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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Broadway Legend Chita Rivera to Receive Lifetime Spirit Award at the *Spirit of East Harlem* Gala**

*LSA Family Health Service event expected to raise \$1 million for health and education programs for low-income New Yorkers*

August 7, 2017 – New York, NY – Broadway legend Chita Rivera will be presented a Lifetime Spirit Award on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the *Spirit of East Harlem* gala for LSA Family Health Service. Also being honored that evening are **Ralph Siciliano, Esq.** and **The Deerfield Foundation**. The event is expected to raise over a million dollars to improve the health and wellbeing of families living in poverty in East Harlem and surrounding communities.

“I’m thrilled that the Little Sisters of the Assumption (LSA) Family Health Service have chosen to honor me with their Lifetime Spirit Award,” said Ms. Rivera. “This steadfast organization stands for so many things that I believe in—strength of families, diversity, dignity, justice and so much more.”

“Chita Rivera’s ground-breaking career is deeply inspirational and important to people of Hispanic descent everywhere, but particularly in our community of East Harlem where families, especially children, face profound obstacles to success,” stated Reada Edelstein, CEO of LSA Family Health Service. “Her accomplishments stand as an example of what can be achieved when innate talent is nurtured in a supportive environment and brought to fruition through hard work and commitment.”

The Corporate Spirit Award will be presented to The Deerfield Foundation for its commitment to healthcare initiatives that benefit children from underserved communities and all people that have disease or need healthcare services. It has been a long-time supporter of LSA’s environmental health and nursing programs, which seek to reduce the disproportionately high rates of asthma and infant mortality in East Harlem.

Ralph Siciliano, Esq. will be presented the Community Spirit Award. Mr. Siciliano served for many years as the chairman of the board of directors of LSA Family Health Service and remains an active board member, helping to lead the agency through a period of transition and growth. Mr. Siciliano is a partner at Tannenbaum, Helpern, Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP.

John Capetta and Virginia Chambers, LSA board members and co-chairs of the event, commended the contributions of the honorees. “In addition to her accomplishments as an entertainer and role model, Chita Rivera has given her time and support to AIDS-related organizations and campaigns for public health throughout her career,” said Mr. Capetta. “The Deerfield Foundation has been a steadfast partner with LSA in improving health outcomes in the East Harlem community, and Ralph Siciliano is a tireless advocate for children and families.” Ms. Chambers added: “LSA Family Health Service is honored to recognize the impressive contributions that the *Spirit of East Harlem* honorees have made to New York.”

The *Spirit of East Harlem* is endorsed by a number of elected and appointed officials, including Diego Gomez Pickering, Consul General of Mexico in New York, and United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

The gala will take place on the evening of Monday, October 16, 2017, at Guastavino’s in Manhattan. More than 400 guests are expected to attend the event, which raises essential funding for LSA Family Health Service’s health, education, and family support programs.

Event information and detailed honoree bios can be found at the event website: [SpiritofEastHarlem.com](http://SpiritofEastHarlem.com).

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**LSA Family Health Service**, founded by the Little Sisters of the Assumption, strengthens and empowers vulnerable families by meeting their basic needs for food, healthcare, education and a safe home, in the belief that affirming families in their own

dignity improves the entire community. It reaches some of the most marginalized families in NYC and helps them overcome the barriers that poverty and isolation pose to family health and wellbeing. More at [littlesistersfamily.org](http://littlesistersfamily.org).