

For Immediate Release:

Media Contact:

Tatyerra Spurlock

Public Relations Assistant, Rising Tide
Capital

201-432-4316 x 117

Tatyerra@risingtidecapital.org

Sheri Sobrato Brisson to receive the 2015 Entrepreneurial Award for Philanthropy

Rising Tide Capital honors Sheri for her dedication to community development

October 7, 2015 (Jersey City) — Sheri Sobrato Brisson, of the [Sobrato Family Foundation](#) will receive the Entrepreneurial Award for Philanthropy in recognition of her dedication to creating opportunities for underserved communities in Jersey City and beyond. Sheri will accept the award at the 4th annual Start Something Champions Gala hosted by [Rising Tide Capital](#) (RTC) November 5 at Liberty House in Jersey City.

“Sheri Sobrato Brisson is a leading entrepreneurial philanthropist of our time and RTC is honored to have her as a friend, ally and visionary supporter,” said Michael Caslin, Managing Director of Strategy and Development at RTC. “Sheri’s visionary philanthropy has helped create a growing impact here at RTC as the first philanthropic sponsor for RTC’s Spanish Community Business Academy. The scholarship programs she has strategically invested in over the years has resulted in explosive growth and deep impact for RTC program graduates and we are honored to have her support.”

The Sobrato Family Foundation’s mission is to make Silicon Valley a place of opportunity for all its residents. To this vision, one of their signature programs is S.E.A.L, designed to close the achievement gap of English language learners by third grade through enriched academic language instruction in both Spanish and English. That commitment to the needs of Spanish-speaking communities led Sheri to sponsor RTC’s first Spanish-language CBA class.

“My family’s foundation has taught me the importance of addressing the needs of the Spanish-speaking communities to create rich and vibrant local communities in which everyone can contribute, regardless of their native language,” Brisson said. “Offering future entrepreneurs training and coaching in their native tongue allows RTC to reach a large group of individuals who can then build economic stability for themselves, their families, and their communities.”

RTC’s Start Something Champions Gala celebrates both local and national entrepreneurs, like Sheri, who are committed to boosting local economies. The fundraiser supports entrepreneurial development in underserved communities across Northern New Jersey.

Purchase tickets for the Start Something Champions Gala [here](#)

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Sheri Sobrato Brisson continues to change lives today, as she brings the brilliant and healing efforts of *Digging Deep* journals to young people facing health challenges. Already a force for good in America's Top 20 Children's hospitals in addition to over 50 others, Sheri believes that children and teens with serious or chronic illness should be given the opportunity to build emotional strength and resilience through journaling. In less than a year, *Digging Deep* has earned a number of top awards, including four gold medals for children’s books and the Dr. Toy’s Top 10 Socially Responsible Products recognition. To learn more, visit diggingdeep.org.

Rising Tide Capital (RTC) is a Jersey City-based nonprofit organization founded in 2004 by Harvard graduates Alex Forrester and Alfa Demmellash. RTC helps entrepreneurs start and grow successful businesses by providing a 12-week Community Business Academy—supplemented by year-round workshops, coaching and networking events. These programs are currently offered in Spanish and in English in four cities across Northern New Jersey: Jersey City, Newark, Union City, and Orange Township. As of June 2014, 968 entrepreneurs have graduated from the CBA and together, they operate 459 businesses in New Jersey. RTC’s model of entrepreneurship development has received national recognition from President Obama to CNN Heroes. To learn more, visit www.RisingTideCapital.org.