you become aware of Children of Bellevue?*

When we placed the Roche Innovation Center in NYC, our employees really wanted to become part of the community. The Bellevue Hospital is literally next door. We reached out to the Children of Bellevue organization to see if there were volunteer opportunities, and we received a great welcome from them.

*How long have you been involved and how have you and your company Roche been involved in past years?*

We have been involved with CoB for the three years since we arrived in New York City. Early on, I walked over to the hospital and met some of the staff. I immediately connected with the holistic approach to caring for children's needs that is the focus of CoB and knew that there could be a great fit here.

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Of course, we have attended the Toast to the Children event each year since 2013, which is a wonderful way for us to provide support and raise awareness. More of us, however, have participated in small ways that have had an impact on us and the children. The Reach Out and Read program is one that particularly resonates with me. Going over to the hospital and reading to the children and bringing book donations are small, but personal things we have done to brighten the days of children at the hospital.

Additionally, we have been able to enhance the physical environment at the hospital by recycling furniture and supplies that would have otherwise been discarded but are useful and much appreciated by both the staff and patients at the hospital.

*Why do you think Children of Bellevue's mission is important?*

I am convinced that the attention CoB places on aspects of children's lives such as protection and education that go beyond what is considered traditional healthcare will have significant and lasting impact on these children and on their families. Another important aspect of the CoB mission is the focus on child and adolescent psychiatry. This commitment to children's mental health furthers the integrated approach to overall wellness that is the mission of the organization.

*You mentioned that CoB's Reach Out and Read program resonates with you. What is your favorite children's book?*

Winnie the Pooh was a favorite of mine as a child. My sister and I read it aloud endlessly. I like the fact that my niece and nephew, decades later enjoyed the same book. More recently, I am a huge fan of Olivia the Pig; I think I enjoy Olivia more than the kids do!

*Congratulations on being this Year's Toast to the Children honoree. Do you have any words you would like to say about receiving this honor?*

It's quite humbling to be this year's honoree; I am grateful to be able to use this opportunity to thank the Children of Bellevue organization, along with all of their sponsors and supporters for the work they do each day to improve the lives of New York's neediest children.

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## ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK'S STAR SELENIS LEYVA NAMED ONE OF THIS YEAR'S CHILDREN'S CHAMPION HONOREES



Children of Bellevue is thrilled to announce that *Orange is the New Black's* star, Selenis Leyva, will be honored with this year's Children's Champion award at the organization's annual Toast to the Children fund-raising tasting event. Selenis is being honored for her passion and dedication to children's causes and for her work with disadvantaged Latino and LGBTQ youth -- two causes at the center of Children of Bellevue's mission.

Born and raised in New York City, Selenis is a proud Latina of Cuban and Dominican descent. In addition to being the first Hispanic Ambassador for the Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research (her brother is a two-time cancer survivor), Selenis is the recent recipient of the 2016 Visionary Award in New York City from the Stonewall Community

Foundation, the recipient of the 2016 Courage Award Honoree from the Anti-Violence Project and honored to be included in People Español Magazine's 2016 Las 25 Mujeres Mas Poderosas Issue.

She is a strong advocate for LGBT rights and works closely with LGBT Human Rights organizations, GLAAD and Anti-Bullying Campaigns. She travels throughout the country to speak with young teens and families. This is a matter



close to her heart, her younger sister Marizol Leyva is a Trans Woman and knows firsthand all the prejudice and battles regarding this matter. Selenis and her sister have dedicated themselves to educate families and society.

Selenis Leyva is one of the breakout stars of the Netflix hit series *Orange Is The New Black*, which recently won its third consecutive 2017 Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble Cast in a Comedy Series. Selenis will reprise her role as series regular (and fan favorite!) Gloria Mendóza in season five set to premiere June 2017, and she recently made history as the first Latina Senator on HBO's Emmy-winning series, *Veep*, starring opposite Julia Louis Dreyfus.

Selenis wrapped production on the highly-anticipated feature film, *Custody*, starring opposite Catalina Sandino Moreno, Viola Davis, and Raul Esparza in NYC with a slated release date for fall 2017, and anticipated drama feature film, *Chapter*, starring opposite Omari Hardwick. 2017 is gearing up as a big year for Selenis as she will be co-starring in the mega-hit film franchise *Spiderman: Homecoming*, releasing on July 7, 2017.

Selenis' numerous television credits include recurring roles on hit shows like *Law & Order: SVU*; *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Wife*, *Girls*, *Elementary*, *The Following*, *The Sopranos* and *Third Watch*. On the big screen, she's been in *Sex & The City 2*, the Oscar-nominated film, *Maria Full of Grace*, and the animated films *Ice Age: Continental Drift*, *EPIC*, and *Ice Age: Dawn of Dinosaurs*.

A triple threat, Selenis also has numerous acting credits on the New York Stage, including the iconic role of Celia Cruz in the off-Broadway hit *Celia*, and the critically acclaimed actress plays Ana in the *Tropics and Dona Flor & Her 2 Husbands*.



By Jennifer Starobin Davidson, Board Member

Children of Bellevue was elated to be an Official Charity Partner of the 2016 TCS New York City Marathon. Our five-member "Run for the Children" team raised \$23,800 dollars for CoB programs. Board member, Helen Stephan, introduced the concept of the marathon as a fundraiser, and fellow board member, Benjamine Valle enlisted four runners, including her husband, to take on the challenge.



The team of Guilherme Valle, Nadim Razzouki, Magali Thomas, Christophe Thomas and Doctor Leonardo Trasande joined 50,000 runners to complete the 26.2 mile journey across New York City's five boroughs. In addition to raising money, the marathoners helped raise Children of Bellevue's profile. The New York City Marathon is the largest marathon in the world, and more than one million spectators lined the race route to cheer on the runners.

Children of Bellevue is proud to once again have nine runners in the 2017 TCS NYC Marathon. Please come out and cheer our runners on!

## MEET ANNE EMBRY - LIFE BOARD MEMBER

By Jennifer Starobin Davidson, Board Member



Children of Bellevue has a long history of providing hands-on, thoughtful care to children in need. We welcome new volunteers as they bring fresh energy and ideas, but we also cherish our longstanding contributors who've participated in growing CoB over a period of decades into the resource it is today.

One Life Member who's invaluable to us is Anne Embry. She first got involved with Children of Bellevue in the mid-1950's when she was a member of

the Junior League. She and her peers would take a portable puppet show to disadvantaged sections of the city, and Bellevue was one of their stops. Anne quickly saw that CoB was special. "In those days, children were in the hospital for weeks and sometimes a month or even a year. Here was this organization trying to give them a somewhat normal life." Anne's interest led her to volunteer for CoB. Eventually, more than a decade later, she joined the board. "I used to help out doing whatever needed doing. Board members were very hands-on. There was a little dinner dance fundraiser that we used to have. Benefits were small back then, not these big, grand events." She also made some lifelong friends with other women on the board. "I think it was a time when many women didn't work as they do now, so there were primarily women on the board because they were the ones with the free time." Of course, these days, men and women sit on the board of CoB, and the organization benefits from a variety of perspectives.

Anne is still very much involved in CoB. This past Fall, she opened her beautiful Manhattan home to former and present board members for an evening to meet each other and reflect on the organization. Those who've been with the CoB through the years have witnessed a lot of positive changes. "In the earlier days, CoB served the children in the hospital. It didn't reach out to the families. In fact, children were often abandoned in the hospital. There was not as much focus on emotional problems as there is now. I think the need has always been there." She notes that CoB has been an innovator in child care; it was the first service of its sort in hospitals and was copied all over the country and abroad. As she congratulates the organization for the wonderful job it's doing, she adds that she hopes the pioneering spirit continues. "It's still important to innovate and spread the knowledge. There's no reason just to sit on our great knowledge."

## ARTISTS FUNDRAISER 2016

By Jennifer Starobin Davidson, Board Member



Artwork by Felix Lesny

An impressive collection of New York City's top artists, dancers and musicians pooled their creative talent one Fall evening to raise money and awareness for Children of Bellevue. More than 100 people attended the October 13th Artists Fundraiser on Varick Street. "Performers generously donated their time to this extraordinary event, and each artist donated a percentage of their proceeds to help the children of Bellevue Hospital Center," said Mariadora Saladino, Director of Development for CoB.

The medical world and art world may, at first, seem like unlikely partners; however, when it comes to children, they occupy common ground. CoB works with doctors, nurses and volunteers daily using art as a means of treatment. Through dance, art and music therapies, countless young patients are able to express their frustrations and fears.

A number of sponsors supported the Artists Fundraiser for CoB. M5 Showroom donated the space, Fairway Market provided discounted food, Sensorium provided the sound system and Moët donated champagne. The event introduced many attendees to CoB for the first time, and each dollar raised will strengthen the organization's ability to help children cope, recover and heal.

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