The early morning rain was not a deterrent for this year’s spring Scholarship and awards gala. The third annual event was held on May 4th at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum. Sesame Flyers International presented honors to four individuals who held a vision for their lives and worked to make it manifest for all to see. This year’s Community Pillars were Davis ‘Junior’ Gayle, owner of Tropical Paradise Restaurant and Caterers, Ricardo Gomez who built on the strength of his skills as a dj into the Back to Basics entertainment brand, Dr. John E. Harvey whose pursuit of academic excellence made him an expert in several fields from health care to economics, and founder, chairman and CEO of Tempo Networks, LLC Frederick A. Morton, Jr.

Hosted by News 12 field reporter Alecia Reid, the evening began with a cocktail reception on the roof of the Children’s museum. There were delightful performances by the youth of the SFI Dance Company and the Sesame Flyers Youth Steelpan Orchestra. As the sun moved to its position in the western horizon, guests moved into the dining room for dinner and the awards presentation. Janet Cummings, a long time dedicated Sesame Flyers volunteer was presented with the Foundation award. A special Visionary Award was presented to former Congresswoman Una S.T. Clarke. Kesha Shortt was honored as the Employee of the Year and Luzett Logan, a case Planner with the Sesame Flyers Winthrop Center for Family Support was celebrated as the Volunteer of the Year.

Anne-Rhea Smith, Publicity Director for the Brooklyn Children’s Museum was feted with the first ever Community Bridge Builder award and Marsha Escayg was honored as the Parent of the Year. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Tropical Paradise and liquid refreshments from Silver sponsor Twist of Lime. The evening’s meal was topped off with mouth watering desserts including banana pudding and an assortment of cupcakes donated by first time sponsor DOCD’s Southern Desserts.

The event was punctuated by more performances from the SFI Dance Company and finally the scholarship awards presentation was made. The Chad Magloire scholarship went to several graduating
high school seniors and the Jumoke McKenzie Steel Orchestra scholarship went to Elizabeth McPherson who is currently attending Brooklyn College. Our young scholars will be attending several colleges in the fall including university of Hartford, Hampton University, SUNY Albany and NYU.