

Global Goals, Local Leaders
UNA-Westchester Celebration of United Nations Day,
Sunday, 22 October 2017

**Community Leaders being honored for contributing to the
Sustainable Development Goals**

Mr. Daniel Bena is an award-winning PepsiCo executive with social conscience and a globally-recognized expert on water resources. He has four external water awards over four years, contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6) on Clean Water and Sanitation. Dan designed the PepsiCo Foundation Water Strategy & Portfolio, which worked to provide over six million people with access to safe water. Bena co-created PepsiCo's policy to respect water as a human right, following the UN General Assembly resolution in 2010. He has contributed to improving operational water use by 23%, saving approximately one billion absolute liters of water. Among other things, he testified to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power to help inform future legislative focus and direction. A resident of Westchester, his latest book is entitled *Sustain-ability*.

Ms. Dawna Michelle Fields is the National Program Manager of Colgate-Palmolive Company's *Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures®*, one of the world's far-reaching, successful children's oral health program, providing children and their families with free dental screenings and oral health education. It contributes to SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being. The corner-stone of *Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures®* is its award winning multi-cultural education materials. Dawna reaches more than 900 million children annually and is charged with building and managing external and internal partnerships. She has been recognized by the Office of the US President, and is a recipient of honors from national and local organizations, including: the NAACP Committee for Hispanic Children and Families; National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; The LINKS Inc.; Sister to Sister International; New York Women's Agenda; Black Women's Agenda; and Women's Leadership Initiative and a recipient of the Estee Lauder/Project Legacy's "Pearl Award."

Neighbors Link is a civil society organization that has as its mission to strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration and inclusion of immigrants in the community. Based in Mt. Kisco, the organization's strategy is to educate, empower and employ immigrant families and individuals whose heritage is rich in family and cultural traditions, but whose lives have been economically impoverished and educationally deprived. They are contributing to SDG 4, Quality Education, and SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, among others. UNA-Westchester's partners Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Zeta Nu Omega chapter) partnered with the organization in July 2017 to provide 43 backpacks and school supplies to immigrant pre-kindergarten students at the Mt. Kisco Elementary School. The children are thriving under Neighbors Link.

Former Congressman Richard (Dick) L. Ottinger has just been recognized by The American Bar Association "for his leadership in Environmental Policy". He is a founder and co-director of the Pace Energy and Environmental Center and the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies (along with Nicholas Robinson). These two pioneers are being honored for their contributions to Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Goal 13, Climate Action. Mr. Ottinger served as Dean of Pace University's Law School from 1994 - 1999. His work on behalf of the environment, which has spanned more than 50 years, includes protection of the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, and energy regulation. As

Congressman, he crafted seminal legislation on the 1974 Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, which required electric utilities to purchase all renewable energy. He has authored more than 100 works on energy and the environment.

Professor Nicholas A. Robinson is a founder and co-director of the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies at Pace University (along with Dick Ottinger). He has developed environmental law since 1969 as a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. His work is very important to Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and Goal 13 (Climate Action). He has practiced environmental law for municipalities and as general counsel of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He drafted New York's wetlands and wild bird laws and was inaugurated as the first chairman of both the statutory Freshwater Wetlands Appeals Board and Greenway Heritage Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley. He has engaged in drafting treaties and counselling different countries on the preparation of their environmental laws. He is author of several books and articles and is a professor of environmental law courses.

Rotary District 7230 has an impressive number of projects conducted in our New York area, including over \$250,000 in grants to help area residents recover from Hurricane Sandy. The Rotary District, representing Southern Westchester, Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island and Bermuda, is contributing to Goal 4, Quality Education, and Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, among others. In Staten Island the grants supported the refurbishment of the kitchen in a community center, appliances for low-income homeowners flooded out of their homes, and counseling for traumatized students. In lower Manhattan, a computer lab for job retraining was installed at Nazareth House and a van was purchased for the Bowery Mission to support transportation and food and supplies distribution. Smaller projects support literacy, food distribution, senior citizens, and scholarships, to name a few. Rotary participated in the founding of the United Nations, and believes strongly in supporting the sustainable development goals.

Mr. Christopher Swain has been swimming and advocating for clean waterways and the work of the United Nations since 1996. He worked closely with the United Nations during its International Year of Freshwater 2003 and the "Water for Life" Decade, 2005-15. His efforts are in support of Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation. Swain is the first person in history to swim the entire lengths of the Columbia, Hudson, Mohawk, Charles, and Mystic Rivers, as well as many other water bodies. The purpose of Christopher's swims is to put threatened waterways squarely in the public eye, and to support protection, restoration, and education efforts. He swam for UNA-Westchester's World Refugee Day program to support the Gambela Primary School on June 20, 2017. Swain documents his swims in photographs, journals and videos.