

Inspirational Service Award



Victoria Ruvolo

Nominated by The Sunshine Center

2011 Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame

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Victoria Ruvolo survived a vicious prank in 2004 when a group of teen boys threw a frozen turkey from their car through her windshield and badly injured her. She has put the story of her recovery and rehabilitation in a new book, *No Room For Vengeance*, co-written with Robert Goldman. What is most remarkable about Ms. Ruvolo is the compassion and forgiveness she showed toward the boys. She believed the guilty boy should do something good with his life instead of spending it in prison and she convinced the district attorney to offer a plea bargain. She accepted the boy's tearful apology after sentencing and hugged him while he cried.

Ms. Ruvolo delivers her inspirational message in lectures and volunteers with the TASTE program of the Suffolk County Probation Department where she speaks to teens about how choices affect others and that actions have consequences. Rather than live as a victim of a senseless attack, Ms. Ruvolo is an empowered, compassionate survivor.

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