

Housing group celebrates anniversary

Housing & Services, Inc. (HSI), the non-profit housing development organization, that rehabilitated the Kenmore Hall four years ago celebrated its 16th anniversary at a fundraising luncheon March 10 at the Roosevelt Hotel.

HSI has distinguished itself among non-profit housing organizations for working closely with the community to incorporate community needs into its housing developments.

This year's luncheon honored HSI's chairman Michael T. Cohen, President and CEO of GVA Williams. The annual Helen C. Vanderbilt Award for Public Service was awarded to Jerilyn Perine, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

In her remarks, which included a congratulatory letter to HSI from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Commissioner Perine applauded the work of HSI

in creating safe, decent affordable housing for some of New York's poorest citizens.

Attending the luncheon were former Mayor David Dinkins, former Housing Commissioners Richard Roberts and Abe Biderman, Council Member Gale Brewer, Gramercy Park Block Association President Arlene Harrison, Lee Chong of Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields' office, Sharon Ullman, President of the 23rd Street Association, and representatives of the NYPD 13th Precinct.

Claire Haaga, President of HSI, announced the organization's newest housing initiative — Affordable Housing Preservation Initiative — aimed at purchasing and maintaining affordability of subsidized middle income housing such as Mitchell Lama projects, developments with HUD 236 subsidies, and other



RECOGNITION — Above, Claire Haaga (left) with Jerilyn Perine and Richard Roberts and, right, with Michael Cohen.



projects with expiring use subsidies.

Following the successful renovation of the Kenmore Hall, Ms. Haaga has continued to be active in the 23rd Street/Gramercy Park neighborhood and is now the interim chair of the Madison Square BID in formation, which is working

to create a Business Improvement District in the 23rd Street-Madison Square Park community. Ms. Haaga is also the President of the Olive Leaf Wholeness Center, a holistic health center at 145 E. 23rd Street.