

Vicki Schneps

Victoria Schneps is the founder, President and Co-Publisher of Schneps Media, which began in 1985 with one newspaper, The Queens Courier. Schneps Media now provides the communities with 101 media outlets, they are the leading local media company serving New York City, Westchester, Long Island from Manhattan to Montauk, and Palm Beach County. She was inspired by the power of the press during her advocacy work on behalf of her daughter Lara, brain damaged at birth, Ms. Schneps pursued her dream of being in the news business.

She started The Queens Courier in her Bayside living room, with a partner and a \$250 investment. Today, Schneps Media comprises newspapers, magazines, websites, digital media, webinars, podcasts and events. In partnership with her son Joshua Schneps, the company has expanded into more than 100 media outlets. The 50th anniversary of the Willowbrook consent decree to which Lara Schneps, Victoria's daughter was a named plaintiff, is being remembered for the powerful change it made in the lives of people with disabilities.

Life's WORC, the group she founded in 1971, has grown to serve over 1000 individuals with developmental disabilities and autism and its 80 million dollar not-for-profit organization. It operates 50 group homes, 19 day programs, The Family Center for Autism in Garden City and the creation of WORC Force. Ms. Schneps continues to volunteer as a member of the board and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Life's WORC main office building now bears her name.

Ms. Schneps is the recipient of numerous awards for her dedicated community service and she is proud to have been chosen to carry the Olympic Torch for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She has received awards as Business Person of the Year by The Queens Chamber of Commerce, the Flushing YMCA, Grand Marshal of the Queens Hispanic Parade, and is recognized by the Hindu and Muslim communities as well. She serves on the boards of the United Way of Long Island, Flushing Bank, LISTnet, Life's WORC, Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens.

She is a proud graduate of James Madison High School and received her BS from New York University and her MS from Brooklyn College. Recently widowed and she is the proud mother of three surviving children, 4 step children and 15 grandchildren. She is passionate about her family, friends and the community.