

Who's that with Santa?

We welcomed Santa back to the Council this month, and 40 families had their picture taken, enjoyed snacks and hot cocoa, and went home with free books. Part of our holiday toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots, many attendees brought a gift for a child in need. Thank you to Gene, Beth and Mikel, our wonderful volunteers from Mastercard, for braving the cold to help us spread holiday cheer!



Save the Date

Dream Big 2023: May 9

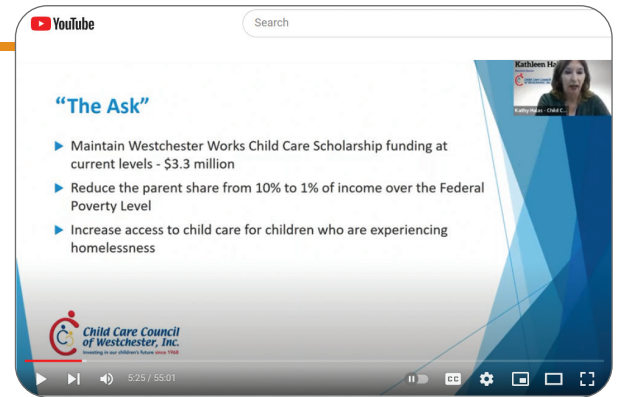
Captain Lawrence Brewing Company

Join us for a fun, uplifting celebration of the many lives you've helped change for the better. We can't promise good weather, but we know you'll have a great time. (Hey, there's no chance it'll rain that hard two years in a row, right?!)

Interested in sponsoring the event? Contact Dana Lawless at DanaL@cccwny.org or (914) 468-1368 to learn more.

Advocacy Success: Child Care is More Affordable

The 2023 Westchester County Budget makes child care more affordable by continuing the Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship and reducing the parent share for child care assistance from 10% to 5% of income over the federal poverty level. We extend our gratitude to Westchester County Executive George Latimer and his team, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators. This investment protects children, relieves an undue burden on hardworking parents, and strengthens Westchester's workforce.



On October 21, more than 100 parents, child care providers, nonprofit leaders and business executives gathered on Zoom for our annual Westchester Child Care Advocacy Hour to share stories and discuss the importance of funding child care in the 2023 Westchester County, NY budget. Our voices were heard!

Scholarships Already Changing Lives

469 children were awarded a Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship this year, which we are proud to administer in partnership with the Westchester County Department of Social Services. On average, it covered 60% of a family's child care bill; about \$700 per month. As we worked (successfully) to encourage Westchester County to continue the scholarship in 2023, we shared testimonials from parents:

"This scholarship has been life-changing for me. Daycare costs accounts for 30% of my take home income. Without this, I would not be able to afford child care, rent, food, plus all other necessities for my child. This program has given me the opportunity to be able to work full time to provide for my family while my child is being cared for in a safe and nurturing environment."

"I am a single parent of two, and it is not easy trying to make ends meet. But, of course as a mother, I have to be strong and do what I have to do. The scholarship that Westchester County Government has given me for my child has provided me with more financial stability."

Thank You!

\$33,000+ for
Child Care on
#GivingTuesday!

There's still time to
donate this year!

If you believe that child care should never be a barrier to work or education, there's still time to make your year-end gift to the Child Care Council. Your support will help us expand access to child care and build a stronger economy and community right here in Westchester County.

On Giving Tuesday, we raised just over \$33,000. We are grateful for every dollar, and extend special thanks to CClean Commercial Cleaning and our anonymous donor for their generous matching gifts.

To donate today, visit www.childcarewestchester.org/donate or scan the QR code. On that page, you will also have the option to become 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, that mothers are not pushed out of the workforce, and that hardworking parents don't lose sleep over impossible choices.



Innovation and Education for Better Care

With funding from the **Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation**, we engaged 9 child care programs in our new **Asthma Educational Initiative**.

This means that 93 professionals caring for 638 children received a certificate of completion for the American Lung Association's Asthma Basics Course and can identify asthma episodes, respond to an asthma emergency, correctly use a nebulizer and inhaler, and much more. With this grant we were also able to distribute equipment and materials to participating programs, including nebulizers, a lightweight HEPA vacuum, and an air purifier. Now when parents call the Council looking for care for their children with asthma, we can refer them to these well-prepared professionals.

This year, our **Cathryn Riley Leadership Fund** was once again used to provide a scholarship for a child care professional to participate in Volunteer New York's **Leadership Westchester program (LW)**, and to give **innovation grants** to 9 local child care programs.

- Margarita Pineiro, Director of Early Learning Child Care Services at the YMCA of Central & Northern Westchester, shares that she is enjoying "connecting with different professionals who come from different walks of life and experiences," and looks forward to gaining new perspective and knowledge in LW.
- At Endicotts Kids Zone, Ada Perez used an innovation grant to expand outdoor learning for her children which included a gardening curriculum to teach them how to care for plants, and where food comes from.



Jessica Cardenas, a Bilingual CACFP Case Manager at the Council, recently graduated from Nonprofit Westchester's Emerging Leaders Program and shared one of the lessons she learned: "A team is not just people who work at the same time in the same place. A real team is a group of very different individuals who enjoy working together to help their organization achieve its goals and purpose."

Council staff members supporting Jessica at her graduation from Emerging Leaders



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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