



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

Gina Vasquez

JAMES SANDERS JR. April 27, 2018

| ISSUE: **2018 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION**



Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Gina Vasquez

Gina Vasquez is the founder and president of Flowers of Hope NY, a 501(c) community-based organization that promotes family and community bonding through dance exercise and fitness for the body, mind and soul. Ms. Vasquez has used her creativity and motivational skills to build bonds between Flowers of Hope and the New York City community, organizing cancer walks, free NYC Parks and Recreation performances, and a support network for members.

Ms. Vasquez is a clinical social worker who has dedicated her life to improving the lives of families and children. She has experience working with geriatric communities, as well as with victims of trauma and abuse. Ms. Vasquez is an active volunteer who combines her passion for belly dance choreography with her knowledge of social work, offering a nuanced approach to trauma therapy through dance and song.

Currently, Ms. Vasquez works as a therapist at the New York Psychotherapy Clinic. She earned her Master's Degree in Social Work at Adelphi University, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA. She also studied at York College within the City University of New York, where she enjoyed courses in psychology and human behavior, while simultaneously interning at a nursing hospital.

Ms. Vasquez's interest in volunteering has grown steadily throughout the years. She expanded her volunteer work to include helping immigrant children improve their reading and writing skills, and volunteers her time for childhood cancer patients at the oncology clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital. She has also instilled a deep sense of community involvement in her children, who also volunteer regularly.