# News & Views



**DECEMBER 2019** 

(914) 761-3456 • www.ChildCareWestchester.org

### **Your Advocacy Made a Difference!**

Thanks to the 1,000+ parents, child care providers and community/elected leaders who signed our petition in support of increased investment in equitable access to quality early learning, our own Board members who testified at Budget hearings, and to County Executive George Latimer and the Westchester County Board of Legislators, for these positive changes in the 2020 County budget:

- a 6% increase in the provider reimbursement rate
- · additional child care slots
- more equitable payment mechanism for after school providers
- a reduction in the parent share of subsidy costs





A working mom signs to say "YES!" to child care.

At child care centers and community events, the Council's "Advocacy on the Go" team - Jovanna, Jessica, Gabriella, Juliana, Melanie, Kathy, and Jason - enlisted broad bipartisan support for child care!

#### The Council at Abbott House

Thanks to Abbott House (AH), and especially John McGrath, Director of Human Resources, for inviting us to share our free child care referral services with the organization's nearly 700 employees. We also connected John with our colleagues in New York City, so AH employees based there can access services as well. "Abbott House is continually seeking to provide our employees with benefits that will improve the quality of their lives," said John. "The Child Care Council of Westchester helps us achieve this goal."

"To help working parents find a safe, reliable place for their children, at no cost to them or us – is an amazing resource to any nonprofit agency. I wish we'd done this years ago."



James Kaufman, President and CEO, Abbott House

HR DIRECTORS: The Council's free services for working parents can be a no-cost benefit for your employees, too. Call (914) 761-3456 x139 or email NicoleM@cccwny.org.

## A Regional Approach to Parent Outreach

With funding from the NYS Council on Children and Families, we are partnering with our colleagues at the child care resource and referral agencies in Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties to develop a centralized webpage and phone number. Anyone who visits or calls can be directly connected to the agency that serves their location. **HVChildCare.org** 

#### **Give Today**

Your donation to the Child Care Council is a fruitful investment, allowing children to reach their full potential and parents to work and support their families.

Visit bit.ly/cccw2019



#### **Welcome, New Board Members**

**Zoey Guzman,** VP of Operations, LGI Forensic Engineering, P.C.

**Nidhi Garg Kissoon,** Intellectual Property Counsel, Entegris, Inc.

**Emily M. Koelsch, MD,** Partner, BCHP- Pediatrics of Sleepy Hollow

Christie Noelle Krase, Advocate

**Joe Marchese,** Executive Vice President, Alliant Employee Benefits

**Modupe Otelaja,** Managing Consultant, Watson IoT Strategy & Portfolio Planning, IBM Corporation

# **Professional Development Improves Child Care Quality**

Congrats to the 17 graduates of our most recent 120-hour preschool Child Development Associate (CDA) course... and thank you to the Westchester County Department of Social Services - Office of Workforce Investment for supporting the professional advancement of our early educators!



The 4th annual recipient of the Council's Cathryn A. Riley Leadership Fund Scholarship, **Theresa MCaffrey**, Owner/Director of Little Leaf Nursery in Hastings, is participating in Volunteer New York's Leadership Westchester program. Theresa is in the process of expanding her program to additional locations while being careful to maintain the unique spirit and pedagogy of her school community. She also hopes to train teachers from other schools. "Through this experience, I will be more prepared to mentor teachers

and design growth plans."
She said. "I will feel more confident as I implement new ideas at our school and across the Westchester community."



#### We Dream BIG

You made it possible for so many children to dream big: our annual celebration in October raised over \$70,000, with \$15,000 supporting child care scholarships!



Board member Nicholas Pirrotta, Executive Director Kathy Halas, 2019 Honoree and NYS Lt. Governor Kathleen Hochul, Board President Craig Ruoff, Board member Jeff Samuelson.

And did you hear the big news announced at the event? Shake Shack will open another store in Westchester in 2020, and with its Hartsdale location, the Child Care Council of Westchester will be the nonprofit partner!



LEFT: William Poppe, 2019 Honoree and Area Director of Shake Shack, announces additional commitment to support the Council.

MIDDLE: Executive Director Kathy Halas with Honoree Erik Sossa, Vice President, Global Benefits CoE, accepting PepsiCo's award.

RIGHT: Judge Kathie Davidson, accepting her award.





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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