

Thank You

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Board of Legislators!

The Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship Program was re-funded in the 2024 County budget, and even more parents are now eligible! Starting January 1, a family may qualify if they earn up to:

- \$98,600 in a family of two
 - \$124,300 in a family of three
 - \$150,000 in a family of four
- Scholarships typically cover 50-60% of the cost of care!

New Glasses, More Learning: Free Vision Screenings with the Lions Club

Did you know that learning difficulties and disruptive behaviors are sometimes due to vision issues? To help ensure every child is equipped to learn, we're pleased to work with the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club, a partner of KidSight USA, to promote their free vision screenings at child care programs throughout Westchester. For example, at a program in Peekskill, 22 children were screened, 11 were referred for a follow-up, and 4 now have new glasses! According to certified screener Joanne Togliola-O'Hanlon, a Lions volunteer, parents often share stories of remarkable changes once their children have glasses – including that they love to read and go to the library!



Parents and Advocacy: A Match Made in Heaven

Our new Parent Advisory Council was established to engage more Westchester parents in our work. We're recruiting additional members who want to learn about and take

part in opportunities to advocate for child care funding, and help us in our efforts to reach more parents with all our free services. Pictured above, Advisory Council members Kristy Benevento (left) and Katawba DeLaRosa (right) joined Child Care Council CFO Mike Goldman at a budget hearing where they “testified” – that is, said “thank you” – to our elected officials for their support of child care. Reach out to CathyF@cccwny.org if you'd like to join or help us promote the Parent Advisory Council.



Kathy Halas Receives Distinguished Service Award

More than 30 Council staff and Board members, along with many members of the business and nonprofit community, attended Nonprofit Westchester's 2023

Keep Westchester Thriving Awards to celebrate CCCW Executive Director Kathy Halas, recipient of the inaugural Distinguished Service Award. Kathy was recognized for her advocacy for child care, as a founding member of Nonprofit Westchester, and as a leader who lends her voice to many other important causes and initiatives. Accepting on her behalf, Kathy's children shared how much joy she finds in seeing the growth of Westchester's nonprofit sector. Congratulations, Kathy! At the same event, we were also thrilled to celebrate Jessenia Tejada and Latoya Ramsey, who graduated from Nonprofit Westchester's Emerging Leaders program. *Congratulations!*



Goal Exceeded!

50K for Special Scholarships



For #GivingTuesday, we raised funds for the Council's own scholarship programs – which enable us to help families who are working hard to overcome difficult circumstances and do not otherwise qualify for financial assistance for child care. Thanks to you, safe and reliable child care will be available to 10 families, enabling them to get back on their feet and achieve their goals.

There is still time to donate this year!



SCAN FOR LINK →

Are you a Dream Builder?

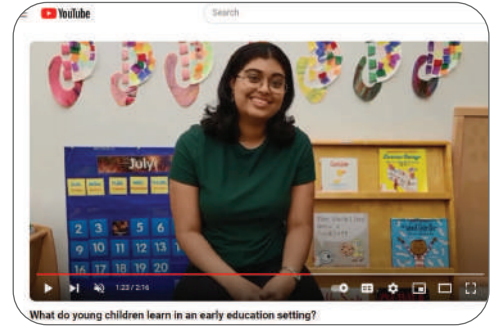
Your recurring monthly gift is the most meaningful way to help ensure all children have a fair and equal chance to reach their potential and that hardworking parents aren't forced to choose between necessities.

JOIN THROUGH LINK →



Child Care Careers: Joyful, Rewarding, Important

At the suggestion of Child Care Provider Advisory Council member Dawn Meyerski, we recently visited several child care programs and asked early education professionals what they love about working with children and what those children learn in their care. We edited the conversations into a series of short videos we are using to educate the community about the importance of early care as a learning experience and promote the joyful, rewarding nature of a career in child care... and demonstrate that there's room to advance! Watch them on our YouTube channel: @childcarecouncilofwestches8032.



Thank you to the wonderful professionals at the YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester, the Mount Kisco Child Care Center, and the Virginia Marx Children's Center at Westchester Community College for participating!

Congratulations, Early Ed Heroes!

This year's inductees into the Early Ed Hall of Fame, honored on October 20th, included teachers, program directors, administrators and business owners from all over the county.



Several came to the United States from other countries, and through child care careers have achieved their dreams of educating children or owning businesses. It was OUR honor to recognize and celebrate them! **Thank you, Hall of Heroes sponsors!** CClean Commercial Cleaning, The Krase Family, Liberty Montessori, The Arc Westchester, The Koelsch-Rebori Family, M&T Bank, Quality Stars NY, Compass, Fit and Fun Playscapes, The Kelly Family, Law Offices of Helaine S. Brick-Cabot, Lightbridge Academy, Camille F. Murphy, The Samuelson Family and The Flanagan Thureau Family.

Families enjoyed a fun afternoon of holiday-themed activities, music, and more at our annual Winter Festival earlier this month, where we also collected toys on behalf of Toys for Tots.



The Child Care Council of Westchester is a private, nonprofit resource organization that champions the healthy development of children, families and communities by promoting quality early care and education.

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