

Life's WORC 36th Annual Geraldo Rivera Golf Classic Honoring Howard Fensterman and Celebrating Geraldo Rivera Day

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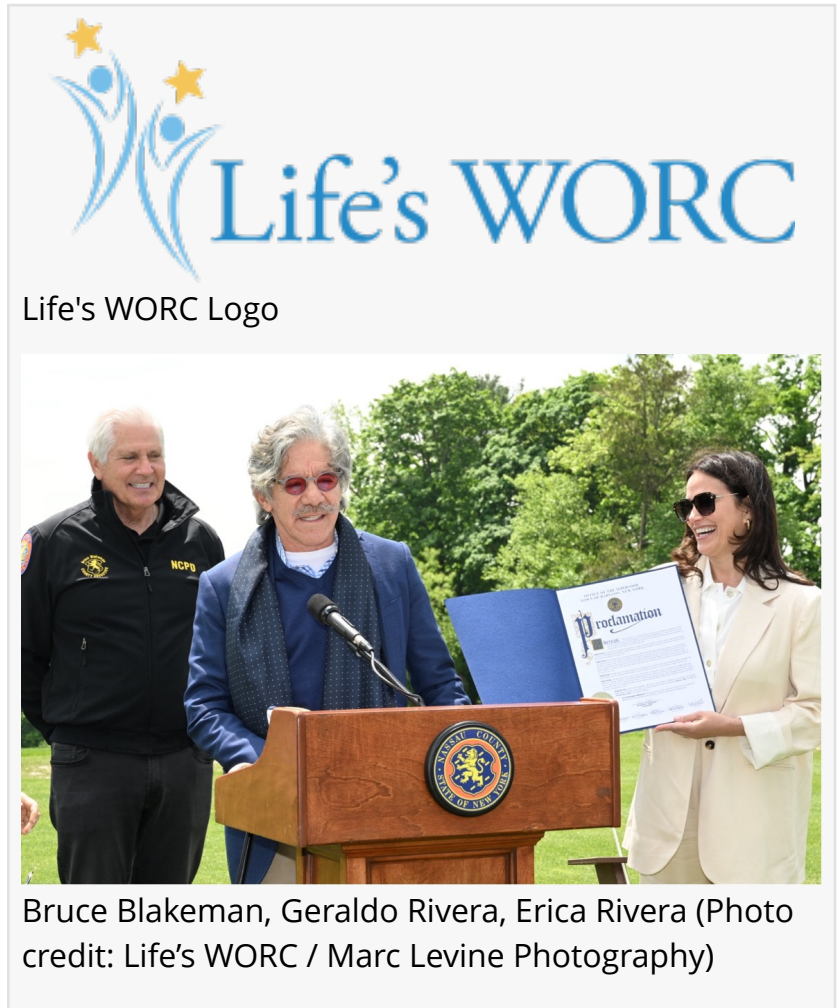
/EINPresswire.com/ -- The 36th Annual Geraldo Rivera Golf Classic took place at the Old Westbury Golf & Country Club, Long Island, NY. The event's host, Geraldo Rivera, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist kicked off the golf classic with a brunch before the golfers hit the course at noon.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and town officials from West Babylon came together to proclaim the day of the event as "Geraldo Rivera Day". In addition, Geraldo was presented with a commemorative jersey from West Babylon High School and memento's crafted by children participating in the Life's WORC program.

This year's event honored Howard Fensterman, Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Abrams Fensterman, LLP as well as raised funds in support of Life's WORC and their mission of making a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Notable attendees included: Geraldo Rivera, Erica Rivera, Howard Fensterman, Bill O'Reilly, Bruce Blakeman, Victoria Schneps, Sean Hannity (Virtual).

For decades, the groundbreaking Golf Classic and other high-profile events have helped bring hope and light to this once-marginalized population. The Life's WORC team has been together



Bruce Blakeman, Geraldo Rivera, Erica Rivera (Photo credit: Life's WORC / Marc Levine Photography)

since Geraldo's critically acclaimed series exposing the deplorable conditions at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island in January 1972, a half century ago.

Super-stars like John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Stevie Wonder, John Denver, and the Allman Brothers Band have all contributed with their talent and generosity. Like their concerts, charity boxing matches filled Madison Square Garden and brought thousands in celebration in Central Park. These events, including for the last 34 years the Geraldo Rivera Golf Classic, have raised millions and helped improve the lives of countless thousands.

About Geraldo Rivera:

One of media's most enduring broadcasters, in the Summer of 2023, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist Geraldo Rivera left Fox News, after 22 years with the network as Senior Correspondent and rotating co-host on the FOX News Channel's hit program The Five. Currently he is appearing on various networks including CNN and NewsNation.

Rivera began his 51-year career as a television reporter at WABC-TV in New York where he presented the historic series exposing the deplorable conditions at the Willowbrook State School for People with Developmental Disabilities for the population then described as mentally challenged.

These powerful reports are credited with ending America's policy of institutionalizing the developmentally disabled, leading to government investigations, institutions across the nation being eventually shut down and the civilized world adopting small, community-based housing as the alternative. The subsequent sea change in the treatment of the mentally disabled is considered by Geraldo to be his most important life's work.



Guests, Bill O'Reilly, Victoria Schneps, Geraldo Rivera, Erica Rivera (Photo credit: Life's WORC / Marc Levine Photography)



Bill O'Reilly, Victoria Schneps, Honoree Howard Fensterman (Photo credit: Life's WORC / Marc Levine Photography)

The winner of the 2000 Robert F. Kennedy journalism award for his NBC News documentary on "Women in Prison," his third, and the Scripps Howard Foundation national journalism award for "Back to Bedlam," Rivera has received several hundred awards for journalism, and community service including the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award, three national and seven local Emmys, two Columbia-DuPont and two additional Scripps Howard Journalism Awards.

Prior to joining Fox News, Rivera, an attorney, covered the globe for ABC News; hosted a widely viewed series of syndicated specials, including the highest rated in history, "The Mystery of Al Capone's Vault." His eponymous talk show ran for eleven successful seasons. He later hosted CNBC's number-one rated show, "Rivera Live," where his critically acclaimed coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial verdicts and the Clinton Impeachment set all-time CNBC ratings records.

For more information, please visit: www.geraldorivera.com

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About Life's WORC:

In 1971, Victoria Schneps-Yunis founded Life's WORC, originally the Women's Organization For Retarded Children, with women in her Bayside neighborhood. They volunteered and helped raise money for the people at the Willowbrook State School. Victoria's activism was inspired by her daughter Lara who was brain damaged after her birth.

In 1972, after severe budget cuts by Governor Rockefeller, reporter Gerald Rivera revealed the atrocious living conditions at the Staten Island-based Willowbrook State School, which was the country's largest institution serving people with developmental disabilities and autism. The story helped gain national media attention, which led to the school's ultimate closing, forced on the state by parents winning a Federal Class Action lawsuit.

Life's WORC went on to purchase the first group home for children in New York State in Little Neck, Queens. The first residents were young people who previously lived at Willowbrook and some who came from their homes.

The organization has continued to grow in New York City, as well as Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island.



Atmosphere (Photo credit: Life's WORC / Marc Levine Photography)

Life's WORC also runs Day Habilitation Programs, the Family Center For Autism (FCA), and the newly created Job Training Center for People with Special Needs. Life's WORC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, please visit:

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