

2008 Advocacy Breakfast

Dr. Richard Barth Presents “Teaching Parents to Parent”

On March 7, 2008, Dr. Richard Barth addressed over one hundred service providers, community members, County officials, and WCA Board and Advisory Council members at the Westchester Children Association's annual Advocacy Breakfast, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. Dr. Barth's speech, which marked the inauguration of WCA's Kathryn Wasserman Davis Child Advocacy Lecture, focused on parent training programs for child welfare-involved families.

Dr. Barth, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Social Work, delivered an engaging talk entitled, “Teaching Parents to Parent: What Works for Child Welfare Involved Families,” on the importance of parent training programs, available evidence-based models and options for local application of these best practices.

According to Dr. Barth, parent training programs are the most common service provided to child welfare-involved families (about 800,000 families annually), and have been linked to reductions in child maltreatment and abuse as well as improvement in children's develop-

ment. Despite these positive research outcomes, little progress has been made in implementing evidence based parent training practices in the child welfare field.

Dr. Barth presented four evidence-based parent training models which have been deemed effective or promising by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare. These include: Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, The Incredible Years, Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, and Project SafeCare. Dr. Barth suggested that if model programs are not used, local agencies can make a difference by applying the components of the best practices that are most relevant to clients. In his discussion Dr. Barth noted that implementation of these programs requires time, resources, and extensive staff supervision. However, he emphasized that the positive outcomes far outweigh the initial costs of implementing evidence-based models.

The 2008 Advocacy Breakfast is a precursor to WCA's Research and Advocacy Committee Roundtable Discussion (April 3rd) and subsequent report on local parenting programs. To participate in the Round-



Dr. Richard Barth

table Discussion, please call Caitie Romeo at the WCA office (914-946-7676, ext. 10). For more detailed information on Dr. Barth's presentation, slides from his talk are available at www.wca4kids.org. Further readings on the evidence-based practices presented by Dr. Barth are available from the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare, www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org. ■

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Kathryn Wasserman Davis Honored for Philanthropy

In recognition of her generous support of the Westchester Children's Association and other local causes, Kathryn Wasserman Davis was named as the **2007 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year** by the Association of Development Officers. Throughout her life as a scholar, activist and philanthropist, she has worked to improve international understanding, promote world peace and create better futures for our children. The award was presented on November 15, 2007 at Tappan Hill, before an audience of 300. Her inspiring acceptance remarks (at right) were delivered by video since she was traveling in China on the day of the event.

To further honor Dr. Davis, WCA recently announced the inauguration of the **Kathryn Wasserman Davis Child Advocacy Lecture**. Each year, WCA will bring an outstanding national expert to Westchester to speak about a current policy or practice affecting children. The lecture is supported by an endowment gift from Dr. Davis, who celebrates her 101st birthday this year. ■

Child Welfare Experts Address WCA Advisory Council

On January 12, 2008, Commissioner Kevin Mahon of Westchester's Department of Social Services and Children's Village CEO Dr. Jeremy Kohomban spoke at the annual breakfast of the WCA Advisory Council. Commissioner Mahon stressed the need for more families to receive services that effectively prevent their involvement with the child welfare system. Dr. Kohomban spoke of the vital importance of helping youngsters in foster care develop and maintain strong values, such as self-discipline, and a clear sense that they *can* succeed.

WCA Board member Tom Kyle presented a preview of *Westchester's Children By the Numbers*, WCA forthcoming comprehensive data resource. Publication is

Mrs. Davis Accepts Philanthropy Award from Abroad via Video

Thank you for this award, I'm so sorry that my schedule finds me in China and therefore unable to enjoy this evening with you and my fellow awardees. My special congratulations to all of you and my thanks to the Westchester Children's Association for nominating me for this award.

Although it may be hard to believe, the Children's Association was my very first volunteer effort in Westchester over 70 years ago. So today I'm sending you my thoughts in digital format. I do appreciate today's great technology.

I've been asked what motivates me in my philanthropy. Simply put, I'm selfish, and so are you. We all want the same thing: to see the world a safer, healthier and more peaceful world. That world can be within our selves, our home, our community, or our global community.

But in addition to being selfish, I'm also very impatient. I'm eager to see the results in my lifetime. Our collective energies and efforts so far have made Westchester a wonderful place to live. But think how our continued efforts will make it so much better. My challenge to you is simple. I'll remind you: *that which we can conceive, we can achieve*. Imagine what philanthropies our Westchester could do if we each could double our commitments.

Our family lives by the motto "*Learn. Earn. Return.*" Having lived for over a century, I'll tell you that it is hard to learn, and harder to earn, but I promise you that the greatest pleasure is to return. Thank you for honoring me with my selfish pleasure of returning. Thank you.

—Kathryn Wasserman Davis



Dr. Jeremy Kohomban and Commissioner Kevin Mahon

anticipated in the spring of 2008.

Nine new members were welcomed to WCA's Advisory Council and will serve two year terms: Amy Ansehl, Deborah Campbell, MD, Rachel Grob, Regina Kelly, Ursula LaMotte, Mary Loeffler, Evelyn Stock, Kate Weingarten, and Theodore Wilson. ■

Same Coalition, New Name

Child Health Task Force becomes *Child Health Advocacy Network*

Recently, members of the Child Health Task Force met to plan the future of the coalition, which was first created in 1998 as a private/public partnership co-chaired by the Westchester County Department of Health and WCA. The coalition's mission remains to examine the health status of children, identify barriers to positive health outcomes and develop strategies to address those barriers. Members agreed that the ability to advocate and take positions on legislation and policy is crucial to this mission. To strengthen these advocacy efforts, in June the coalition became the **Child Health Advocacy Network (CHAN)**, which will be chaired solely by WCA. The County Department of Health remains as a vital member.

Please join us at our next meeting 9:30AM on April 1, 2008 at the YWCA of White Plains to hear about the County's Community Neighborhood Health Centers, and the services they provide to our most vulnerable children and families. ■



Caitlin Romeo and Limarie Cabrera

WCA Welcomes New Staff

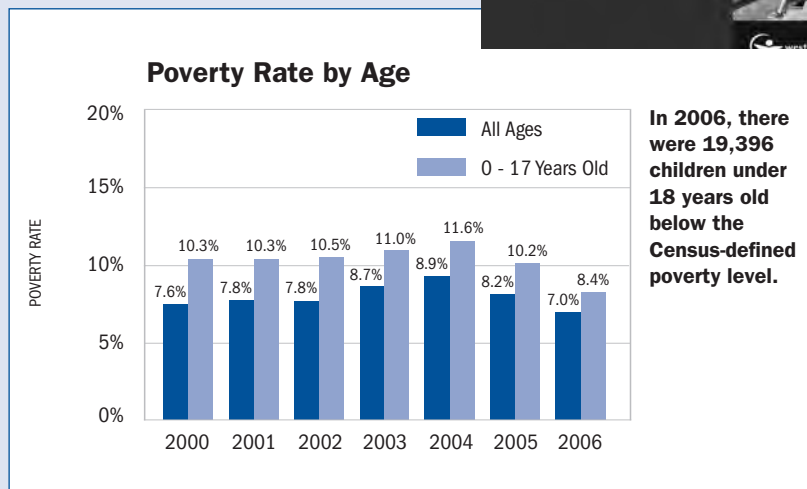
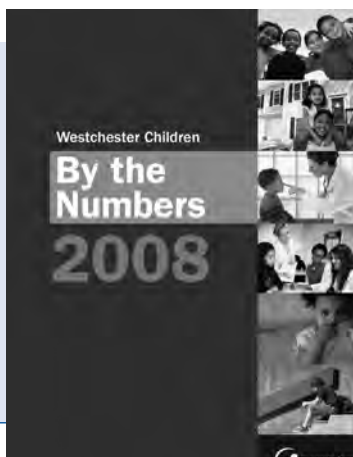
Limarie Cabrera, WCA's Director of Data Analysis, will have primary responsibility for *Westchester Children By the Numbers*, a compilation of information about children and youth. She recently acquired a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. After spending time at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals managing the corporation's employee benefits database, she transferred her skills to the non-profit sector. At Public Health Solutions (formerly known as the Medical and Health Research Association), she led database training for over 200 non-profit agencies in the greater New York City area. Her most recent work experience includes a consultancy at New York City's Department of Small Business Services, where she advised on marketing initiatives for the department's workforce development unit. Lim lives in Harrison with her husband and son.

Caitlin Romeo has recently joined the staff of WCA as the Administrative Assistant. She graduated in 2006 from Saint Michaels's College in Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. For three out of her four years at Saint Michael's, Caitie worked at the college's Child Care Center. After graduating she spent a year as a teacher's assistant at Eliza Corwin Frost Nursery School in Bronxville working with children ranging from two to four years old. Caitie is a native of Bronxville and currently lives in Tuckahoe. ■

Coming Soon!

Westchester Children By the Numbers 2008

A single, comprehensive data resource for advocates and policy makers. Here's a sample:



Publication to be released late Spring 2008.



Westchester Children's Association
 175 Main Street, Suite 702
 White Plains, NY 10601

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SAVE THE DATE

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Advocacy Dinner
 Honoring
 Dr. Philip Landrigan

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 ASSOCIATION
 works to ensure
 that all children are
*healthy, safe and
 prepared for
 life's challenges.*


Bloomingdale's Chooses WCA!

February 27th was Fashionable FUNdraiser Day at Bloomingdale's in White Plains. Bloomingdale's holds regular, seasonal "Shopping Benefits" in almost every location. The events raise money for diverse causes. The Spring 2008 focus of benefits at all branches of Bloomingdale's was children. Meryl Lefkowitz, Manager, Public Relations at

White Plains Bloomingdale's, selected Westchester Children's Association from among the many organizations in Westchester County that benefit children. A portion of the profits from sales will be donated to WCA. Many thanks to Bloomingdale's for their community spirit in general, and their kindness towards WCA in particular! ■



WCA Board members Lou Muller and Janet Gutterman, Executive Director Cora Greenberg greet shoppers at Bloomingdale's.