

2008 Child Advocacy Agenda

Child Advocates Urge County Action

With suggestions from several local and county-side coalitions focused on children, members of the Campaign for Kids, and the Child Health Advocacy Coalition have worked with WCA to develop the following six-part County advocacy agenda. These items – three items focused on the 2008 County budget and three non-fiscal requests – will be discussed with County elected officials during the coming weeks.

1. Continue allocation of \$750,000 for non-traditional mental health supports for young children and families in community settings.

When young children exhibit social, emotional and behavioral problems, an early therapeutic response can make all the difference in preventing much bigger problems later on. In response to previous WCA advocacy, the County is currently supporting three pilot projects that bring preventive mental health services on-site to children and families in day care centers.

2. Continue funding \$100,000 Independent Living Fund to assure that each foster youth who “ages out” of foster care has adequate resources to become an independent young adult.

Funds make a critical difference to young people in foster care by helping them plan for a more secure and productive adulthood. Funds may be used for establishing a household (security deposits, furniture, etc.), educational or vocational expenses (books, uniforms, driving lessons) and other individual needs as appropriate.

3. Add \$500,000 to support new programs aimed at truancy prevention to combat youth violence.

The U.S Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) report “*Truancy Reduction: Keeping Students in School*” states:

“...as a risk factor for delinquent behavior in youth, truancy has been found to be related to substance abuse, gang activity, and involvement

Continued on page two

Child advocacy agenda at a glance...

- Continue \$750,000 for non-traditional mental health supports for young children and families in community settings.
- Maintain \$100,000 to assure each youth who “ages out” of foster care will have adequate resources to assist them in becoming independent adults.
- Add \$500,000 to Invest-in-Kids to support new programs aimed at truancy prevention and combating youth violence.
- Request a formal report from the County on the impact and accomplishments of Invest-in-Kids.
- Support Westchester’s request for a waiver of NY State’s requirement that parents seeking child care subsidies must obtain court-ordered child support.
- Support congressional reauthorization and expansions of children’s health insurance.

IN THIS ISSUE...

2008 Child Advocacy Agenda 1
 Public Hearings 2
 Make Your Voice Heard 2
 Kathryn Wasserman Davis is Honored 4
 Pat Mackin Celebrated 4
 Did you know? 5

Child Advocates *(Continued from page one)*

in criminal activities such as burglary, auto theft and vandalism. Intervening early in the truancy cycle... can prevent the more costly alternatives of continued truancy."

We recommend that the County allocate \$500,000 to create and evaluate programs using evidence-based models for children in elementary and middle school grades.

4. Request a formal report from the County on the impact and accomplishments of Invest-in-Kids to date.

Invest-in-Kids was created in 1994 in response to the advocacy of Campaign for Kids (CFK). With an annual allocation of about \$1 million over the past 13 years, the Fund has been used to support dozens of community youth programs while leveraging State and Federal funds. Information on program accomplishments and outcomes is necessary to insure that the County expenditure of tax-levy dollars is being used as effectively as possible for Westchester's youth.

5. Urge County Board of Legislators to support Westchester's request for a waiver of New York State regulations that requires parents applying for subsidized child care to participate in child support enforcement efforts.

Low-income families are struggling with many issues with respect to family security that may prevent them from being able to pursue child support. Children in these families should not be denied access to

high-quality, developmentally appropriate, care necessary to prepare them for the future.

6. Urge County Board of Legislators to formally support congressional SCHIP reauthorization and improvements.

At the time of publication, Congress is preparing to respond to President Bush's veto of the SCHIP reauthorization and New York and other states are preparing to challenge the Federal government's ruling against their plans for expansion. Over a half million children in New York depend on this federal/state investment. Approximately 8% of Westchester's children are currently living without affordable health care coverage. ■

Public Hearings on the 2008 County Budget

If you plan to attend one of these hearings, confirm the time and place by calling 914-995-2800 or by checking the website www.westchesterlegislators.com

November 19–7:00 p.m.
Larkin Plaza Library, Yonkers

November 28–7:00 p.m.
Mt. Kisco Elementary School

December 5–7:00 p.m.
County Office Building,
148 Martine, White Plains



Make your voice heard in upcoming County Legislative Election

To encourage voter participation in this year's County elections, WCA has updated its educational brochure *VOTE FOR KIDS!* about how and why the public should participate in the upcoming County elections. The non-partisan brochure includes information on the importance of voting in County elections and a list of county legislators by community. A copy is available on the WCA website, www.wca4kids.org. ■

Kathryn Wasserman Davis Named Philanthropist of the Year In Honor of Her Gift to WCA

In honor of her recent \$500,000 gift to WCA, Kathryn Wasserman Davis has been named as the Association of Development Officers' 2007 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year. In addition to WCA, many organizations in Westchester and beyond have been the beneficiaries of Dr. Davis' recent and historic generosity. WCA will present the award at the 2007 National Philanthropy Day Breakfast on November 15th at Tappan Hill.

Kathryn Wasserman Davis, PhD, will certainly go down in history as a spectacular philanthropist.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, she is the widow of Shelby Cullom Davis, who was well known as one of Wall Street's greatest investors. She served as WCA's President from 1955-61 and has been a long-time supporter and Honorary Board member. Her gift is the single largest gift WCA has ever received, and, as part of our endowment, its impact will be felt for many years to come.

Dr. Davis celebrated her 100th birthday in 2007 by giving substantial support to her favorite causes. A sampling of her goodwill includes Middlebury College's Kathryn

Wasserman Davis School of Russian and her "100 Projects for Peace," an invitation to undergraduates to design grassroots peace initiatives. Her gifts to other organizations in Westchester include \$20 million to Scenic Hudson, \$1 million to Phelps Memorial Hospital, and \$1 million to the Jacob Burns Film Center.

The Awards Breakfast will be on November 15th from 8-10 A.M. Tickets to the event are \$75 for nonmembers. If you're interested in attending the breakfast, please contact Marie Rossi at 914-241-3917 or mtrossi@optonline.net ■

Pat Mackin Celebrated on Her Retirement

Current and former Board members, staff and friends gathered recently to express their appreciation and bid a fond adieu to Pat Mackin, WCA's long-time Administrative Manager who retired at the end of August after nearly 11 years. Three of Pat's four children and her youngest grandchild were surprise guests at the celebration held at Sam's of Gedney Way. WCA presented Pat with an inscribed watering can (she's an avid gardener!) and a gift in her honor made to Heifer International. Pat's contributions to WCA went far beyond her duties of running a smooth office operation and included her generosity, warmth, dedication and copious helpings of common sense and good judgment with which she carried out every assignment. All of us at WCA will miss Pat and wish her much happiness in the next chapter of her life. ■



Pat Mackin, second from left, with former WCA Board members Jackie Hilly, Mary D'Amico and Barbara Holland.



WCA staff with Pat: Executive Director Cora Greenberg, Development Officer Betsy Steward, and Deputy Director Allison Lake.



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

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 249
 White Plains, NY

WCA BOARD & OFFICERS 2006-07

OFFICERS

Chair
 Katherine S. Lobach, MD

President
 Maris Krasnow, EdD


Vice Presidents
 Carey E. Gross, MD; Ann Umemoto

Secretary
 Lisa Katz, LMSW

Treasurer
 Jay Lerner, CPA


BOARD MEMBERS

Joanne Amorosi, CFP	Thomas Kyle
Myrna Forney	Elizabeth Mark
Douglas Gould	Louise De Vel Muller
Jody Greenbaum	Lenore Rosenbaum
Janet Gutterman, Esq.	Kenneth A. Schiffer, MD
Marion K. Israel, DSW	Adrienne Weiss-Harrison, MD



WESTCHESTER
 CHILDREN'S
 ASSOCIATION

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



WCA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Elizabeth Alderman, MD	Doris Capello, DSW	Barbara Holland	Roc Polera
Margery Arsham	Georganne Chapin, JD	Stephen J. Jones	Charlotte Raynor
Karen Blumenthal	Sheryl Dicker	Mildred Kibrick	Eileen Santiago, EdD
Anne Boyer	Michael Friedman, LMSW	Danielle Laraque, MD	Kenneth Schonberg, MD
Lyndall Boal	Lottie Harris	Richard Lerer, EdD	Evelyn Stock
Delores Brathwaite, JD	Jackie Hilly	Leah Murphy	Zoila Tazi
Ted Buerger	Richard Hobish, Esq.	Andy Pelosi	Lester Zimmerman, MD

SAVE THE DATE

**March 7, 2008
 Advocacy Breakfast**

*"Parenting Programs
 That Work"*

Dr. Richard Barth, Dean,
 University of Maryland
 School of Social Work

**May 14, 2008
 Advocacy Dinner**

Honoring
 Dr. Philip Landrigan

Did you know...

Did you know that a special and unique opportunity to support WCA exists for anyone at least 70 1/2 years old?

Charities like WCA are created and sustained by people who want to give their resources to solve problems and enrich their communities. If you're 70 1/2 years or older, the **Pension Protection Act of 2006**, allows you to make a tax-free direct rollover of tax-free charitable gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per year to charitable organizations like WCA. Not only is your rollover income tax free, but it also satisfies your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) requirement AND also qualifies as a charitable contribution income tax deduction.

Please note: the Pension Protection Act of 2006 expires on December 31, 2007. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must act soon. If you'd like more information, please call 914-946-7676 ext. 13 or email Betsy Steward at bsteward@wca4kids.org.