MARIA FISHEL



Photography by Marsin Mogielski



Kenneth and Maria Fishel

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By Emily Kate Fassberg
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In the picturesque enclave of the Hamptons, nestled amid the serenity of nature and the allure of luxurious estates, Maria Fishel, a woman driven by a deep passion for philanthropy, has been making a significant impact. Through her involvement in various initiatives, Maria has channeled her resources and influence to foster positive change. We delved into Maria's notable philanthropic activities and learned about her motivation, background, and the profound influence she has had on the community.

One of Maria's most significant philanthropic ventures is her support for the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation. Every July the Fishels host a grand affair attended by 500 esteemed guests under a large tent. For over a decade, Maria has been hosting remarkable events in the Hamptons, raising funds to fuel groundbreaking research in the pursuit of cancer cures. Through her dedicated efforts, she has successfully raised millions, transforming the lives of countless individuals affected by this relentless disease.

Maria opens her doors to an array of captivating events, including the Valentino Summer Escape, a poolside lunch party where VIP clients from Valentino are welcomed. This is one of Maria's most special events as Valentino is her favorite brand. Maria also has partnered with esteemed fashion house Oscar de la Renta for an upcoming polo event.

Her passion for preserving cultural heritage is evident through her involvement with the French Heritage Society. In a forthcoming cocktail party, Maria plans to raise funds to protect French architecture and promote education. Drawing inspiration from her own garden, she envisions a captivating event where guests will be serenaded by musicians, relishing French cuisine against a backdrop of an enchanting French Riviera theme.

Maria's commitment to cultural diversity goes beyond creating visually stunning events; it extends to her desire to promote inclusivity and celebrate different cultures. In a groundbreaking collaboration, Maria joined forces with El Museo del Barrio, a renowned institution dedicated to showcasing and preserving Latin art and culture. Together, they plan an exciting summer event that will bring a taste of Latin heritage to the luxurious setting of the Hamptons. Maria envisions an immersive experience where guests will be transported to the vibrant streets of Latin American cities.



The event space will be transformed into a captivating fusion of colors, textures, and sounds, reminiscent of the region's rich culture. Through exquisite Spanish and Latin cuisine, expertly curated by renowned chefs, Maria will ensure that every bite becomes a sensory journey. Beyond the artistic beauty and culinary delights, this collaboration holds a deeper purpose. Maria and El Museo del Barrio are united in their mission to support a noble cause, raising funds to further the museum's initiatives and expand the reach of Latin art and culture. Through this collaboration, she hopes to inspire others to embrace and appreciate the richness of different cultures, recognizing that diversity is a strength that brings people together in meaningful and impactful ways.

Maria's events often attract notable figures, including the renowned chef Jean-Georges and other talented chefs. Their participation adds a layer of excitement and culinary excellence to Maria's philanthropic endeavors.



Through their skills and expertise, these chefs elevate the dining experience at Maria's events, creating unforgettable moments that further engage guests and raise funds for important causes.

Maria is also committed to health, wellness, and women's empowerment. She is collaborating with *Elysian*, a prominent women's magazine, for a planned cocktail party at her home. Maria will create an intimate and inspiring atmosphere where guests can engage in meaningful conversations about personal well-being, empowerment, and self-care. This event will serve as a platform to amplify the voices and experiences of women while fostering a sense of community and support.

Maria is known for her impeccable taste and attention to detail. When working with Preston Bailey, the renowned event designer, and his team, their combined expertise creates unforgettable experiences. Maria's flair for artistic compositions and Preston's knack for grandeur result in breathtaking and immersive events that leave guests in awe. Their collaboration brings together the best of both worlds, resulting in truly extraordinary celebrations.

Maria's roots trace to Ecuador, where she developed a love for nature through her mother's passion for gardening. This love blossomed further when she settled in the Hamptons.





Embracing her Ecuadorian heritage, Maria frequents the flower district, using her exquisite taste to create stunning floral arrangements that grace her prestigious events. Her fondness for animals is expressed through her support for wildlife conservation, which she plans to further explore.

Despite her busy schedule and philanthropic commitments, Maria understands the importance of maintaining a strong bond with her loved ones. Maria's family remains her priority, and her love for hosting and cooking allows her to create treasured memories with loved ones. During the winter months, Maria and her husband embark on rejuvenating journeys to Florida, where they cherish moments together.

Maria's philanthropic endeavors have sparked inspiration within the Hamptons community. By leveraging her presence and influence, Maria has motivated others to get involved and contribute to causes that resonate with them. Maria's charismatic personality and genuine passion for making a difference have made her a natural leader and advocate for philanthropy. Her friends, who have witnessed firsthand the positive change she has brought about, have become her most ardent supporters. Inspired by Maria's efforts, they too have embraced the spirit of giving back and actively participate in various charitable activities. Maria's journey in philanthropy is a testament to the transformative power of one person's dedication and compassion.

Creative Director & Photographer: **Marsin Mogielski**
Makeup Artist: **Francesca Cree-Torres**
Hair Stylist: **Nikki Brenton**
Hamptons Beauty Bar | Sincerely Something Borrowed Inc.
Wardrobe: **Valentino**
Jewelry: **Irene Lummertz**
Event Designer: **Preston Bailey**
Event Planner: **Sarabeth Quattlebaum**
Production Manager: **Anton Pozdnyakov**