

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

National Association of Professional Organizers

NEW YORK CHAPTER

REPRESENTED BY

Debbie Harwin AND Ann Sullivan

The National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) is an association of and for professional organizers. NAPO currently has 20 chapters across the country and over 3,000 members worldwide. The New York chapter of NAPO (NAPO-NY) is one of the oldest and largest chapters with over 130 members.

NAPO-NY began collaborating with First Step as part of a chapter community service initiative in 2002. Twenty NAPO-NY members volunteered for the first project: organizing the First Step offices at St. Luke's Church on 141st Street. This preliminary project, completed in one day, was deemed a huge success.

In order to build upon a successful collaboration, Ann Sullivan, Debra Harwin and the First Step staff implemented a plan to have NAPO-NY members teach organizing skills to First Step participants. In February 2002, chapter members began conducting workshops for the four or five First Step classes each year. The hour-long workshops include Paper Management, Time Management, and Money Management and are preceded by a half-hour Introduction to Organizing.

To date approximately 22 NAPO-NY members have presented organizing workshops to over 100 First Step participants. NAPO-NY members have continued to deepen their commitment to this on-going collaboration through the First Step Mentoring program.