

Child Care Funding Restored, Youth Programs Expanded

A strong coalition presented a united front during the 2015 Budget Season, resulting in:

- Restoration of **more than \$700,000 in child care funding.**
- A **3% increase in Invest-in-Kids funding** for community youth programs.
- **\$75,000 to the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester** to expand services to young men returning to their communities after their involvement in the criminal justice system.

WCA has long partnered with the Child Care Council of Westchester to champion child care funding, and with the Campaign for Kids to increase youth programs. The Westchester Women's Agenda has included these items on their budget agenda for years. This year, several other coalitions added their voices in support of these priorities:

- **Community Voices Heard**, a grassroots organization working to empower low-income communities, advocated making child care and after-school programs top priorities.
- **Nonprofit Westchester** works to strengthen the capacity, impact and visibility of nonprofits in Westchester County. They made child care one of their top advocacy items for the year.
- At public budget hearings, young people from the **Westchester Youth Councils** eloquently testified about the importance and impact of youth programs.

The County Executive's proposed budget, which was released shortly after Election Day, included no increases in county taxes, 3% increases in some county contracts with nonprofit

organizations, and a high level of borrowing to cover expected costs in pensions, tax grievances and other important purposes. As the Board of Legislators began to work on the budget, they were anxious to add funding for services to children, youth and families, as well as for important infrastructure projects, but they were concerned about the high level of borrowing.

Ultimately, a compromise was reached in which most of the borrowing and most of the service additions remained in the budget. At the meeting to vote on the final budget, legislators spoke about the difficult balancing act required to pass the 2015 budget. Many said how moved they were by the young people, parents and others who spoke on behalf of children and youth. But many also warned that governments cannot operate indefinitely with no tax increases. The stage is set for a discussion of modest increases for next year.

For now, we celebrate that this historic partnership of youth advocates successfully produced overwhelming support from County Legislators and agreement from the County Executive to make important investments for our children and youth.

A Timely Symposium in a Fitting Location

There was standing room only at an October 28th event cosponsored by the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester and Westchester Children's Association. This year, the YWCA's annual Stand Against Racism Symposium centered on raising the age of adult criminal responsibility in New York. With support from the Tow Foundation, WCA has championed the Raise the Age (RTA) campaign in Westchester. We were happy to partner in this event featuring Jonathan Lippman, the Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

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RTA speakers included Angelo Pinto, Honorable Jonathan Lippman, and Cadeem Gibbs (left to right).

A Timely Symposium in a Fitting Location

(Continued from front page)

Judge Lippman, along with others, spoke at the Jay Heritage Center, former home to John Jay, the first United States Chief Justice. Angelo Pinto of the Correctional Association of New York and Cadeem Gibbs, a juvenile justice advocate, left the audience convinced of the importance of raising the age of adult criminal responsibility in New York (one of only two states that prosecute 16 year olds as adults). Speakers expressed the disservice we do to young people by not offering them the support and services they need to turn their lives around. Some audience members heard of this issue for the first time at the symposium; others were well-versed and ready for action. WCA distributed a fact sheet on Raise the Age and offered action steps in a follow-up email to all participants.

Immediately following the symposium, WCA hosted a round table discussion facilitated by Judge Helen Blackwood. This was an opportunity for those on the front line in Westchester – elected officials, attorneys, mental health providers and key stakeholders – to discuss the needs of youth involved in the justice system. Many agreed that the courts are often the last resort after schools and other

RAISE the AGE | NY



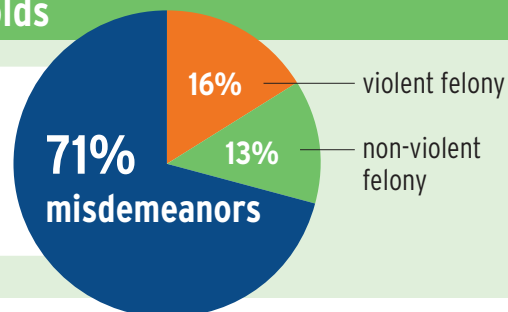
A large crowd showed up to learn more about 16 and 17 year olds who are processed as adults in the justice system.

systems have already failed young people. Compounding the issue is the insufficient diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems among youth. The group discussed developing a system of local policies and services related to Raise the Age that could serve as a model for other New York counties.

FAST FACT | Westchester County arrests of 16 and 17 year olds

71% of arrests of 16 and 17 year olds are for misdemeanors

Source: DCJS, Computerized Criminal History system (as of 11/18/2014)



Save the Date

FEBRUARY

19

THE NEXT GENERATION County Legislative Breakfast on Children and Youth

Thursday, February 19, 2015
8:00-10:00 a.m. at the White Plains YMCA

The Child Care Council of Westchester and Westchester Children's Association present our Annual Legislative Breakfast on Children and Youth. Join us for a "Town Hall" to hear young people pose questions to our county officials and hear about the particular needs of children and youth in Westchester County.

Free but registration required: <http://bit.ly/LegBreakfast2015>

Get the latest news on Westchester's Children.

Don't forget to like, follow and join WCA on your favorite social media sites!
Keyword: wca4kids



Centennial Benefit a Huge Success

The WCA family celebrated 100 years of making sure our children's needs are met on November 13, 2014 at Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown. What a memorable evening! Nearly 350 guests attended the sold-out event, which raised over \$245,000.

WCA's Edith C. Macy Award for Distinguished Service was posthumously presented by Board President Cathy Draper. The 2014 recipient, Patricia Lanza, passed away unexpectedly earlier in the year, so her longtime friend Bobby Anacarico accepted the award on behalf of Pat's family. The award recognizes those whose efforts have substantially benefitted children in Westchester. Pat's remarkable legacy of philanthropy in Westchester has improved life for thousands of children, and many representatives from nonprofits she supported were in attendance.

A highlight of the evening was the debut of a new 6-minute video, *The Westchester Children's Association: 100 Years of Child Advocacy*. Guests responded very positively to the video's compelling description of WCA's work, which can be viewed at bit.ly/wca100video.

A special moment was the Board of Directors' recognition of Cora Greenberg's 20 years of service as WCA's Executive Director. Board Chair Janet Gutterman and Centennial Campaign Chair Maris Krasnow presented Cora with a lovely gold version of the signature WCA "Kid Pin" on behalf of the Board.

The event both raised funds and boosted awareness of the issues children in Westchester face. A special appeal asked guests to support the next big phase of WCA's work for Westchester's children. Guests' donations in support of this new initiative will improve the future for our children and youth by enabling WCA to expand our leadership role as child advocates in Westchester. Inspired by this vision, guests at the Benefit contributed over \$66,000. Read more about our road map for the future below.



Maris Krasnow (left) and Janet Gutterman (middle) present a special gift from the WCA Board to Cora Greenberg.



A moving video about the impact of WCA's work on kids' lives inspired many guests to pledge their support to a special appeal.

WCA Forges Collective Impact Initiative for Westchester's Kids

With map in hand, we can chart a clear course to improve children's lives.

As part of our plan for the second century, Westchester Children's Association is exploring ways to use collective impact to address some of the most complex needs of our county's children and youth. But what is collective impact? Why are we doing it? And how will it work?

Right now WCA and other community partners lead many successful coalitions. Each one concentrates on a different aspect of children's lives (early childhood, youth, mental health, substance abuse, etc.). Although each coalition makes significant progress in their area of focus, broad and lasting change requires a unified effort across many sectors with multiple players. We can make more powerful changes for children of all ages and stages if we align our existing work with measurable, shared outcomes.

For 100 years, WCA's work has affected thousands and changed the status quo for children in Westchester County. This new phase will take our work to the next level. As we and our partners focus on the same goals, using the same measurements, we can do more for the children of Westchester.



Source: Collective Impact Agenda <https://collectiveimpactagenda.wordpress.com/2014/04/27/collective-impact-an-introduction/>

SAVE THE DATE | Want to learn more about Collective Impact?

**Join us at our
Annual Advocacy
Breakfast on
April 29, 2015**

Our Guest Speaker will be **Karen Pittman**, a nationally recognized leader in youth development and collective action. Karen is Co-Founder, President and CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment, a leading organization in the field of youth development and the home of Ready by 21, a ground-breaking collective impact model for youth.

At the breakfast, you will learn the basic principles and framework of collective impact, as well as hear about the experiences of local groups working to address various problems using the collective impact approach.



For the
11TH
YEAR!

Let's Take the Kids to a Basketball Game !

Help provide a memorable experience to a youngster who is in foster care or facing a difficult situation by supporting our 11th Annual Take the Kids to a Show project.

Westchester Knicks Game April 4th, 2015 Westchester County Center

The brand-new NBA developmental team will deliver a slam-dunk experience to participating children and youth - but we need you on our team to make sure this game's a winner for as many kids as possible!



How it Works...

For every \$100 donated to this appeal, WCA will make arrangements for a child or youth in need to attend the game.

A portion of your contribution will be used to purchase a ticket, and the balance will help Westchester Children's Association continue its work of making sure that all children are healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges.

You can treat one or several youngsters, or you can help buy a ticket with a contribution of any amount.

Send your donation in the enclosed envelope, or donate by credit card at bit.ly/TakeTheKids2015

For more information, contact us at wca@wca4kids.org or (914) 946-7676.



new
faces @
WCA

Maureen Natkin

Development and
Administrative Assistant

Maureen joined the WCA team in October 2014 to provide support to the Director of Development as well as general administrative support. Early in her career she worked for U.S. Senator Bill Bradley and for the International Finance Corporation in Moscow. After taking time off to raise her family, she recently re-started her career, working as a research and administrative

assistant for an environmental consulting firm. She has a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an M.A. in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Maureen lives in Irvington with her husband and three children.

Save a Tree - Go Paperless!

Receive future issues of the *Child Watch* newsletter via e-mail by contacting Anna Wright at awright@wca4kids.org. Not only will you be helping the planet, you'll be helping WCA. Reduced printing and mailing costs means your donations will go further in helping WCA do its job: identifying children's needs, making those needs known, and seeing that they are met!



Support WCA by shopping at AmazonSmile

Did you know that when you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to Westchester Children's Association?! What an easy way for you to make a difference for Westchester's kids - all as part of your everyday shopping and at no extra cost to you!



How it works:

1. Start your shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com>
2. Select Westchester Children's Association as your charity of choice
3. Shop as you normally would
4. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to WCA

Just remember to start at AmazonSmile to support us every time you shop!

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS

New year, new website

If you haven't already, you'll want to check out our newly redesigned website. The issues facing Westchester's children are now front and center, with timely action alerts so you know exactly how you can help. You'll also find that navigating the new site is simpler (even on your smartphone or tablet), current news and updates are easy to spot, and your favorite resources are more accessible.

P.S. Have you visited our Children by the Numbers blog lately? We're taking Westchester data and transforming it into information you can use. Read and follow the blog here: www.wca4kids.org/blog/.



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100
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Kid Pins and Kid Magnets

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\$20 per pin or magnet + \$5 shipping
(\$12 of your purchase is tax deductible)

To order, contact Maureen Natkin at 914.946.7676 x300 or mnatkin@wca4kids.org. Please specify if you want a boy, girl or infant.



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