

## 'Spirit of Hope' Gala Benefit for Liberation Programs on Thursday June 6 in Darien

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Tickets are on sale now for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit of Hope Benefit — the principal fundraiser for the Liberation Programs organization.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with festive cocktails and a moving vocal performance by students from Darien High School. Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner, inspiring speakers, a lively auction and hear from some of the nation's leading experts on addiction as they share their views on how to fight the opioid epidemic.

— *an announcement from* [Liberation Programs](#)

The event, which takes place on Thursday, June 6 at Woodway Country Club in Darien, will raise critical funds for the life-saving treatment the organization provides for recoverees, and the outreach work it does to prevent substance use disorders in our community.

Awards will be presented to some of the best minds in the field. The first award will go to Gary Mendell, founder and CEO of Shatterproof, a national nonprofit dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causes families.

Mendell's leadership in reversing the course of the opioid epidemic led him to testify in front of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, and his opinions are frequently shared in the media.

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A second award will be presented to Trey Laird, CEO and founder of The Lighthouse, which offers sober living recovery environments for professionals. Laird, a former Wall Street trader and recovering addict, created the firm to expand options for transitional living spaces. The organization has multiple locations in lower Fairfield County.

Maggie Young MSW, LADC, Liberation Programs' chief recovery officer, will be honored for her over 25 years of experience in addiction prevention and treatment. In addition to Young's local and state work, she spearheads the organization's Families in Recovery Program (FIRP), manages eighteen supportive housing units, and runs a prevention and education service which supports middle and high school-aged students and their families.

"Funds raised through this event allow us to provide the lifesaving treatment and prevention efforts that restore lives and strengthen our community," said John Hamilton, president and CEO of Liberation Programs. "Please join us for an exceptional evening that raises addiction awareness, supports recovery and prevention, and celebrates success."

Liberation Programs is grateful to co-chairs John Bassler, Debra Hertz, PhD and Cynthia J. Shaw, as well as committee members Meg Bradt, Elmerina Brooks, Roberta Cohen, Steve Fogarty, Icy Frantz, Mort Lowenthal, Allison Milne, Sallyan Pelletier, Sara Tucker and Brigitte Van Den Houte.

To purchase tickets visit [www.spiritofhope2019.com](http://www.spiritofhope2019.com) or call 203-851-2077. Tickets are \$250 and a variety of high visibility sponsorship packages are available. Woodway Country Club is located at 40 Hoyt St. in Darien.

Liberation Programs would like to thank its generous corporate sponsors to date: Atlantic Diagnostic Laboratories, KPMG, The Lighthouse / Recovery 365, Mountainside Treatment Center, Pitney Bowes and Stamford Health.

### **About Liberation Programs**

Liberation Programs is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit behavioral health organization serving the substance use and mental health disorder needs of more than 2,000 individuals annually throughout lower Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Founded in 1971, Liberation supports youth, adults, and families at inpatient treatment programs in Stamford and Norwalk; outpatient clinics in Greenwich, Stamford, and Bridgeport; youth and senior education and outreach programs based in Greenwich; and permanent supportive housing for families in Norwalk and Bridgeport. To learn more, visit [Liberation Program's website](#) or call 203-851-2077.