



Safe. Happy. Home. A full life for individuals with disabilities and seniors.

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Enable, Inc. Presents Enable Michael Graves Awards at Princeton Fundraiser

September 30, 2016, Princeton, NJ: Enable, Inc. presented the first Enable Michael Graves Awards at the Enable Awards Celebration on September 30, 2016, to Mindy Scheier, founder of Runway of Dreams; Special Olympics New Jersey (represented by Heather Bell Andersen, President and CEO); and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (represented by Peg Forrestel, Director of Contributions and Community Affairs).

More than 100 guests gathered to celebrate the award recipients at Enable's newly renovated Princeton headquarters at 13 Roszel Road, Suite B110. The event was a fundraiser for Enable's services supporting independent living for children and adults with disabilities and seniors in Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Hunterdon, and Somerset counties.

Mindy Scheier, [Runway of Dreams](#) received *The Michael Graves Award for Creativity and Persistence* for the fashion-forward adaptive clothes she designs for "[differently-abled](#)" kids.

[Special Olympics New Jersey](#) received *The Michael Graves Award for Advocacy*. The organization provides year-round sports training and Olympic-style competition in 23 sports to 14,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

[Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#) received *The Michael Graves Award for Using Philanthropy to Advance People with Disabilities*. Their 13 year support of Enable's community engagement program made it possible for thousands of volunteers to enrich the lives of people with disabilities and seniors.

"These individuals and organizations have actively championed the rights of individuals with disabilities," Sharon Copeland, Chief Executive Officer of Enable, Inc. stated. "We are extremely proud of their dedication and efforts to develop understanding and respect among all people. Each award recipient has shown tremendous leadership in our community and has worked tirelessly to help promote an inclusive society for all."

The Enable Michael Graves Awards were established in honor of celebrated architect Michael Graves who was serving as Enable's 25th Anniversary Gala Co-Chair when he died in March 2015. His humanistic designs in furnishings and buildings for people with disabilities were among his greatest contributions, supporting his strong belief that a person with a disability should be able to remain in his own home, in the community. Michael Graves Architecture & Design donated three Michael Graves Tea Rex Alessi kettles which were awarded that night.

The Enable Awards Celebration was chaired **by Genette and Kenneth Falk and Alexandra Coleman**. Serving on the event committee were Cecilia Birge; Sharon J.B. Copeland; Frances Chaves; Jacob Davidson; Joanne Palmer; Kathleen Patrick; Linda Radovic Reilly; Amy Weaver; and Caron Wendel. Representatives from Enable's board who served on the committee were President Shashi Airi; Dominic B. Sanginiti, Jr., Esq.; John Trench, CPA; Frank DiSanzo; Daryl Holcomb; Nora L. Pollard, Ph.D.; and William J. Quinn III.

The Enable Awards Celebration was sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Stark & Stark; Special Olympics, New Jersey; Withum; Santander Bank; Turner Construction Company; Santander; Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.; NJM Insurance Group; Faber; VoiceNext; and DZH Pharma Solutions.

Enable, Inc. was established as a non-profit in 1989 and serves over 400 individuals with disabilities, seniors, and their families in New Jersey. About one in five Americans lives with a disability; over one in ten lives with a severe disability. Enable meets its constituents' needs through residential services, day programs, and in home care, assisting them to sustain healthy, independent lives in an environment that provides dignity, respect, and personal fulfillment. Enable promotes individual choice and facilitates inclusion into community life. For more information about Enable, go to www.enablenj.org.

PHOTO CAPTION: (l to rt) Enable CEO Sharon Copeland and Board President Shashi Airi with Enable Michael Graves Award Winners and Michael Graves Tea Rex Kettle Awards: Mindy Scheier, Runway of Dreams; Peg Forrestel, Director of Contributions and Community Affairs, Janssen; Heather Bell Andersen, President and CEO, Special Olympics New Jersey.

PHOTO CAPTION: (l to rt) Enable Michael Graves Award Winners and Michael Graves Tea Rex Kettle Awards: Mindy Scheier, Runway of Dreams; Peg Forrestel, Director of Contributions and Community Affairs, Janssen; Heather Bell Andersen, President and CEO, Special Olympics New Jersey.

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