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**NEW YORK CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTS READY NEW YORK
SENIOR CENTER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO R.A.I.N. GUNHILL SENIOR CENTER
IN THE BRONX**

*More than 4,400 older New Yorkers across the five boroughs participated in
Ready New York emergency preparedness training this year*

November 21, 2016 – The New York City Emergency Management Department (NYCEM) and the Department for the Aging (DFTA) today presented the fourth annual Ready New York Senior Center of the Year Award to Evelyn Cintron, program director for Regional Aid for Interim Needs, Inc (R.A.I.N.) Gunhill Senior Center for her ongoing commitment to preparing seniors for emergencies. The R.A.I.N. Gunhill Senior Center is the first senior center in The Bronx to receive the award.

“Evelyn and the team at R.A.I.N. exemplify the true New York spirit on a daily basis; they look out for our seniors and help them to be prepared for emergencies from fires to hurricanes,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “We are also thankful to DFTA for their partnership in helping to educate New York’s seniors about the importance of being prepared.”

“Congratulations to Director Evelyn Cintron and the members of R.A.I.N. Gunhill on this Senior Center of the Year Award from NYCEM. We join NYCEM in applauding the center’s strong emergency preparedness program,” said **DFTA Commissioner Donna Corrado**. “Gunhill could be a model for all our senior centers in our work with NYCEM to ensure that older persons are prepared in the event of an emergency and that no vulnerable person is forgotten.”

“R.A.I.N. is honored to be the first Bronx recipient of the NYC Emergency Management Ready New York Senior Center of the Year award. In our partnership with the NYC Emergency Management team and collaboration with NYC Department for the Aging, we are able to ensure that our vulnerable and senior populations are prepared to address emergency situations. We are committed to our seniors and ongoing innovations that serve to protect them and their families,” said **President and CEO of R.A.I.N. Total Care Inc, Anderson Torres**. “Initiatives such as these are vital to a population that is often underserved. This model helps us extend this information to our clients. R.A.I.N. is a 52 year old social service organization that currently serves close to 5000 seniors and the disabled on a daily basis.”

As a part of R.A.I.N.’s emergency preparedness program, members receive regular preparedness presentations and are reminded to pack a Go Bag with basic supplies, medical information and contact names and numbers. Ms. Cintron has shown dedication to emergency preparedness through her extensive work in the community. The center engages seniors on a daily basis who participate in a variety of programs ranging from arts and crafts and crocheting to exercise and

sign language classes. During heat emergencies, the senior center serves as one of the city's more than 500 cooling centers activated to help New Yorkers beat the heat.

New York City Emergency Management and the Department for the Aging have developed innovative methods to teach older New Yorkers about preparedness. NYC Emergency Management social media experts have taught seniors how to use the City's latest tech resources to stay informed before, during, and after an emergency. Seniors have learned how to sign up for Notify NYC, the City's official, free emergency public messaging system, and have also received one-on-one tech training on the Ready NYC app, which allows New Yorkers to store important preparedness information, including emergency contacts, health information, and supply checklists for a Go Bag, on their smartphones and tablets. During this past year, New York City Emergency Management visited close to 100 senior centers and gave preparedness presentations to more than 4,440 older New Yorkers.

About the Ready New York Program

The *Ready New York* program outlines three important strategies to preparing for emergencies:

- **Get Ready: *Make a Plan*** – Have at least two phone numbers – one local and one out-of- state number – which you can call in an emergency and practice the plan with adults in your home.
- **Get Set: *Prepare a Stay at Home Kit*** – During emergencies that require you to stay at home, it is important to have extra food and water for everyone in the house and a battery-operated radio for news updates.
- **Get Ready to Go: *Pack a Go Bag*** – During emergencies that require you to leave your home, have a Go Bag with emergency supplies.

This year's award ceremony was held at the R.A.I.N. Gunhill Senior Center in The Bronx. The NYC Medical Reserve Corps was also on hand to provide free blood pressure screenings, and members of the local Bronx Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) distributed emergency preparedness materials and coordinated preparedness games. New York City Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito was joined by Donna Corrado, Commissioner for the Department for the Aging, to present this year's award.

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CAPTION: (From left) DFTA Commissioner Donna Corrado, President and CEO of R.A.I.N. Total Care Inc, Anderson Torres, R.A.I.N. Gunhill Senior Center Director Evelyn Cintron, DFTA Assistant Commissioner Linda Whitaker, NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito. Cintron received this year's Ready New York Senior Center of the Year Award for her commitment to preparing seniors for emergencies. The R.A.I.N. Gunhill Senior Center is the first senior center in The Bronx to receive the award.

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