Celebrating Success at the Annual Awards Breakfast

Approximately 275 supporters joined us for our Annual Awards Breakfast on June 6, to honor those who work and advocate to improve early child care and education in Westchester. Our Champions and Joey Award winners talked about why they love working with children, told stories of their own personal experiences, and reminded everyone in attendance about the importance of providing access to affordable, quality care for today’s young learners, so they can become part of Westchester’s talented workforce tomorrow - while enabling their parents to be worry-free and productive at work.

To see more pictures, go to or visit our Facebook page. Thank you to our sponsors!

By the Numbers (2013 figures)
3,000 requests for child care
1,000 different businesses in Westchester employ the parents who call us for help
97% of callers received their referral within 48 hours

The Child Care Council of Westchester is deeply thankful for the vital support provided by every contributor on this list.

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www.childcarewestchester.org

To make a donation, visit www.childcarewestchester.org or visit our Facebook page.
Scholarship Report

To help ensure that every child in Westchester has access to quality, education-based early care, the Council administers two scholarships each year: the Lanza Investment in Kid’s Early Education (LIKE) Award, funded by The Lanza Family Foundation; and the Future Leader Awards (FLA).

In 2015, 50 families from all over Westchester, including Cortlandt Manor, Elmsford, Mount Kisco, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers, received a child care scholarship.

These working parents, 88% of whom were single, are employed in a wide variety of careers, including accountant, bank teller, contractor, customer service, paralegal, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, sales associate, teacher and translator.

For most, the scholarship funds mean the difference between leaving their children with a babysitter or other situations where safety and learning are questionable, at best, and being secure in the knowledge that their child is in a quality, education-based child care environment. This peace of mind reduces parents’ absenteeism and increases productivity at work.

We still need your help!

In Westchester, a year of child care averages more than $14,000, and these scholarships cover only $3,500. For many, this is enough to change lives, but others need more assistance. Your contribution to the Child Care Council helps us fund scholarships, provide training and support services for providers to improve care, offer resources to business owners and employees, and so much more.

In Memoriam – Patricia Lanza

With the passing of Mrs. Patricia Lanza on April 3rd, Westchester lost a very dear friend. There was seemingly no limit to the scope of her interests, the care she took to understand human challenges and suffering, or the depth of her generosity. Here at the Council, Mrs. Lanza created the Lanza Investment in Kids’ Early Education (LIKE) program, awarding child care scholarships to hundreds of hardworking families. It is truly impossible to describe the impact she had on so many or how deeply she is missed.

Advocacy Updates

In addition to our hands-on services for parents, providers and business, the Child Care Council is a tireless advocate for public policy that increases access to quality, education-based early child care. Our Board members participate in rallies, testify at budget hearings, and visit with lawmakers on a regular basis, making sure the voices of Westchester’s children and families are carried to the leaders of our county and state. This year’s NYS budget included a big win for early learning with an increase of $34 million for child care subsidy and $340 million for Pre-K. We are so grateful to Westchester’s state delegation for their successful leadership on behalf of children.

Meetings with lawmakers

In one of many meetings with members of the Westchester delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly about the 2014-2015 budget, CCCW Board members Dr. Mistie Eltrich and Steve Wysmuller join Kathy Halas to speak with Assemblyman David Buchwald.

Halas Co-Leading County Task Force

Child Care Council Executive Director Kathy Halas has accepted an invitation to co-chair the Westchester Board of Legislators’ Families Task Force with legislators Catherine Borgia of Ossining.

Funding Restored for Title XX

The 2014 Westchester County Budget includes $900,000 of new funding to reopen the Title XX Child Care Program, and funding to support other social “safety net” programs that protect seniors, at-risk-youth and homeowners facing foreclosure. We applaud the Westchester County Board of Legislators and County Executive Rob Astorino for taking action to address the critical need for safe, affordable child care in Westchester.

Collaboration is Key

The Council partners with the Women’s Enterprise Development Center (WEDC) to offer training and technical assistance for Spanish-speaking family child care providers. Funded by the Westchester Community Foundation, the series features workshops on insurance, budgeting, marketing and more. Spanish-speaking business owners are a rapidly increasing segment of the family child care industry in our county.