



Inaugural Award Presented to Mario Hilario!!!



Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership
Enhancing the Lives of Rhode Island's Youth through Mentoring

BE THE CHANGE, MENTOR A CHILD!

Dear Jo-Ann,

NBC 10's Mario Hilario Named First Peter Koch Memorial Award Winner...



The Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership is happy to announce that it has awarded the first Peter Koch Memorial Award to our great friend and supporter, Mario Hilario of NBC 10.

The award recognizes someone who matches the many years of **energy, enthusiasm, and goodwill** the late Peter Koch brought to his **support of Mentoring**.

Peter was a long-time board member. He was **a staunch advocate for mentoring for 20 years and mentored two students himself**. He offered his employees time to volunteer as mentors. He sponsored recreational and educational field trips for his company's mentors and mentees and arranged for mentored youth to have free eye exams at Koch Eye. He has been gone for

nearly a year, but he is not forgotten. **His spirit and passion for mentoring lives on.**

Peter's friend, **Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian** reflects on Peter's passion for mentoring...



In 2013 Peter was awarded the First-ever Excellence in Mentoring in America Award for Individual Leadership, presented by MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership. Upon accepting the award Peter reflected on how "lucky" he had been in his life, with great parents, four years of college and a family. In his acceptance speech, he said, "It was my responsibility to assist the less fortunate ... There are heartbreaking stories of children in need. You all know them. You all see them. **Mentoring ignited a passion in me that will never be extinguished"**

Mario Hilario has brought a **similar passion** to his support of mentoring, most notably through his **participation and support of RIMP's annual Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring fundraiser.**

Mario began his support of RIMP way back at our 2nd annual Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring in 2008. Since that first experience he has graciously returned to every Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring, using his unique talents to support the event. **He has been our host, a judge, our on the floor reporter where he's interviewed contestants after their performances and sought comment from our panel of judges, and, for the past 5 years, has been the star of our fabulous opening number.** Whether it was an ode to Thriller or Hats off to the 40's his leading-man role in the opening number has required countless hours of practice and determination and has created an ongoing highlight of the event.

Mario also offers whatever help he can promoting Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring and other Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership events, through his equally supportive employer, NBC 10. He's served as a spokesman for RIMP events on 10's Community Calendar public service announcements and has had RIMP's



Jo-Ann Schofield and Dancing Feeling's Kathy St. Jean join him for interviews on NBC 10 programming.

"It's heartening to know," says Mario "that we are raising awareness about mentoring, about the mission. Receiving this award, in his name, in his honor for me is the true prize. Peter, I hope we do you proud again this year. Thank you for all you've done."

And **Thank You, Mario**, for all you are doing for mentoring in Rhode Island.

You are truly deserving of the first **Peter Koch Memorial Award** and we look forward to what you have in store for the opening number at **the 10th anniversary edition of Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring on Thursday, May 5th.**

Happy National Mentoring Month,

Team RIMP

Jo-Ann, Sue, Pam, Nichole, Celeste, & Marc

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