

WUE

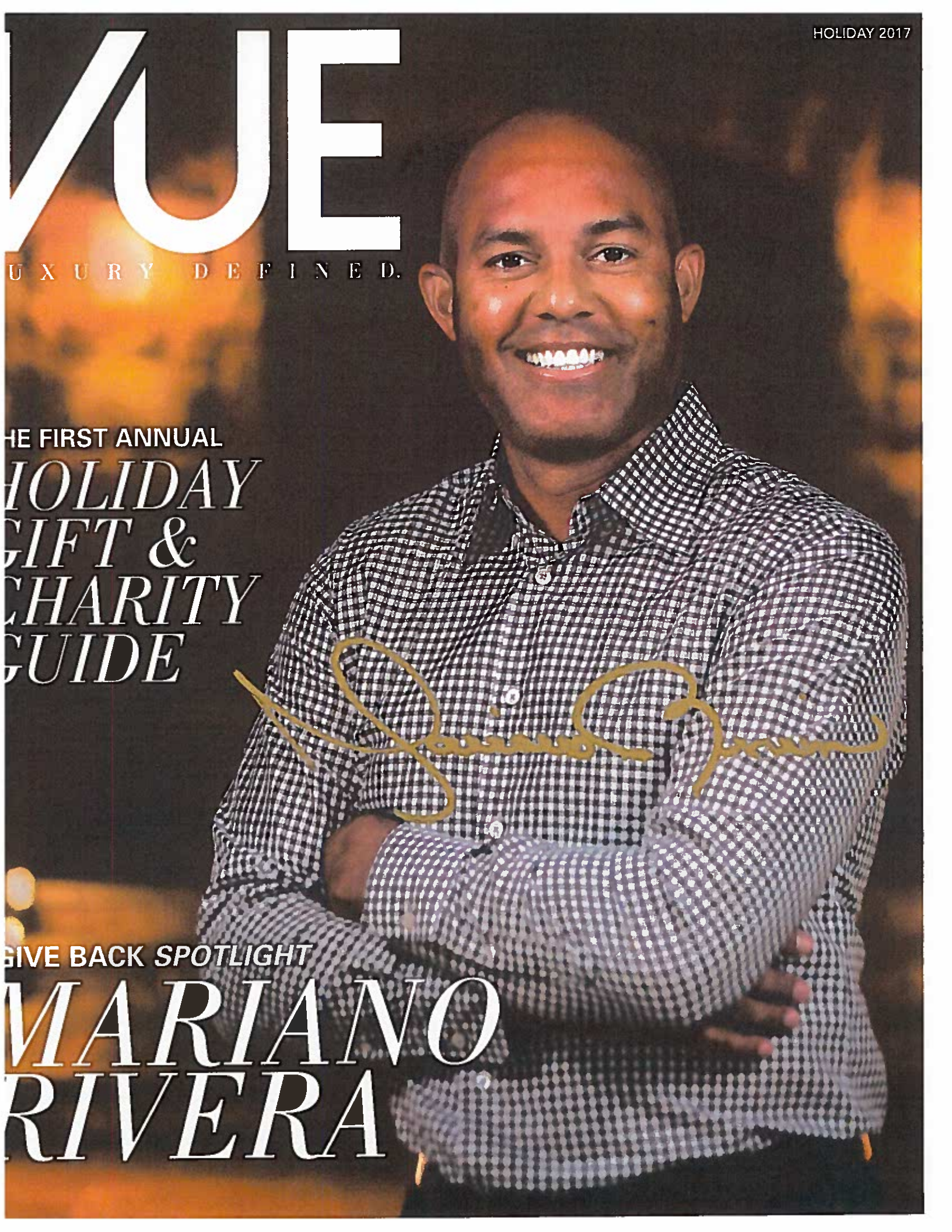
LUXURY DEFINED.

THE FIRST ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
GIFT &
CHARITY
GUIDE

GIVE BACK SPOTLIGHT

MARIANO
RIVERA

Mariano Rivera





THE GLORIA FOUNDATION

BY KRISTINA BISUMBER

Oftentimes people limit the extent of domestic violence to physical abuse, negating emotional, psychological, economical, and sexual abuse that are just as significant. Bruises often heal faster than emotional wounds, and being a victim of domestic violence can negatively affect the victim's health, leaving them helpless and vulnerable. Nearly 20 people experience domestic violence per minute in the United States. Today, there are many organizations whose mission is to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide services and refuge to its victims.

VUE had the opportunity to speak with Karen Arakelian, founder of The Gloria Foundation. Arakelian founded the

organization in memory of her late mother, Gloria Mazzuca Intrabartolo, who was a victim of domestic violence. The 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation was designed to help provide resources to domestic violence victims, local safe houses, and domestic violence organizations. Arakelian wanted to give back to the community and began thinking about a cause. "I just thought about what really formed who I am. A lot of it was watching what my mother went through with my father and not wanting to ever be dependent on another person," Arakelian said.

Arakelian created Design Consign in 2014, a luxury consignment shop whose proceeds go towards benefitting The



Founder Karen Arakelian at the Taste of Italy 2017 event.



Above: Robin Wilson, CEO of Robin Wilson Home

Below: Emily Michalak of Montville, NJ



Gloria Foundation. The consignment shop sells furniture, home accessories, artwork, lighting, and also high-end apparel, handbags, shoes, and jewelry. Arakelian herself is also the owner of White House Designs, which serves as the umbrella company for White House Luxe and Living, Design Consign and The Gloria Foundation. “I want people to know that if they buy something from us we can pick up their old stuff. A lot of our furniture comes from clients of ours. Its really nice. We need people to donate furniture and know that this service is available when people are buying new furniture,” she explained. Through these businesses and the foundation, she is able to assist other organizations with a similar mission to her own.

“The two of the organizations that we support are Jersey Battered Women’s Service and Partners for Women and Justice, which was whom the proceeds for our 4th Annual Taste of Italy event went to,” Arakelian said. The venue was at Gloria Foundation’s consignment shop, Design Consign. The venue was turned into a Tuscan courtyard with a beautiful fountain in the middle; guests enjoyed a live band, a silent auction, and

lots of wine and food. “All the neighbors help out. Mercedes-Benz of Caldwell next door lets us use their parking lot, they were our sponsor, and neighboring restaurants all donate the food. It was a true community effort.”

The Gloria Foundation usually hosts two events a year in effort to bring awareness to the cause and raise money for programs and organizations that help provide resources to those affected by domestic violence. Next May, the Partners for Women and Justice will host an event to honor Arakelian and The Gloria Foundation at their annual spring benefit, Celebrate Hope. The Gloria Foundation also supports and has committed to fundraising \$100,000 for the Morris Family Justice Center in Morris County, a comprehensive center (and Division of Jersey Battered Women’s Service) where women can obtain services such as counseling, protection and assistance for domestic violence, dating abuse, and sexual assault survivors.

Arakelian is continuously growing the foundation and is working with Robin Wilson CEO of Robin Wilson Home by starting Designers Against Domestic

Violence. “That’s going to be interior designers, fashion designers, landscape designers—any designer, really. Designers Against Domestic Violence is basically designers helping us fundraise for the different programs,” Arakelian said. The Gloria Foundation will also be working with the Rachel Coalition, which is the domestic violence division of Jewish Family Services.

The Gloria Foundation wants everyone to know how rampant this issue is and that it's not just physical abuse. Domestic abuse is everywhere. Arakelian explained, "There's a lot of places that can help people now. When my mother was going through it there was nothing. There was no help for her but now, thankfully there is. We have organizations like Jersey Battered Women's Service that have an unbelievable program where they walk victims from the court to the Morris Family Justice Center and into safe houses to get completely out of danger, allowing them to take care of themselves to get their self-esteem back. They do everything from counseling and child care to legal work. They have a team of attorneys that are pro bono and will do this work for women. We need to support the organizations that help and people need to know. The awareness is what we're about." ❖



Jane Hanson, founder of Partners for Women and Justice, Robin Wilson and Karen Arakelian.

For more information, or to donate, visit www.thegloriafoundation.org.

the Final Touch

Whether you're looking for traditional, contemporary, casual, or classic, our gracious staff will help you choose pieces that reflect your individual sensibility.



Patty Lacourte
Owner & Interior Designer



PATTY LACOURTE

INTERIOR DESIGNER | EURICA HOME

Visit the showroom at
648 Wyckoff Ave, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201 848 5633 • www.euricahome.com