

Since 1914, the Westchester Children's Association has been the County's leading voice for children, speaking out for their needs and improving public policies and programs aimed at meeting those needs.

As a result, we have helped every child have the opportunities and supports they need to be healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges.

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting Mental Health

Children's mental health was a primary focus for WCA this year. Based on the recommendations of our 2005 report, *No Time to Lose: Rethinking Mental Health Services for Westchester's Children*, we have worked to improve children's mental health through advocacy and public education.

Advocacy

- In the County, **WCA advocated for increased public investments in early-childhood mental health.** Success! County funding for this program in 2007 represents an astounding **200% expansion of the pilot program** for which we successfully advocated in 2006. As a result, hundreds of needy youngsters will benefit as mental health professionals work with day care centers throughout the County to prevent and treat emerging emotional problems.
- At the state level, WCA joined with others to help pass **Timothy's Law**, which will require insurance parity for mental health treatment. WCA Board and staff participated in the Westchester planning coalition, organized email campaigns and participated in local rallies. This new law will ensure access to mental health care for thousands of children and teens.

Public Education

During the year, we brought our findings about children's mental health needs to a variety of audiences.



Dr. Jack Shonkoff with WCA Director, Cora Greenberg at WCA's 2006 Advocacy Breakfast

- WCA's 2006 Advocacy Breakfast featured Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Chair of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. He spoke eloquently about the vital link between children's need for secure and nurturing relationships in early childhood and their later social and cognitive well being. One hundred and thirty five guests attended the Breakfast, including state and local elected officials and other community leaders.
- **WCA published *Pay Attention/Preste Atencion***, a bilingual booklet teaching parents about their young children's emotional development and providing links to local services. Thousands of copies will be distributed through child care centers, health centers and other locales.

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A Message from the President of WCA

As the leading voice for Westchester's children, WCA plays a crucial role in keeping their needs at the top of the public agenda. We are fortunate to have the support of individual and institutional donors, partner organizations, and a broad constituency of adult and youth advocates who join us as children's **champions** and help us improve children's lives in three important ways:

To guarantee children's needs are known, and that resources are funneled toward their most urgent needs, WCA collects, analyzes and publishes current data about the County's children. Accurate and current information helps us focus our advocacy on top priority children's issues and, over time, lets us know if our efforts at ameliorating problems are effective.

To ensure that children are benefiting from the best possible strategies and approaches that meet their needs, we analyze and advocate for public policies that show the greatest promise. We study selected issues in depth, review how other communities address similar issues, and evaluate proposed public policies and legislation. Our 2005 report, *No Time to Lose: Rethinking Mental Health Services for Westchester's Children*, is an example of this work.

To continue building a strong and united voice to keep children's needs at the top of the public agenda, we educate and mobilize the public.

With educational events and publications, we bring the latest ideas and information to Westchester. We teach youth and adults to be better advocates, and form coalitions to speak out for children's needs.

As always, the WCA remains committed to its mission – ensuring that every child is healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges, and our talented board, staff, and advisory council work continuously to educate the public and our elected officials to this end. As we look to the future, we know that you are our partners in this vital and ongoing task. Together we will be able to make the strides we need to keep children's lives moving forward.



Maris H. Krasnow Ed.D., WCA President (right) with WCA benefactor, Kathryn Wasserman Davis.

Maris H. Krasnow Ed.D., WCA President

Improving Children's Health

WCA is a leading voice for improving children's health care and access to health insurance. WCA is committed to ensuring that problems surrounding children's health care are a priority for our government representatives.

The Health Insurance Roller Coaster

- Many families who successfully enroll their children in publicly sponsored health insurance wind up losing that insurance when they fail to re-enroll or re-certify their eligibility in a timely manner. When their child next needs medical care, they start the process from the beginning. The result is gaps in coverage—and health care—and wasted time and money for health care providers, government agencies and families.

To address these problems, WCA chaired an interagency **Workgroup on Re-Enrollment** that developed ideas about the barriers keeping families from easily re-enrolling in insurance programs and what could be done at the local level to overcome these barriers. WCA also conducted two customer focus groups—one in English and one in Spanish—to get direct feedback from families. Based on these insights, we are now working to implement needed changes at the County and State.



Parents discuss health insurance enrollment barriers in Spanish-speaking focus group.

Childhood Obesity

- As communities become more concerned with childhood obesity, a number of disparate efforts are underway to improve school food, and to promote healthy eating and fitness. WCA played a key role this year in convening government, school and private groups addressing this issue to plan joint efforts. Our staff attended all day School Food and Fitness Conference and helped create a database of school policies regarding nutrition and fitness.

Supporting Foster Youth

The transition from foster child to independent young adult

- In 2006, WCA secured the first-ever **grants for Westchester's foster youth** who age-out of care. Young people will now be able to get help similar to what many of us are able to offer our own children—help with a security deposit, money to cover books and supplies for post-secondary education, help assembling the first “working” wardrobe. These funds will help more young people make a successful transition to adulthood.

Kids just want to have fun!

- In 2006, we hosted our second annual “Take the Kids to a Show” event for foster children at Purchase College Performing Arts Center where Savion Glover, an extraordinary young tap dancer, entertained and amazed the young audience. The kids had fun! And probably were inspired in the process.

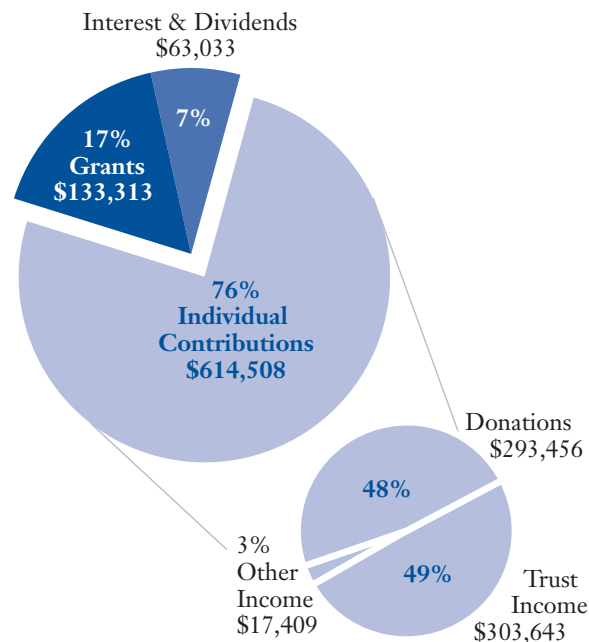
Data-Driven Advocacy

WCA's important and unique tool:

- In 2006, WCA made progress on creating our new **data resource on children and youth in Westchester**. Due to debut in the fall of 2007, our Data Book will offer essential information for any organization in Westchester concerned with helping children. Data collection continues, and the design of both the Data Book and the online, interactive database is near completion.

REVENUE

Total Revenue \$810,854



EXPENSES

Program services

Personnel	\$187,296
Non Personnel	73,254
<i>Total Expenses for Program services</i>	260,550

Administration & Fundraising

Personnel	64,514
Non Personnel	30,946
<i>Total Expenses for Administration & Fundraising</i>	93,460

Total Expenditures \$345,010

Notes

- \$505,000 of individual contributions received in 2006 was added to the WCA endowment to generate operating income.
- A copy of the complete audited financial statement is available from WCA on request, or from the New York State Attorney General, Office of Charities Registration, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

Building for Our Second Century

Our Funding

WCA has embarked on a concerted effort to increase individual giving by building better, closer and more meaningful relationships with our current as well as potential donors. In 2006, WCA was strengthened by the addition of new resources and new friends. In the summer, we received a **bequest of \$255,000** from the estate of Mary Lagercrantz, a former member of the WCA Board and resident of Dobbs Ferry who passed away in 1990.

Later in the year, **Kathryn Wasserman Davis**, former Board member and long-time supporter, pledged an **extraordinary gift of \$500,000** to the WCA endowment. Half was received in 2006 and the other half is expected in 2007. Mrs. Davis, who celebrates her 100th birthday in 2007, was President of the WCA Board from 1955-61. Both the Davis gift and the Lagercrantz bequest have been added to the WCA Endowment where they generate crucial income for current operations, income that allows WCA to be independent, flexible and secure.

Advisory Council

In addition to funding, WCA added another important new resource in 2006, our **Advisory Council**. The Council is composed of individuals who bring expertise, commitment and other gifts to WCA. Some are former Board members, others long time supporters, and still others are new friends who want to become more involved in the organization. We are thrilled to have them as part of the WCA family.

Supporters of Children (\$100+) continued

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Kathryn Wasserman Davis

And for major program support

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The Wallace Westchester Fund

at the Westchester Community Foundation

Presidents Circle (5,000+)

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Adrienne Weiss-Harrison

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Maura Bluestone

Wendy Breitner

Susan Brenner

Patricia Brunig

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