



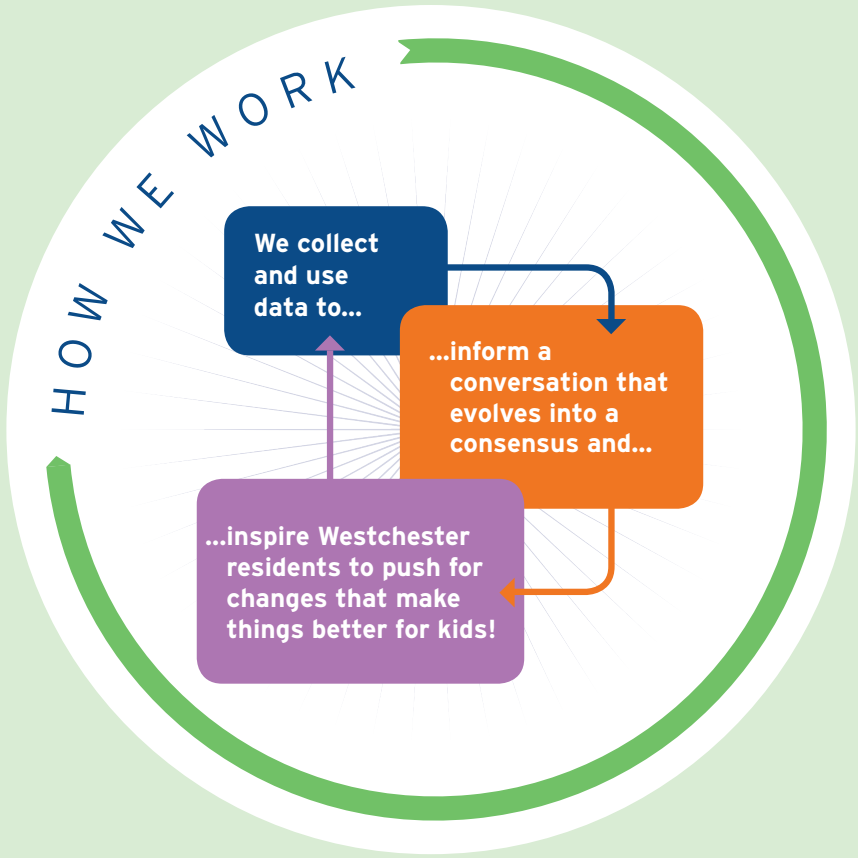
CELEBRATING

100
YEARS

**WESTCHESTER
CHILDREN'S
ASSOCIATION**

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

2014
ANNUAL REPORT



WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

OUR VISION

Every child healthy safe, and prepared for life's challenges

OUR MISSION

To identify children's needs, make those needs known, and see that they are met

OUR WORK

We turn data into knowledge, build a shared agenda, and mobilize for change

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Westchester Children's Association,

What a privilege it is for me to present to you the annual report on our critical work improving the odds for children in Westchester County! As I look back on 2014, WCA's Centennial Year, I'm both proud of all that we have accomplished and excited to imagine the possibilities for children going forward. Our second century is off to a great start because our first century – and especially our centennial year – was so powerfully successful.

WCA stands for the principle that all children deserve a strong start in life. As the leading voice for the children and youth of Westchester, WCA continues its work to ensure that the needs of all of our young people – from newborns to young adults – are kept at the forefront of the public agenda.

Our Centennial Campaign, now in its fifth and final year, is already enabling us to pursue our goals of turning data into knowledge, building a shared agenda, and mobilizing for change. We remain committed to our mission of ensuring that every child is healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges.

WCA's successful advocacy cannot happen without the dedication of our staff, Board, Advisory Council, community partners, and, most importantly, many philanthropic donors. Since we receive no government funding, our work is only possible because of our generous supporters. We thank you sincerely for your gifts and for helping Westchester Children's Association to remain effective as children's champions.

Sincerely yours,



Catherine Draper, WCA Board President



“As the leading voice for the children and youth of Westchester, WCA continues its work to ensure that the needs of all of our young people – from newborns to young adults – are kept at the forefront of the public agenda.”

VICTORIES FOR CHILDREN

COUNTY BUDGET



\$700,000

for child care
subsidies restored

3% INCREASE

in funding for community
youth programs



\$75,000

for the Youth Shelter Program of
Westchester - the only alternative
to incarceration for young men



\$5.2M in gifts & pledges

WE ARE VERY CLOSE
TO MEETING OUR

\$6.5M GOAL

**YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT AND
PASSIONATE ACTIVISM
MADE ALL OF
THIS POSSIBLE**

With the help of supporters and partners, we achieved a lot for Westchester's kids this year.

RAISE THE AGE



Governor Cuomo created the Commission on Youth, Justice and Public Safety to make

recommendations on how to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18.

FOSTER YOUTH

50
FOSTER TEENS

gained positive summer work experience



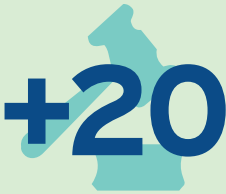
66
FOSTER KIDS

attended an arts performance at Westchester Community College and were exposed to higher education opportunities

FAMILY COURTS

Twenty additional Family Court judges – including one

for Westchester County – were funded to reduce the wait time for children and families in the court system.



WCA's Centennial Campaign (2011 - 2015), is strengthening our ability to continue improving the lives of Westchester's children, today and in the future. Because of our generous donors, we can expand our impact on children's lives by educating and mobilizing many more people on behalf of kids. And your support helps ensure financial stability for WCA so children always have someone to speak up for them.

THANK YOU!

LIVES CHANGED THROUGH WCA'S

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

"D'Shaun" is a resident of the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, the county's only alternative to incarceration for young men ages 16-21. For the past several years, WCA has been a leader in the statewide effort to raise New York's age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 to 18. As part of our efforts, WCA has engaged young people affected by the law - like D'Shaun - to join our advocacy.

Through events organized by WCA, D'Shaun has had a chance to speak directly to lawmakers and the public about his experiences as a teenager in the adult criminal justice system. "I know I have made a difference in letting people know why the law should change," says D'Shaun, "And I also learned that I have something important to say, that I count!"

*"The work of WCA
is increasingly
important in giving a
voice to the unheard."*

— CHRISTIAN M. PHILEMON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
YOUTH SHELTER
PROGRAM OF WESTCHESTER



D'SHAUN, 19

2014 ADVOCACY WORK

AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE



ANDREA, 4

In **“Andrea’s”** family, all of the adults work full-time. She’s only 4, so she’s not in school yet. Her parents have done their best to patch together child care through neighbors and extended family, but it’s been both unreliable and unlicensed. And Andrea’s been missing critical early childhood learning opportunities.

WCA’s advocacy has made it possible for the family to apply for newly available childcare subsidies. Andrea is now enrolled in a high quality childcare program where she is safe, has fun and is learning the things all kids need to know before kindergarten starts.

EMPLOYMENT FOR FOSTER YOUTH

For many years, Westchester County Parks has provided summer jobs for teenagers in foster care, giving them valuable work experience and a small salary. When he was 15, **“Jordan”** started the program, but he argued with his boss and was fired. The program’s rules didn’t allow him to re-apply the following year.

Through WCA’s leadership and advocacy, government and nonprofit partners succeeded in changing the rules so teens could have a second chance. They also worked with supervisors to help them understand foster youth’s unique situations so they could offer the necessary support and guidance. As a result, Jordan and dozens of other young people gained successful work experience, building their resumes, their character, and their confidence.



JORDAN, 15

2014 AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

WCA's Birthday
Bash and
Centennial Kick-Off

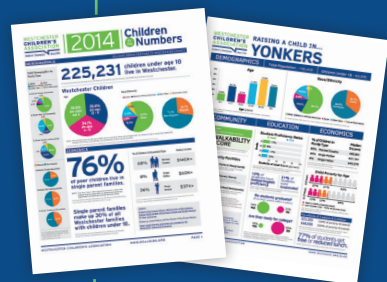


FEBRUARY



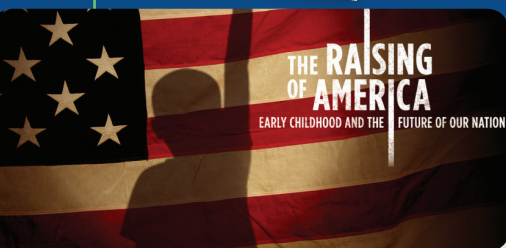
Next Generation
Legislative Breakfast

Release of 2014 *Children
By the Numbers* data bulletin



"It is because of WCA that Westchester County has become one of our nation's leading human service environments."

– FRANK WILLIAMS, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WHITE PLAINS YOUTH BUREAU



Partners BBQ celebrating
92 partner organizations

Release of 5 City Snapshots

Revamped summer employment
program for foster youth

Movie screening and discussion
on the political history of child care

JULY



Home
Visiting and
Connecting
Youth
workgroups

ONGOING

WCA celebrated its 100th birthday in 2014. It was a year of rededication to our mission and growth in our capacity as children's advocates.

MARCH

Let's Take the Kids to a Show event

Advocacy Breakfast with Marian Wright Edelman

Let's Take the Kids to a Show !

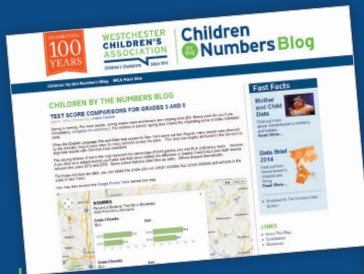


MAY



Raise the Age Town Hall meeting in Mt. Kisco

Launch of *Children By the Numbers* blog



Vote for Kids fact sheets released and candidate surveys completed by all NYS legislative candidates

Centennial Benefit Dinner honoring Patricia Lanza

Premiere of WCA Centennial Video - watch it now at bit.ly/wca100video

County Budget Advocacy

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

A GROWING COMMUNITY OF CHILD ADVOCATES

We expanded our reach, and added many new supporters to our team in 2014.

608

Attendees at
our community
educational events

HUNDREDS

of individuals engaged with
policy makers and elected
officials via meetings,
petitions, and letters.

290



Facebook likes

2,000+



Twitter followers

“Our children, and all of us who care deeply about them, are fortunate to have WCA’s leadership.”

– DR. JEREMY KOHOMBAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE CHILDREN’S VILLAGE

61%

of visitors to
our website
were new

1600

online views of
Vote for Kids
candidate surveys

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

WCA is sincerely thankful to all our donors, who make our work on behalf of children possible. All donations received from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2015 will help WCA reach our Centennial Campaign goal of \$6.5 million.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have made a multi-year pledge, challenge grant or planned gift in support of WCA's Centennial Campaign as of December 31, 2014.

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A special thanks to the following donors whose consistent support every year for the past twenty years has made a world of difference to the children of Westchester County.

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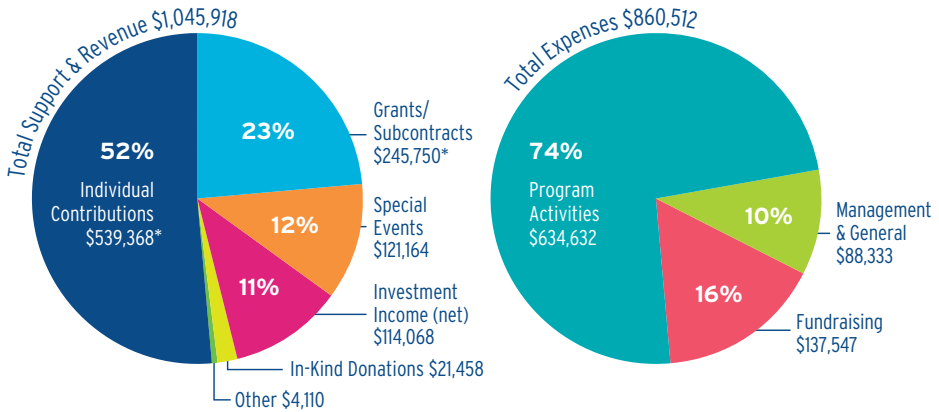
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* Includes pledges or grants made in 2014 but receivable in future years.

Note: A copy of the complete audited financial statement is available from WCA upon request, or from the New York State Attorney General, Office of Charities Registration, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

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TAKE ACTION

If a lot of ordinary people keep pushing in the same direction, change will happen. For easy ways to become an advocate for children and youth, visit www.wca4kids.org/take-action.

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date on issues affecting Westchester's children and youth, plus be alerted to actions you can take to help. Subscribe at www.wca4kids.org/stay-informed.

SPREAD THE WORD

When you share social media posts, forward a petition to friends, or invite someone to a WCA event, you're helping us make sure that our children's needs are met.

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Contact your Human Resources department for instructions on having your gift matched by your company, or ask your company to sponsor WCA's next event.

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