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News Release
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**ACLD HONORS R. MARK WILKINS
AND STATE SENATOR PHIL BOYLE AT ENVIABLE LIFE BALL**
Event raises \$269,000 to benefit ACLD

GARDEN CITY, NY – R. Mark Wilkins, Senior Managing Partner of Aveniras, LLC, and New York State Senator Phil Boyle (R – 4th Senate District) were honored by Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities (ACLD) at the organization's 2016 Envable Life Ball.

The event, held in November at The Garden City Hotel in Garden City, NY, raised more than \$269,000 to benefit ACLD, a leading Long Island based not-for-profit agency devoted to providing opportunities for children and adults with autism, learning and other developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, increase independence and foster supportive relationships within the community.

Wilkins received ACLD's Corporate Leadership Award for his efforts to create jobs for people with special needs. He worked closely with ACLD to launch RewearABLE, a green program that collects unwanted clothing and provides sustainable employment for adults with developmental disabilities. Previously, he was instrumental in the creation of eWorks, which began providing jobs for those with special needs on Long Island in 2009 and has grown to take on a national scope.

"Mark is a true friend of ACLD who really has joined us in making a difference for the people who turn to us for support," said Alan Spiegel, president of the ACLD Foundation. "He has created more than 300 jobs for people with developmental disabilities, making him a true champion in the mission to provide sustainable employment for people with special needs."

Senator Boyle received ACLD's Humanitarian Award in recognition of his efforts not just to help ACLD, but also to make Long Island a better place. For ACLD specifically, he has been an unwavering supporter of all its programs, most notably its Children's Services. This past year he toured the Alan and Ellen Spiegel Children's Center in Bay Shore to get an update on Center programs, and he joined ACLD at Heckscher State Park to help kick off the first annual Walk/Run: Journey to an Envable Life.

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“Senator Boyle is an advocate who shares our belief in the importance of helping people with autism, learning and other developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives,” Spiegel said, “and we are grateful he is a part of our lives.”

NBC4 New York Traffic Reporter Lauren Scala served as emcee, and guests were entertained with live music performed by Skyline Orchestra’s Code Bleu. The Bethpage High School Jazz Combo performed prior to the dinner portion of the evening. In all, more than 300 people attended ACLD’s largest event of the year.

Major sponsors for ACLD’s Enviaible Life Ball included Diamond Sponsors NBCUniversal and Pilot RB; Emerald Sponsor Carol Lever and Roy Grover; Amethyst Sponsor R. Mark Wilkins, Aveniras, LLC; Platinum Sponsor Alan and Ellen Spiegel; and Sapphire Sponsors BioReference Laboratories, Inc.; Brian Levine of Goldman Sachs; Irwin Siegel Agency, Inc.; Moritt Hock & Hamroff, LLP; the Patel and Rudder Family together with Plum; Susan Sha, CPA, CGMA; TD Bank; and Valley National Bank.

About ACLD

Founded in 1957, Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency. Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2017, the organization continues to provide opportunities for children and adults with autism, learning and other developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, increase independence and foster supportive relationships within the community. ACLD employs more than 1,100 people and operates 80 different program sites including group homes and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Service program include early childhood services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, recreation programs, respite, family support services, Medicaid service coordination, and medical and behavioral health services.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

1. From left to right, ACLD Executive Director Robert C. Goldsmith, ACLD Foundation Board President Alan Spiegel, Humanitarian Award Recipient Senator Phil Boyle, Corporate Leadership Award Recipient R. Mark Wilkins, Aveniras, LLC. and ACLD Board President Joseph Ortego, Esq. at the Enviaible Life Ball.
2. Carol Lever and Roy Grover served as the Emerald Sponsor of the event.
3. ACLD Board member Don Mitzner and his wife, Gail, enjoy the festivities.
4. Lauren Scala, Traffic Reporter for NBC4 New York, once again served as the Enviaible Life Ball emcee. She is pictured with ACLD Foundation Board Member Linda Yaccarino, Chairman, Sales and Client Partnerships for NBCUniversal.
5. Scott Fein of BioReference Laboratories, Inc., a Sapphire Sponsor, with ACLD Executive Director Robert C. Goldsmith. Fein is this year’s Corporate Leadership honoree at the ACLD Enviaible Life Ball.