

WCA 2016 Benefit Dinner an Outstanding Success



WCA Board President, Catherine Draper, presenting the Edith C. Macy Award to Allan Houston with WCA Executive Director, Cora Greenberg



Allan Houston, John Starks, Kevin Bovet, Christian Philemon, Frank Williams, Kim Wilson and guests from the White Plains Youth Court and the Youth Shelter Program



Allan Houston accepting his award at the Benefit Dinner

The weather cooperated beautifully on April 13th, providing a gorgeous setting for the WCA Family to celebrate the successful conclusion of our 5-year Centennial Campaign. Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle helped make it a memorable event, which raised over \$326,000, and entertained more than 225 guests.

Macy Award Presented to Allan Houston

WCA's Edith C. Macy Award for Distinguished Service was presented by Board President Cathy Draper and Executive Director Cora Greenberg to Allan Houston, former NBA All-Star, and currently the General Manager of the Westchester Knicks, and the Assistant General Manager of the NY Knicks. Allan was selected in recognition of his efforts to support the role of fathers in their children's lives. In accepting the award, Allan connected his feelings about his own children with WCA's mission, saying:

"As Cora mentioned, my wife and I have 7 children...mornings can be a bit chaotic in our household. But we try to take a moment each morning to come together and share a moment of reflection and devotional prayer. I realize that what my wife and I hope for our own children, is just what WCA envisions for all children: to be healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges. In this, there is hope for the future that is destined for them."

Near the close of the event, guests cheered the very exciting announcement of a Legacy Gift made by Centennial Campaign Co-Chair Maris Krasnow and her husband Jesse. They informed

WCA that they have included a \$100,000 bequest to the organization in their will. Like all bequests, theirs will be used to build WCA's Endowment Fund, which is critical to WCA's uninterrupted work on behalf of the county's youth. It allows WCA to weather inevitable economic storms, and we are very grateful to the Krasnows and the other members of WCA's Legacy Society.



A Legacy Gift is a powerful tool for the future. Are you one of those champions for youth, who has planned to support WCA through a legacy gift, like your will or a trust? We'd love to know your plans so we can thank you properly on behalf of the many young people who will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

New Business Support Group Introduced

The Westchester Knicks are founding members of WCA's newly formed committee, Westchester Companies for Kids (WC4K), co-chaired by Kevin Bovet, VP of Sales and Business Operations for the Westchester Knicks, and John Tolomer, President and CEO of The Westchester Bank. The co-chairs spoke at the dinner and explained that the goal of the committee is to help raise awareness of children's issues in Westchester, and connect the business sector with WCA's work in a variety of ways. WC4K currently has eight members, and we look forward to its growth. If your company is interested in being involved, please call or email Betsy Steward, WCA's Director of Development, at 914.946.7676 extension 303, bsteward@wca4kids.org

Denise Killeen, Communications and Data Associate

Denise Killeen joined WCA as the Communications and Data Associate in March 2016. Denise graduated Cum Laude from the College of Charleston with her BA in Anthropology in 2010. Prior to joining WCA, Denise worked at the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, Inc. and then at the Food Bank for Westchester as the Programs Services Coordinator, where she oversaw a network of over 150 feeding agencies and managed the Senior Grocery feeding program. A native of Croton-on-Hudson, Denise currently resides in the Bronx.



new faces @ WCA

Erica Ayala, Project Manager

Erica Ayala has joined WCA as Project Manager to advance the Gathering Policy Solutions for Kids (GPS4KIDS) Collective Impact Initiative. She has over ten years of non-profit and corporate leadership training and development experience. Prior to joining WCA, Erica was the Youth Leadership Development Associate at the CDF-New York office. She was profiled as a Champion for Change for Children by the Children's Defense Fund during the organization's 40th Anniversary (2013). Erica received a B.A in Political Science from Elon University in 2008. Erica was raised in New Rochelle and currently lives in Mount Vernon. Erica received her Masters of Public Administration at New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service in May 2016.



RAISE the AGE | NY

UPDATE & TIMELINE

WCA staff and community advocates have continued to push for comprehensive Raise the Age legislation in New York in 2016. Westchester Children's Association, along with our many partners in the Raise the Age-NY campaign, once again secured funding for raise the age reforms in the 2016-2017 New York State budget but not the enabling legislation. We will continue to call on the New York State Senate, Assembly and Governor Cuomo to pass reform by the end of the legislative session in mid-June.



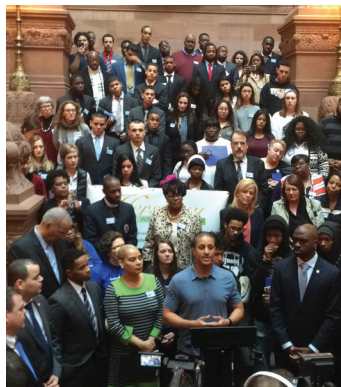
Photo by Mike Dardano

February 19, 2016

WCA and Child Care Council of Westchester hosted our annual Legislative Breakfast where Raise the Age was one of three topics discussed. Eddie shared his experience being arrested as an adult at 17.

March 1, 2016

WCA Program and Policy Associate Sarah Yergeau appeared on View Point cable access show hosted by Lillian Neuman.



March 8, 2016

45 Westchester residents and youth joined over 200 others from around the state to rally for Raise the Age legislation in Albany. Young adults from the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, the White Plains Youth Court, Children's Village, and Bravehearts M.O.V.E. New York had the opportunity to meet with elected officials and staff to ask them to make raising the age of criminal responsibility for 16 and 17 year olds a top priority in the New York State budget.

May 10, 2016

Over 35 faith leaders from across Westchester County released a letter to Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Flanagan and Speaker Heastie urging them to raise the age by the end of the legislative session in June.



Photo by Barry Mason

May 13, 2016

WCA hosted "A Conversation on Raise the Age," with featured speaker Mark White, Deputy Commissioner of New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and remarks from local respondents Mt. Vernon City Court Judge, Adrian Armstrong, Peekskill Chief of Police, Eric Johansen and Westchester County Probation Commissioner, Rocco Pozzi.

Stay informed on the progress of the Raise the Age campaign by signing up for our email updates: www.wca4kids.org/stay-informed and follow us on social media: @wca4kids.

Centennial Campaign Update

Thanks to you and all of our donors, we've done it...and then some! As WCA's transformative Centennial Campaign came to an end at our Benefit Dinner, we were able to say that we successfully raised more than our original goal! We raised a total of \$6,583,902 over the last 5 years and on behalf of Westchester's youth, we thank you for helping us attain so much.



We made it!

**Over \$6.58 Million
raised since 2011**

Please see our website
for full list of donors



**New Leader,
Same Direction**

New Project Manager Erica Ayala has seamlessly taken the helm of our GPS4Kids initiative. On March 15, 2016, over 50 GPS4Kids Community Partners met and discussed the top ranked Actions, Solutions, and Responses (ASRs). Those in attendance voted on their top ASR and spent time in small groups detailing existing and potential interventions. Going forward the ASRs will help identify the starting point for our action plan.

Community partners working together to come up with our 3 goals for GPS4Kids.

The top three GPS4Kids actions, solutions and responses (ASRs) were identified:

1

Strengthening youth-adult relationships and family supports

Create programs that help parents connect with their children and teens (in their native language); building health attachments (child/parent relationships) which contribute to improved school success and age-appropriate parent engagement in their kids' lives.

2

Creating opportunities for children to thrive regardless of race or zip code

Joint effort to promote equity across school districts regarding support for at risk or disruptive students, creative solutions to "disruptive" issues and advocacy for the alliance for equality ruling i.e. "solutions not suspensions."

3

Fostering social and emotional well-being through healthy peer relationships, and prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.

Expand community mental health funding for "Early Step Forward" so it can be taken to scale. More continuity from Head Start to high school.

What's Next

As an important continuation of their voice from the November '15 forum a youth-specific stakeholder meeting on May 25th was designed to receive useful feedback from youth stakeholders and incorporate youth voice into the overall GPS4Kids process.

There will be three GPS4Kids meetings held in June (one for each goal) to develop and refine ASRs, map resources and draft measurable outcomes for each goal. For more information on GPS4kids please contact Erica Ayala at eyala@wca4kids.org or 914.946.7676 ext. 310.

COMING FALL

2016

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS ARE COMING - STAY TUNED!

Community Snapshots use demographic, socioeconomic, education, health and other data to provide a succinct depiction of what it's like to raise a child in each featured locality.

WE WILL BE FEATURING:

- Yonkers
- New Rochelle
- Mount Vernon
- White Plains
- Ossining
- Port Chester
- Peekskill
- Mamaroneck
- Westchester County

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