

the power of community

2020 NEWSLETTER



PHOTO BY KAREN SMUL

WCF WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

A DIVISION OF THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST

45 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

making a difference, together

FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



More than 45 years ago, local leaders who were committed to making the county a better place for all created the Westchester Community Foundation. Today, to work toward that goal, donor-advisors direct \$4 million in grants each year. With the help of legacy gifts that have grown through The New York Community Trust’s sound fiscal management, the Foundation distributes an additional \$2.1 million annually in grants to local nonprofits and \$234,000 in scholarships to Westchester students. With keen guidance from a volunteer Board of Advisors, the Foundation keeps our community informed about emerging issues that need concerted action, such as the unmet needs of older LGBTQ+ residents and improving our regional workforce system by finding ways to connect employers and jobseekers.

This year the Foundation moved quickly to address the coronavirus pandemic. In response to an appeal, the community contributed more than \$2 million to our Westchester COVID-19 Response Fund. With our depth of knowledge of local nonprofits, we worked with the philanthropic community to direct emergency funds, in the form of grants, while developing responses to the long-term needs of the community.

The pandemic, recession, and increasingly adverse effects of climate change make it clear that it is our collective responsibility to ensure a future that is just, equitable, and sustainable for all. Our community’s courage and commitment to these values shines through the stories in this newsletter.

What do you care about? Is it education, social justice, racial equity, environmental protection, or some other issue? Each year, more of you decide to work with the Foundation to align your philanthropic goals with your desire to strengthen our community. Whatever your passion, we are here to help you make a difference.

Dale Akinla II, *Board Chair*
Laura Rossi, Esq. *Executive Director*

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our community works

The Foundation's economic and workforce initiative seeks to close the gap between job seekers and employers by investing in innovative workforce programming. In 2020 we launched the Westchester Workforce Funders Collaborative with philanthropic and corporate partners to attract new resources.

The goal is clear: Whether people don hard hats or scrubs, they will find a good-paying job and see themselves on a career path. Employers will gain workers with the skills to succeed.

With a grant from the DeWitt Wallace Fund for Youth, the Mount Vernon-based Center for College and Careers at The Guidance Center of Westchester is helping young people who are eager to work.

A win-win. Alexis Lloyd, a graduate of the Center for College & Careers at The Guidance Center, is ready to work at Murphy Brothers Contracting.

Water is vital to life. In our densely populated region, watershed protection requires oversight through water-quality testing and innovative cleaning and filtering technology. With grants from the H.P. Kraft Memorial Fund, Save the Sound has established a strong base of grassroots citizen activists to test water quality and report sewage spills that pollute the Long Island Sound.

Save the Sound knows that the next generation must be a strong voice for environmental stewardship. It has enlisted young leaders in the Teen Keystone Club at the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon to join the cause. Grants to the Club are from the Westchester Wallace Fund for Youth.



our community protects

Next Generation. Young leaders tour New Rochelle Water Treatment Plant to learn about state-of-the-art water filtration technology and environmental careers.

our community advocates

Low-income Westchester residents have been hurt by the county's lack of affordable housing as well as by inconsistent—or nonexistent—code enforcement that fails to keep low-cost rental housing habitable. More of these residents now play a critical role in advocating for effective affordable housing policy and housing code enforcement because of Community Voices Heard, a grassroots advocacy organization. It is assessing housing needs and pressing for more affordable homes and stricter code enforcement through a grant from the Dominican Sisters of Hope Empowerment Fund.



"We shall not be moved." Community Voices Heard members fight for rent stabilization in Ossining.



Communal Meal. Fellows and staff relax end-of-day over a farm-fresh meal.

our community creates

The Emily and Harold E. Valentine and Evelyn Gable Clark Scholarship Fund is dedicated to helping new artists get started in their careers. At SPACE on Ryder Farm, artists attend a residency program on the grounds of a working organic farm in Brewster. The program, which ensures that 50 percent of residences go to people of color, is a pathway for emerging artists to develop and present a project, learn arts administration roles and responsibilities, develop professional contacts among the residents, and improve their organizational skills.

Immigrants in Westchester often need support for basic human needs—healthy food, health care, learning English, and starting the path to citizenship. The impact of COVID-19 has fallen hard on these families, particularly if they are undocumented. With funding from The Family Fund, El Centro Hispano in White Plains serves more than 2,000 immigrants each year. Many former clients return years later to encourage newly arrived immigrants.

our community strengthens

Welcomed & Accepted. A mom expresses her gratitude “for the great help.”

PHOTO BY KAREN SMUL

our community cares

Helping Hands. Food insecurity is on the rise in Westchester. Dedicated volunteers at Fred’s Pantry in Peekskill helped the pantry double its distribution days to meet the need.

The Foundation launched its COVID-19 Response Fund immediately after the first case of the virus was diagnosed in the City of New Rochelle. With widespread community support, we raised \$2 million and activated rapid response grants to meet the urgent needs of frontline nonprofits. As the crisis worsened, we provided support to cover the increased need for food delivery to homebound families and childcare for first responders and essential workers. The Fund helped defray the living costs of low-income families that have been hardest hit by the pandemic’s economic downturn. Grants from the Fund continue to meet emerging needs. For more information, see page 13.

our community affirms

When The Loft LGBT Community Center approached the Foundation for assistance in identifying unmet needs in the LGBTQ community, we readily agreed. We partnered with leaders to conduct a needs assessment of the Westchester LGBTQ community. The result: *Stand Up and Be Counted*, an innovative report on the LGBTQ community that goes beyond health needs to explore quality-of-life issues. Most were concerned about social isolation in suburbia, lack of affordable LGBTQ-friendly housing, and the need for sensitivity training of home health aides and other paid caregivers for seniors. The LOFT is now working on initiatives to address these pressing needs.

Representing. Members of The LOFT press for visibility and affirmation from the broader community at a Pride Parade.



our community convenes

Speakers' Row. From left to right: Allison Lake/Westchester Children's Association, Mark Reed/SeaChange Capital Partners & Contact Fund, John Oddy/The New York Community Trust, Liza Mueller/Echoing Green, Mendi Blue-Paca/Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Tripp Killin/Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative, and Amy Hall/Eileen Fisher

Community leaders are increasingly seeking innovative strategies to solve society's most pressing challenges. In October 2019 the Foundation's Board invited donors, professional advisors, and foundation colleagues to Grace Farms, a unique space just over the border in New Canaan, Connecticut, for a conference we called "Taking the Measure of Philanthropy's Impact." Participants explored how business trends align with philanthropy's traditional role as grantmakers. They also learned about innovative ways foundations and nonprofits are using data to highlight community needs and press for social change.

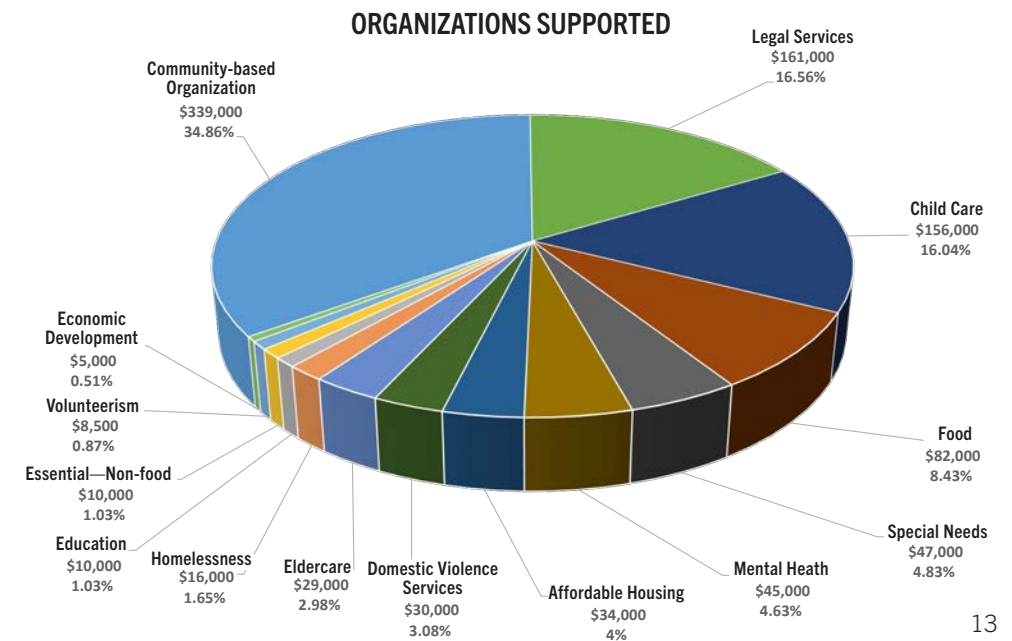
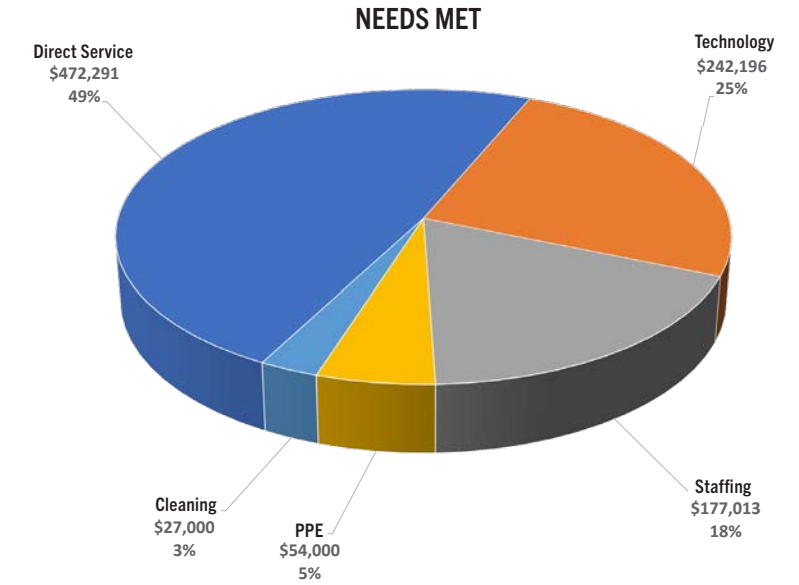
Donors to the Westchester COVID-19 Response Fund

Over 100 donors contributed to the Westchester COVID-19 Response Fund, helping us exceed our goal of raising \$2 million. Gifts ranged from \$5 to \$1,000,000. Every contribution was gratefully received. Thank you!

Akinla Family Fund	Ann Hyatt
Hon. Joaquin F. Alemany & Ellen R. Alemany	Intercontinental Exchange
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Daniel DeMenocal	David & Katherine Moore Family Foundation Fund
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Anne Dimock	New York State Health Foundation
The Elias Foundation	Alison Paul Family
The Family Fund	Peoples United Community Foundation
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Amy Gelles	The Reynoso Family Fund
Dani Glaser	Diane H. Tabakman & Howard W. Rhodes
Melanie Gold	RME Fund
Neva and Howard Goldstein Family Fund	Robert Martin Company
Gaylord Holmes	Kenneth D. & Lee Van Allen Roberts
Rhoda Holzer Memorial Fine Arts Fund	Rose Rothe

our community responds

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 Saw Mill Capital LLC
 Karen F. Schatzel
 Scott & Staci Semel
 Paul Shainberg
 MaryJane Shimsky
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 John Stockbridge
 Maribeth Stolzer
 Ruth & Andrew Suzman
 Toukamanian Family Fund
 Deepti Tripathi
 Vanguard Charitable
 Veronica Vanterpool
 Harry Waizer & Karen Walsh Waizer
 Corinne & Neil Zola Fund



our community gives



The Labyrinth. The path to social justice is never a straight one, but if the aim is true, progress can be made.
Left to right: Sr. Bette Ann Jaster, OP; Sr. Nancy Erts, OP; Sr. Mary Schneiders, OP.

Permanent Fund: Dominican Sisters of Hope Empowerment Fund

The Dominican Sisters of Hope established the Empowerment Fund in 2015 to ensure that the voices of the marginalized are not only heard but lead dialogue and advocacy to improve living conditions in our community. Significant legislative victories include passage of the County's Immigrant Protection Act and the Emergency Tenant Protection Act in Ossining. Through litigation and policy changes, advocates are pressing for expanded protections for workers and have won significant victories. The Worker Justice Center of New York successfully represented 80 landscaping workers in a class action suit for wage theft. It also recovered \$900,000 in unpaid wages owed to former employees of a diner who experienced systemic theft of wages, illegal discrimination, and sexual harassment.

Donor-Advised Fund: RXR Building Community Fund

As the master developer for downtown in the City of New Rochelle, RXR is committed to the vitality and resilience of the city's residents. When COVID-19 emerged in New Rochelle, the Foundation worked closely with RXR to develop its philanthropic response. The company recommended and funded grants to address food insecurity, childcare for first responders, and access to mental health services for low-income residents. As the city gradually re-opened, RXR supported economic development efforts for small businesses and local hiring initiatives.

The company's equitable, innovative development approach extends beyond its real estate portfolio. It has launched a digital platform, RXR Volunteer (rxrvolunteer.com), that mobilizes skilled volunteers to help individuals, non-profits, and small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Sound View: An RXR property, 360 Huguenot, is located in New Rochelle's historic Arts District.



2019-2020 Westchester Community Foundation Funds

Joseph Acocella, Jr. Memorial Fund • Agris-Pine Charitable Fund • Akinla Family Fund • Alemany Family Fund • Anonymous • Anonymous Land Preservation Fund • The Apoyo Fund • The Arfa-Bernstein Family Fund • Aronian Family Fund • Artrepreneur Fund • Arts and Creative Expression Fund • Ascher Fund • Linda Ashear Fund • Gianna Marie Balog Memorial Fund • Barringer-Spaeth Fund for Change • Joan Bartels Memorial Fund • Bell-Jacoby Family Fund • Beverly Bender Fund • Howard and Grace Benedikt Fund • Richard A. Berman Fund • K. M. Bialo Family Fund • Bianco Family Fund • Michael Blank Memorial Fund • Blecher Family Fund • Samuel and Beatrice Marks Bloom Memorial Fund • Blumer Family Fund • Jack Brennan Fund • Buerger Fund • Elizabeth G. Butler Angel's Fund • Camp Edith Macy Fund • Jesse L. Carroll, Jr. and Judith B. Carroll Fund • Barbara and Walter Ceconi Charitable Fund • H. M. & T. Cohn Fund • Larry Cole Memorial Fund • Colson Fund • Michael A. Correa Memorial Fund • Corriggio Family Fund • CPM Fund • Joseph S. D'Ascoli Fund • Nancy and Robert DeLigter Boy Scout Memorial Fund • Michele & Concetta DeRosa Fund • Dominican Sisters of Hope Empowerment Fund • Dr. Alice Fund • Alyson & Parker Drew Fund • Dunbar Family Fund • Edith Carpenter Macy Memorial Fund • Eiref Family Fund • Linda A. & James H. Ellis Fund • Endowment for Westchester's Future • Ernie, Louise & Jeffrey Early Childhood Fund • The Esplanade Fund • Ann M. Fagan Charitable Fund • Falk Family Fund • The Family Fund • Francis and Denise Farrell Family Fund • Arnold E. and Olga C. Feldman Fund • Mollie Fidel Memorial Fund • First Decade Fund • Brendan M. Frail Memorial Fund • Jane Franke Fund • Peggy Friedman Memorial Fund • Fund for Artists with Disabilities • Fund for New Rochelle • Fund for New York Youth • Fund for Westchester's Environment • Gabrielle's Wings Fund • Gallagher Family Charitable Fund • Charles Gamper Fund • J.F. & M. Gelband Fund in Memory of Joseph F. Gelband, Jr. • Rita & Bruce Gilbert Fund • Lloyd & Lonya Gilbert Fund • Glassberg Family Fund • Neva and Howard Goldstein Family Fund • Rachel Greenstein Memorial Fund • Handelman Memorial Education Fund • Edward Handelman Fund • Helen & Nancy Handelman Fund • Carol and Frank Headley Family Fund • John and Marilyn Heimerdinger Fund • Henriette Granville Suhr Fund • Andrew and Phyllis Herz Fund • Russell Hexter Filmmaker Fund • Rhoda Holzer Memorial Fine Arts Fund • Alice and Warren Ilchman Fund • Karen Cromer Isaac Fund • Ivry Family Fund • Jade Fund • JBLS Hon. Steven I. Milligram Memorial Fund • Paul and Barbara Jenkel Fund • Margaret Jourdan Fund • JWHands Charitable Legacy Fund • Kadejay Fund • Kern Charitable Fund • Kidney Transplant Fund • Kilman Family Fund • Kimerling Career Development Fund • Henry J. and Ellen Korb Fund • The Kotval Shroff Family Fund • Stephen S. Lavenberg Memorial Fund • Learning Center Fund • Dorothy and John Lebor Fund • James L. Leinwand Fund • LePage Family Fund • David F. & Dorothy W. Linowes Fund • The Linville Fund • William J. and Helen Z. Lippincott Fund •

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