

November 3, 2023

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tanenbaum Assistant Director of Communications, Nicole Margaretten,
at nmargaretten@tanenbaum.org.

Tanenbaum Honors Visionaries at Annual Gala: *Peace Made Possible*

New York, NY, November 3, 2023: The Tanenbaum | Center for Interreligious Understanding honored individuals and institutions who have made significant strides in advancing Tanenbaum's mission to promote justice and build respect for religious differences at its annual Gala: *Peace Made Possible*. This year's awards and honorees included:

Corporate Bridge Builder Award to Merck for its work to create accountable and equitable workplaces.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding to co-founders of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, Atiya Aftab, Esq. and Sheryl Olitzky for their achievements to unite Muslim and Jewish women across the nation committed to eradicating hate.

Adam Solomon Award for Excellence to Faigy Abraham, Matthew Diles, Sandi Gaynair-Duncan, Angelica Restrepo, Cheryl Rizzo, the founding members of Tanenbaum's Education Advisory Board, for their leadership in cultivating inclusive classrooms that teach mutual respect.

The Gala took place at New York City's Edison Ballroom and was broadcast live for virtual audiences. WABC-TV anchor Sandra Bookman hosted the in-person event, and comedian Hollie Harper took virtual participants through the evening's program, interviewing guests including Vice President of Merck's Global Diversity and Inclusion Center of Excellence, Celeste Warren. Tanenbaum CEO, Rev. Mark Fowler, shed light on the Gala's theme, *Peace Made Possible*, and its significance as the Israel-Hamas war intensified.

"Tanenbaum makes peace possible by building a society where differences are respected. We're not only saying there is space for you, but we are working with workplaces, schools, a *Network of Peacemakers*, and in health care settings to create that space," said Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum CEO. **"Our mission mandates us to find new ways to build respect, because we simply cannot go on any longer with division and conflict as our final answer."**

View photos from the evening on Tanenbaum's website [here](#) and watch WABC-TV's coverage of the Gala [here](#). For more information, contact [Nicole Margaretten](#), Communications Assistant Director, Creative Content.

Tanenbaum promotes justice and builds respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred, and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>

###