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**Care For the Homeless and Urban Pathways Host Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**

*New York non-profits hold event to honor and remember hundreds of New Yorkers who passed away while homeless or unstably housed in 2019.*

**New York, N.Y.** – Care For the Homeless (CFH) and Urban Pathways (UP) will host Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The event is free and open to the public.

It will be held at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street. A meal will be served at 4:30 p.m. before the main program begins at 5:30 p.m.

We will be joined by **New York State Assembly members** *Andrew Hevesi* and *Richard N. Gottfried*.

As chair of the Social Services Committee, Assembly member Hevesi has long been a champion for people experiencing homelessness and poverty in New York.

Similarly, as chair of the Health Committee, Assembly member Gottfried has consistently fought for increased health care access for all vulnerable populations in New York.

During the main program, the names of those being remembered will be read out loud, as a candle is lit and a bell tolls. Some individuals will also have eulogies read in their memory.

Attendees are encouraged to add names to the 'Wall of Memory' as well as announce them during the service.

Anedia V. will be among the many individuals remembered. A loving mother, she was the recipient of the Health Care Success award at the Summer Solstice Success Celebration held this past July.

In her own words: "Life is a blessing, life is a gift, and faith is power. We all have the same objectives in life: to love, feel joy, to teach, to learn; to become fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, and friends. We are all part of the same team and we do so through strength, patience, understanding, respect, and love of one another."

CFH provider, Joy Favuzza, Family Nurse Practitioner, will read her eulogy. Anedia is just one of over 160 people who will be memorialized at the event.

**CFH Executive Director, George Nashak and UP CEO, Fred Shack** will lead the program.

“Even as we pause to grieve for those who passed away while homeless, we need to acknowledge that chronic homelessness can rob a person of 30 or even 40 years of life,” said Nashak.

“As a society, we have it within our power to end the modern-day homeless crisis. And it starts with rectifying poor policy choices. Better policies can end homelessness as we know it.”

Similarly, Fred Shack commented: “Housing and health are essential components to preventing and ending homelessness. With [HPMD], we’re acknowledging the value and dignity of each person, while also bringing attention to that essential connection.”

Care For the Homeless and Urban Pathways have hosted HPMD annually for the past several years. Since its inception, many other cities have adopted the same observation. This year it is expected that over 180 cities will host a Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day.

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**About Care For the Homeless:**

*Care For the Homeless (CFH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is committed to providing individuals experiencing homelessness with high quality medical, mental, and behavioral health care services. In addition, CFH actively advocates for policies to prevent and end homelessness. CFH also currently operates Susan’s Place and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Women’s Center, transitional shelters for mentally ill and medically frail women as well as multiple health care delivery sites across four New York City boroughs. For more information, visit [www.careforthehomeless.org](http://www.careforthehomeless.org).*

**About Urban Pathways:**

*For nearly 45 years, Urban Pathways has engaged New York City’s most vulnerable residents – homeless and at-risk men and women, many of whom live with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Each year, they help more than 3,700 individuals achieve stability by providing housing to meet their needs and supportive services, including case management, and assessments as well as referrals to appropriate medical, behavioral health, and other services, career development programs, and client advocacy. For more information, please visit <http://www.urbanpathways.org/>.*