United Adult Ministries (UAM), the parent company of Flushing House, will honor three outstanding persons with The Rose Kryzak Senior Leadership Award, during their annual fundraising gala at historic Flushing Town Hall. The gala will also feature live performances by tenor Daniel Rodriguez, the city's own “singing policeman,” whose a cappella renditions of “God Bless America” and “The Star Spangled Banner,” did much to lift the nation’s spirits in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001. Rodriguez will be honored with a special award for his support of various nonprofits, especially those which serve older adults.

The awards are named after the late Kryzak, a public advocate who fought for the rights of older adults. A resident of Flushing House for her last 13 years, she passed away on Jun. 24, 1999 at 99 years of age. To keep her legacy alive and further passage of universal health care, the many causes she cared for, UAM established the Kryzak Senior Leadership Award Winners Chosen in 2000. New York’s forerunner First Lady Matilda Cuomo officiated at the program’s inauguration.


At each annual gala, Kryzak’s family attends to help honor the award winners for their continued good works on behalf of older adults. The award winners must have established, operated or expanded programs that benefit the older adult population, have a track record of advocacy, and secured funding for senior programs. This year’s honorees are Estela B. Divino, LCSW, Mary Sheehan-Lohne, LCSW, and Carol O’Dette, LCSW-R. “They have all soldiered on in the tradition of Rose Kryzak, making major contributions of service and caring for older adults,” said Robert F. Salant, Flushing House director of community relations. “The legacy of Rose Kryzak shall not be forgotten, and that’s why each year since her passing, we bestow these awards in her name.”

Divino, has served as director of social services at Regal Heights Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Jackson Heights, since 2000. She is on the Health and Social Services Committee, Queens Community Board 3, and is on the board of the Queens Interagency Council on Aging.

Sheehan-Lohne, has been director of social services at the Cliffside Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Flushing, since 2000. As an advocate for senior issues, she is the staff liaison for the NYC Ombudsman program at Cliffside and previously at Gouverneur Nursing Facility.

O’Dette, has been a social worker in health care since 1979 and director of social work services at Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, since 2007.

The fundraising gala will be held on November 8, at Flushing Town Hall, Flushing, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. All proceeds support a special endowment fund, which allows Flushing House to remain affordable for many of the older adults who live there.

Interested parties should RSVP by October 29, by sending in their name and address, along with a $75 check payable to United Adult Ministries, to Robert F. Salant, Director of Community Relations, Flushing House, 38-20 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11354. For more information, call 347-532-3025 or e-mail rsalant@uam.org.