

# DARE TO RUN

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE WOMAN AT A TIME.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Supporters,

2020 has been a year like no other. We faced unprecedented challenges in 2020: a global pandemic that has killed over 11 million people, racism in the criminal justice system, and the urgent, unprecedented climate crisis. If nothing else, 2020 has shown us how important women's leadership is at every level of government.

In 2020, Dare to Run was fortunate enough to be able to pivot the Women's Leadership Program to a virtual capacity. We hired a professional videographer, filmed all of our presentations on location in New Jersey and in New York City. We also reached a much broader network of women from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, Arizona and Idaho. We are so happy and fortunate to be able to reach a much wider, diverse segment of the population this year.

In 2020, we reached over 500 women across the United States with our programming efforts.

In addition, we were able to connect members of the Dare to Run Alumni Program with access to internships with female elected officials at the local and state levels of New York Government. We also developed partnerships with a number of amazing organizations, including Vision 2020, a project at Drexel University, Girl and the Gov, Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Boss, and Colorado 50-50, to name a few. We look forward to continuing our reach virtually and in person in 2021.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Suissa  
Founder and President  
Dare to Run

# THE BOARD



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# Mission

Dare to Run is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and empower women with the skills necessary to run for public office at the local, state and national level of government. We women the chance to participate in a one-year certificate program in pursuit of a career path in public service. Dare to Run gives women the opportunity to be a voice for their communities by committing to run campaigns in search of elected office within two years of graduation from the program.

## Values Statement

The core values of Dare to Run are highlighted in the following five principles:

**Equality** - Women should have an equal say in the development of the public policy agenda at all levels of government

**Collaboration** - Women should work together to achieve a higher quality of life for all constituents in their community

**Opportunity** - Women should have equal opportunities to run for public office; they should not be hindered because of race, religion, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation

**Diversity** - Women should hold at least 50% of the seats at all levels of government, and the demographic breakdown of the population of the United States should be reflected in the composition of governing bodies at all levels of government.

**Respect** - Women should value the viewpoints of other women, and offer support, sorority and a moral high ground on which to effect change for the rest of the country.

# Dare to Run: Virtual Women's Leadership Program: Cohort 2 - Fall 2020

## Essential Workers Scholarship Recipients: 2020



**Karinna Carrillo**

Karinna Carrillo is from Santa Barbara, California. She is the eldest of four and was raised by her mom and dad, both first generation immigrants from Mexico. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention from the University of Southern California. Following her undergraduate degree, she worked in healthcare consulting assisting clients in the coordination of their employee health care plans. Here, she learned firsthand about the inadequacies of the American healthcare system and the power of legislation and how it nearly always left out the stories of communities just like her own. Karinna left the corporate world to attend Columbia University in New York City and help change the multitude of human rights violations she saw everyday. Karinna is earning her Master of Public Health with a focus in environmental health sciences and policy as she believes that all policy should be driven by protecting the health and wellbeing of communities. Karinna currently works on the Constituent Services team for State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (Bronx/Westchester). Karinna Carrillo Essential Workers Scholarship Recipient

Nadzeya Shutava is originally from Belarus, but has studied and worked in Japan, Thailand, China, South Korea, and Singapore in the past. She holds a Master's degree in Foreign Affairs from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and a Ph.D. in Social Sciences (with a focus on political science and social anthropology) from the University of Tsukuba in Japan. She is a native Russian speaker and is fluent in Belarusian, French, and Japanese in addition to English.

She moved to New York City this year and is currently looking for her next adventure in the USA. Nadzeya is passionate about the freedom of expression in all forms, and about training her two cats to do tricks (they know how to fist bump now!)ody text



**Nadzeya Shutava**

# Dare to Run: Virtual Women's Leadership Program

## Scholarship Recipients: 2020



**Monica  
Johnson**

The opportunity to serve the South Shore Staten Island community as a Dare to Run Leader is an amazing next step in Monica Angelena Johnson's life of service. She was born and raised in El Cajon, CA, which has one of the USA's largest refugee populations while simultaneously being located in one of California's most conservative congressional districts (CA-50). In this environment, Monica was instilled with strong union values by divorced parents, neither of whom graduated college: a single truck-driving Teamster Mom with the help of Monica's Dad, an active NATCA (National Air Traffic Controllers Association) member. Monica has called New York City home for over five years after being the first in her family graduate from an Ivy League school and over the past three years has utilized her Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University to work for the City of New York as an analyst. She continues to follow her passion for workers' rights and honor her family's pro-union heritage by being an active member of the largest municipal union in the city, DC37, and serving as the events coordinator on the founding organizing committee of the up-and-coming DC37 Progressives Caucus. Her Great Grandpa may have moved the family to San Diego because of how much the climate reminded him of Sicily, but now Monica is bringing her family's story and tenacity full circle by running for office in the state that welcomed her family into the USA over 100 years ago.

Dania Darwish is the co-founder of the Asiyah Women's Center, which is the first emergency temporary housing facility in NYC that shelters Muslim domestic violence survivors and/or victims of eviction. Under her leadership, Dania oversees all operations at the center including but not limited to fundraising, grant writing, partnership, and strategic planning, outreach and volunteer development, and case intake. Previously, Dania has held roles and leadership positions at Saving Syria, Amnesty International, UN Women, the Muslim American Society, the Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.



**Dania  
Darwish**

# Dare to Run: Virtual Women's Leadership Program



## Semester 1: Running a Successful Campaign for Public Office



Cohort 2. In 2020, Dare to Run trained 18 phenomenal women from all sectors how to run for public office. Because we pivoted the program to a virtual capacity this year, we also broadened our reach across 5 states: New York, New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona, and Florida. We filmed all presentations onsite in New Jersey and in Brooklyn. We hired and work with our amazing videographer, Frank Alvarez, who reported to our site in the summer and in the fall. Frank combined all of the recorded footage and presentations and edited them together to produce the final recordings that would be uoloaded to our platform. All recordings were uploaded to our online platform so users could be able to each of the seminars and presentations.

Seminars: Foundations of Your Campaign, Branding, Dress to Lead, Messaging, Field Operations, Planning and Budgeting a Political Campaign, Fundraising and Political PACS, Public Speaking, Public Policy and Advocacy 101, Fudndamentals of Grassroots Organizing, and Why Women Can Make a Difference.



# Dare to Run Virtual Women's Leadership Program | Cohort 2



Marissa Benton Caro is a recent transplant to Greenwich, CT by way of New York City. In addition to being a mother and perpetual student, Marissa is a K-8 School Administrator, Democratic Political Commentator on Fox News, and the CEO and Founder of @empowering.media, a digital media firm that gives women the skills and education to start and grow their businesses through mentorship, education, and services. She has wanted to venture into public service her entire life and is a champion and advocate of social justice, equality, inclusivity, access to education, and women's rights.

Marissa Benton-Caro

Kayla Cato is a native of Queens, New York who was born to parents who hail from Jamaica. She earned her Bachelors of Science degree in Early Childhood Elementary Education with a dual degree in Special Education from East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Shortly after receiving her Bachelors she worked in the intensive Special Education field. Eager to continue and advance her career she pursued her Masters of Science Degree in Literacy Education at Queens College in Queens, New York. While studying for her Masters she entered into the administrative side of education where she was able to sit and make decisions amongst administrative boards, development teams, and trustee boards.

On these teams she witnessed the strategies and plans of education and how the students of the respective institutions were affected. Kayla is on the Board of the 4 Real Women International Inc (4RWI). On this board, she serves as the Donor Relations Coordinator. In this role she organizes fundraising campaigns and fosters donor relations that will contribute to the exemplary work of 4RWI and their mission to empower women and girls across the country and around the world. She is a proud advocate for students and the quality of education that they receive. She aspires to further her career in Education Policy so that she can be a representative, advocate, and voice for underserved school districts, communities and families.



Kayla Cato



Dania Darwish

Dania Darwish is the co-founder of the Asiyah Women's Center, which is the first emergency temporary housing facility in NYC that shelters Muslim domestic violence survivors and/or victims of eviction. Under her leadership, Dania oversees all operations at the center including but not limited to fundraising, grant writing, partnership, and strategic planning, outreach and volunteer development, and case intake. Previously, Dania has held roles and leadership positions at Saving Syria, Amnesty International, UN Women, the Muslim American Society, the Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

# Dare to Run Virtual Women's Leadership Program | Cohort 2



Lisa Pino, JD.

As the agency's second most leading official, she directs a \$160B budget, 5600 staff, three regional offices, 14 direct reports, and programs, policies, grants, and operations. Her oversight includes the states' COVID-19 response, Medicaid, Hospitals, Public Health, Wadsworth Laboratory, Center for Environmental Health, AIDS Institute, WIC, and Bureau of Immunization. Pino is a former executive service member of the Obama administration, where she served as the USDA SNAP Deputy Administrator and USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights under Secretary Tom Vilsack, and as Senior Counselor to DHS Secretary Jeh C. Johnson. An attorney, she has practiced immigration law for Mayer Brown, Littler Global, and Bacon & Dear for global Fortune 100 clients. A former Americorps member, community organizer, AFL-CIO and SEIU staff member, and legal aid attorney for farmworkers and detainees, she is the proud first-generation daughter of immigrant parents. She is a dedicated mentor to minority students and young professionals, and has served on non-profit boards for the American Heart Association and Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Pino completed her B.A, M.A., and J.D. at Arizona State University with honors and distinction, and a National Hispanic Leadership Institute Fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Her awards include induction into the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's Hall of Fame and Arizona State University's Gold & Gavel and Horquilla awards for her public service. She lives in her native state of New York.



Carmella Seslar,, J.D.

Carmella Seslar, known by friends as "Carmi," is an associate in the Environmental group at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., focused on state and federal site remediation, brownfield and landfill redevelopment, environmental regulatory compliance, land use permitting, and environmental litigation. She works closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Environmental Protection Agency to help her clients clean up properties and comply with environmental regulations. One of her most impactful projects involves the conversion of a contaminated site into a public waterfront park in New Jersey, utilizing state grant funding.

Before joining Wilentz in 2019, Carmi handled environmental and land use matters throughout New Jersey and New York. She has extensive experience with environmental remediation, including CERCLA/Superfund litigation and allocations. Carmi has represented Fortune 500 companies in massive site remediation cases, like the Berry's Creek Study Area and the Gowanus Canal. She also has ample experience with environmental permitting and regulatory compliance involving wetlands, coastal/CAFRA areas, riparian/tidelands law, and flood hazard areas.

Actively involved in the professional legal community, Carmi is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, Environmental Law Section; and a member of the Professional Women of Building in the Garden State.

# Dare to Run Virtual Women's Leadership Program | Cohort 2

She is also a member of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, Environmental Business Council. In 2019, she wrote "Protections Extended to Townhouse Owners Seeking to Rebuild After Sandy," published by the New Jersey Law Journal, about the Flood Hazard Area Control Act amendments and the Gross v. Iannuzzi precedent-setting court ruling that allows reconstruction of Superstorm Sandy-damaged properties to flood-safety standards without municipal approval. She is appearing as a panelist on September 22, 2020 to present "Legal Trends in Environmental Law" on behalf of the New Jersey Builders' Association.

Carmi earned her law degree at St. John's University School of Law. During her tenure at St. John's, Carmi served as a Senior Staff member on the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review, publishing an article relating to the discharge of student loan debt in bankruptcy. She also served as a judicial intern for Judge Gropper at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Subsequently, Carmi worked at Chanel, Inc. where her primary focus was Trademark Law and Internet Enforcement. Carmi is admitted to practice law in New Jersey and New York.

Prior to law school, Carmi attended King's College, near her hometown of Pittston, Pennsylvania – a.k.a. the "Tomato Capital of the World." At King's, she served as President of Circle K, a collegiate service organization, associated with Kiwanis International. In 2019, Carmi became member of Holmdel Kiwanis, an organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of children.

Now residing in Central Jersey, Carmi spends her free time wake-surfing, winemaking, hiking, and singing Broadway tunes. She is the proud dog-mom of two rescue puppies, Mufasa and Coco.



Soma Syed

Soma Syed is the principal of her law firm Soma Syed & Associates, a community activist and advocate, and the President of the Queens County Women's Bar Association. In her private practice, she has been extremely deliberate in allocating and setting aside time to matters of public importance. While running a law practice focused on civil and criminal defense, she has donated thousands of hours in pro bono legal work, community and political issues, and contributions that make people more informed and active voters. As the Senior VP of Community Alliance Group, she works on bringing communities together on important issues of our time such as voter registration and Census 2020. As the Chairperson of the NYS Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS), she focuses on connecting competent attorneys with clients in upstate NY. She has been awarded numerous awards and certificates for her legal, community and charitable work. NYS Governor Cuomo recognized her contributions with a Certificate of Recognition. She is excited to be part of this amazing group and planning for public office in the future. She obtained her BA from the City College of the City University of N.Y. and her juris doctorate from the Albany Law School of the Union University. She lives in NYC with her family. Soma Syed, J.D.

# Dare to Run Virtual Women's Leadership Program | Cohort 2



Dorian Rojas

Dorian Rojas is a native New Yorker of Dominican descent. She is an immigration attorney working for Safe Horizon, the nation's largest and leading crime victim assistance organization. She has legal experience in both the private and public sector but currently specializes in immigration cases. Dorian specializes in U-Visa/VAWA cases involving domestic abuse and other violent crimes. She also has experience with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for children who have been abused, abandoned, and/or neglected, asylum, removal defense cases, and family based petitions. Dorian is an advocate for woman and the most vulnerable members of our community. She engages in community outreach to raise awareness of and resolve social justice issues. She also mentors young woman on career paths and professional development. Dorian graduated St. John's University School of Law in 2015 and is license to practice law in New York, Washington D.C., and Nebraska.

Stephanie is a first generation Mexican American, and a second-year MPA student at NYU Wagner specializing in Advocacy and Political Action. She currently serves as Alumni Relations Manager for Wagner City Gov., and Vice Chair for the Association of Latinx Students and Allies in Public Service. She is passionate about helping the Latinx Community specifically in addressing health equity and access. Stephanie volunteers with mutual aids in her community and immigrant rights justice groups to help address food insecurity in the community. She holds a bachelor's degree in Public Health from Rutgers University.



Stephanie Rosas-Garcia

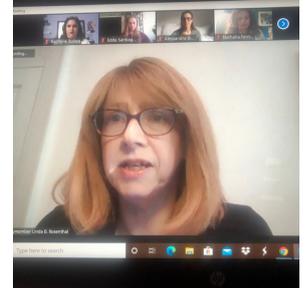


Nicole Lee

Nicole Lee, owner of Wink Beauty Parlour. Nicole's mission is to help women with their inner and outer beauty. Focusing on self confidence, self awareness and beauty over all. Additionally we provide helpful beauty tips for the hair, makeup, eyelashes, skin care etc. Wink Beauty Parlour received community grants to help expand their cause. Nicole lee is also the Founder of Journey Through Seth's Eyes . The mission of this organization is to help special needs families (parents & children ) internationally with education, resources, workshops, community outreach, consultation, housing, advocacy & other wrap around services.

# Dare to Run: Community Events 2020

**June 28th, 2020: RealTalk with State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, and Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal**



**July 28, 2020: BlackWomenLead: A Conversation on the Importance of Black Women's Leadership in the Community**

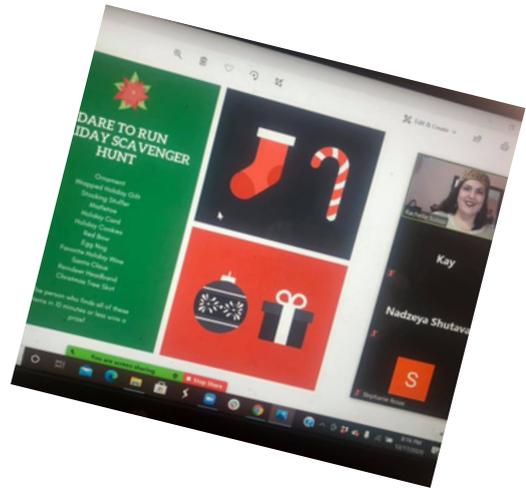


# Celebrating Women's Equality Day: August 26



On August 26, 2020, Dare to Run Celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Women being granted the right to vote as well as the launch of our 2nd cohort of the Dare to Run Virtual Women's Leadership Program. We recognized Nayma Silver, Giselle Burgess, and Sheba Simpson, all members of the first Cohort. We saluted the incoming members of the second cohort: Dorian Rojas, Karinna Carillo, Stephanie Rosas-Garcia and Kayla Cato! We also salute the women who worked hard and sacrificed plenty in the struggle for women's equality. .

# Completion of Cohort 2, Semester 1: Running a Successful Campaign



On December 18, 2020, Dare to Run hosted a virtual holiday party for members of Cohort 2. They participated in a holiday scavenger hunt, where they were given a list of holiday related items and had to find them in their house within a 10 minute time frame. The winner received a big prize and the runners up received complimentary Dare to Run Masks. As part of the Dare to Run tradition, we were joined by our amazing board members Nayma Silver and Diana Gonzalez who kicked off a very real conversation with our cohort members about running for office and what that entails going forward. The ladies also talked about efforts in the community to address the Covid Crisis, including the setup of community fridges, food distribution and holiday toy drives. Nothing short of an amazing close to the semester.

# Donors: FY 2020

Thank you to all of our amazing donors to Dare to Run for FY 2020. We appreciate your support of our important work in the community to train women how to run for office. We cultivated

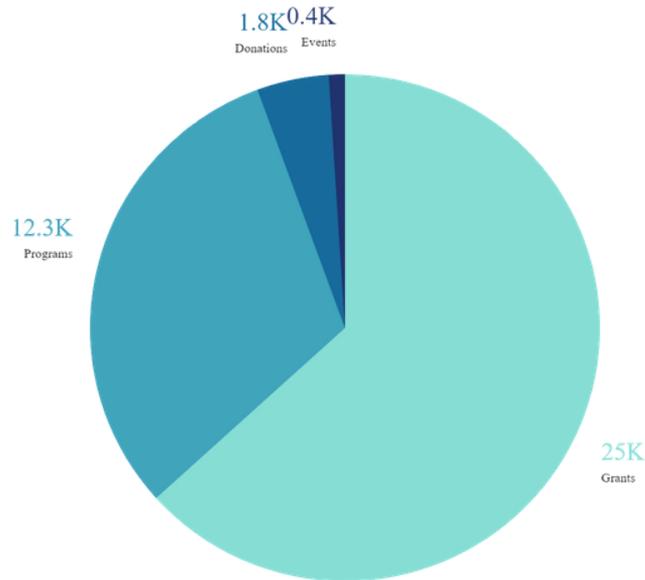
Amoy Barnes  
Josephine Bosco  
Ischia Bravo  
Giselle Burgess  
Joanne Calderon-Guillen  
Karinna Carrillo  
Marissa Caro  
Richard Carpentier  
Kayla Cato  
Tanginika Feliciano  
Angela Fisher  
Yulia Fradkin  
Shannon Fritts-Penniman  
Sarah Funes  
Priscilla Ghaznavi  
Manny Gomez  
Diana Gonzalez  
Carmella Gubbiotti  
Heather Hill  
Harriet Hines  
Hope Hughes  
Jaslin Kaur  
Walter Koehler  
Gail Krauss  
Nicole Lee  
Richard Levin  
Deirdre Levy  
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Carmella Seslar  
Nadia Shutava  
Nayma Silver  
Sheba Simpson-Amsterdam  
Sharon Smith  
Tania Sterl  
Rachelle Suissa  
Tajuana Hamm  
Soma Syed  
Dyonche Willis

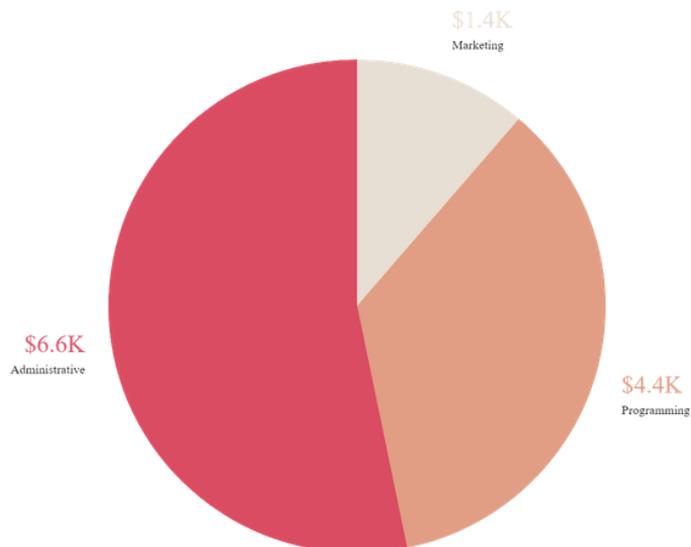
# Financial Statement: FY 2020

## A look at Gross Revenues and Expenses for FY 2020

### Dare to Run Gross Revenues FY 2020



### Dare to Run Gross Expenses FY 2020



# Financial Statement: FY 2020

## A look at Gross Revenues and Expenses for FY 2020

### Dare to Run

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 22, 2020

	JAN 1 - DEC 22, 2020
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Old Bank Account	1,183.96
TOTAL BUS CHK (3281)	31,545.39
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$32,729.35</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$32,729.35</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$32,729.35</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
Equity	
Owner's Investment	0.00
Retained Earnings	35,224.49
Net Revenue	-2,495.14
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$32,729.35</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$32,729.35</b>



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