



## **\$550,000 raised for March of Dimes at 30th annual Westchester Real Estate Awards Breakfast**

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Shown above (from left) are: Jamie Schwartz, executive vice president, GHP Office Realty, Robert Weinberg, event chairperson Patricia Valenti, executive managing firector, Newmark Knight Frank and James Houlihan.

Rye brook, NY March of Dimes Greater New York Market held its 30th Anniversary Westchester Real Estate Awards Breakfast on November 16 at The Hilton Westchester. Two members of Westchester's commercial real estate community received awards. Development pioneer Robert Weinberg, co-founder and president of Robert Martin Company, received the real estate award. James Houlihan, principal, Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, received the Martin Berger Award for Lifetime Achievement. Brian Conybeare, CBS2 Westchester Bureau Chief, was the event's emcee.

Records were broken on this 30th anniversary – nearly 650 representatives of the commercial real estate industry were in attendance, the most in its history, raising \$550,0000 for the March of Dimes.

The breakfast is the largest gathering of real estate professionals in Westchester County each year.

Our honorees:

The Real Estate Award honors companies or individuals whose developments and endeavors have or are making significant impact to our real estate landscape and transforming our communities through their vision, dedication and philanthropy. 2017 Real Estate Award recipient Robert F. Weinberg is co-founder of Robert Martin Company, along with his deceased partner Martin Berger. It has developed and managed over 6,000,000 square feet of office and industrial complexes. These include the well-known Cross Westchester, Mid Westchester, Stamford, Stratford, BlueHill, and South Westchester Executive Parks many of which have now been merged into the Mack-Cali Real Estate Investment Trust, where he serves as Director and principal shareholder. Robert Martin Company has created over 3,000 dwelling units and is now participating in processing projects containing nearly 6,000 more.

In connecting the long relationship between the Real Estate Community and March of Dimes' efforts on behalf of preemie babies and their survival, Mr. Weinberg, the Honoree at the event, pointed out two of his two married grandchildren and their spouses in the audience as examples of the life

sequences of the older Gen X group which had their children early in marriage, and the younger Millennials, who delayed family formation until nearly a decade after marriage. Those decisions create a gap of almost 15 years in national family growth and caused developers to change product lines to increase the ratio of one-bedroom units in new buildings, while waiting for that gap to fill with more children in the next decade. By sponsoring March of Dimes research and its effort to improve survival rates, the industry was recognizing a valuable charitable exercise in both doing good and insuring future demand for its product. The audience was startled while it considered the implications, and then the buzz of recognition was intense, as the significance of the revelation was digested.

The Martin Berger Award for Lifetime Achievement acknowledges individuals for outstanding accomplishments in the real estate industry and in service to the community during their lifetime. Recipients exemplify the Berger legacy in business, family and charity. The award was named after Berger for his extraordinary vision and endeavors as a preeminent developer in our community, and for his philanthropy.

2017 MSB Award recipient James Houlihan is a graduate of Manhattan Preparatory School (1970) and of Fordham University School of Business (Gabelli School of Business 1974). Houlihan represents the fourth of five generations in a family business, Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, LLC. He is also an active partner in GHP Office Realty LLC, as well as a partner in HP Capital, a mortgage service company, a partner in Houlihan Parnes Properties, and a member of Q10 Capital, LLC. He and his firms have been retained by many leading financial, not-for-profits, and educational institutions as both a consultant and agent to manage, lease, acquire, renovate, and sell real estate.

“It was a great honor for me to be recognized at this year’s 30th anniversary of the March of Dimes real estate breakfast in Westchester County. It was particularly meaningful for me to receive the Martin Berger Lifetime Achievement Award. Marty was a good friend, mentor and eventually a business associate. He was a true leader in the real estate industry as well as the entire community of Westchester. He made a difference and I hope that my efforts do as well. It was a distinct honor to be feted alongside Robert Weinberg, Marty’s partner for many years. Marty and Bob, and The Robert Martin Company (their flagship) were pioneers, leaders and served as wonderful inspirations to all who followed their spectacular success.” said Houlihan on receiving the award.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve as chair of the March of Dimes Real Estate Awards Breakfast on this 30th anniversary, which not only honors our area’s top commercial real estate professionals, but supports the important work the March of Dimes does to improve the health of babies. Every year the event is growing – we raised \$550,000 and had 650 people in attendance. The breakfast has become the premier commercial real estate event in Westchester.” said Patricia Valenti, executive managing director, Newmark Knight Frank, and chairperson of the 2017 Real Estate Awards Breakfast.

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