



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Denishea and Orlando Ortiz to Receive NextGen Rochester's
2019 Young Philanthropist of the Year Award**

Rochester, NY – **NextGen Rochester**, an affiliate of Rochester Area Community Foundation, has selected Denishea and Orlando Ortiz to jointly receive the 2019 Young Philanthropist of the Year Award.

The annual award, now in its 5th year, is given in honor of the founding members of NextGen Rochester and is awarded to a Young Philanthropist in the Greater Rochester Region who best embodies the desire to promote the welfare of others through generous financial support along with exemplary service to local community nonprofit organization(s).

The director of strategic marketing and retail product management at Rochester Institute of Technology, Denishea Ortiz is the current chair of the Marketing/Communications Committee at the Community Foundation, a member of the Foundation's Advancement Committee, and a board member of Causewave Community Partners and Sigma Lambda Upsilon sorority. Orlando Ortiz is the component manufacturing manager at The GleasonWorks, longtime volunteer and current board president of the Rochester Puerto Rican Festival, a board member of both Foodlink and Pathstone, an active member of the RIT Alumni Association, and the 2019 Hispanic Business Person of the Year.

In addition to their generous financial support and volunteer efforts in the community, Denishea and Orlando honor the memory of their son, Gian, with an annual book drive for the benefit of Golisano Children's Hospital and raise additional money through the Golisano Stroll for Strong Kids to support the work of the hospital, and to thank the staff for their wonderful care of Gian during his life.

"Rochester is so fortunate to have this dynamic duo here and engaged in so many ways. Their involvement in the community and with local nonprofits is exemplary. They have taken what was probably the saddest time in their lives and turned it into opportunities to do good and make a difference. That resilience and their always positive outlook is inspiring," said Mary Holleran, senior vice president of communications at the Community Foundation and fellow board member of Causewave Community Partners.

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The award will be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz at NextGen Rochester's Annual Community Showcase event to be held at Geva Theatre Center from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019.

About NextGen Rochester

Founded in 2009 as an initiative of Rochester Area Community Foundation, NextGen Rochester is a giving circle of young professionals ages 21 to 45 which pools its resources for annual grantmaking. As of December 2018, NextGen has surpassed \$90,000 in grants in support of high-impact nonprofit programs in the Greater Rochester area.

About the Annual Community Showcase

The Annual Showcase is the final step in NextGen's grantmaking process where nonprofit finalists are invited onstage for a brief presentation and Q&A session before the membership votes to allocate this year's grant funding. This event is free and open to the public, but only current NextGen members can vote for the grant finalists.

For more information, go to www.NextGenRoc.org or contact Tim Ryan, Advisory Committee Chair: tdryan585@gmail.com. 585-414-6203.

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