

Parent Celebration

Parents of infants and toddlers joined the support staff of Babies Step Forward for a day of celebration and learning at The Crowne Plaza in White Plains, where they enjoyed hands-on-learning experiences in art, music and literacy, relaxed over a delicious luncheon and went home with many educational toys and materials to share with their children.

Babies Step Forward is a federally-funded program of the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (Westcop) to bring Early Head Start standards to child care programs for babies and toddlers receiving the public child care subsidy. As a partner in Babies Step Forward, the Council established a network of licensed group providers striving to meet EHS standards. Providers are earning their Child Development Associate credentials, becoming Medication Administration Training approved, and receiving new supplies and materials. In several cases, providers have increased their enrollments since joining Babies Step Forward.

Improving Child Care Quality

Through Professional Development



Congratulations to the graduates of the Child Care Council's Infant Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) course. Funded by the Westchester County Office for Women, this intensive 8-month professional development program leads to the CDA credential from the Council for Professional Recognition. We applaud the graduates' commitment to increasing their skills and knowledge in working with young children.



Did You Know?

The Council's Professional Development Team trains and educates more than 3,000 early care and education professionals each year.

Infant Toddler Regional Coordinator Jennifer Sorby

Congratulations!

We're pleased to announce the winners of the inaugural **Cathryn A. Riley Innovation for Quality** prizes:

The NYS Early Care and Learning Council - for creating a statewide quality initiative

The Adirondack Community Action Program - for innovative methods of informing their rural community about quality care

The Capital District Child Care Council - for connecting young children and their parents to healthy fresh local produce

The Child Care Council, Inc. - for outreach to Spanish-speaking providers



New Board Members



Joan Mockler is a corporate communications executive with more than 25 years of experience in design and

execution of internal communications programs for global and domestic markets. During her tenure at IBM, she built deep expertise in developing strategic and executive communications focused on business transformation, culture change and employee engagement.



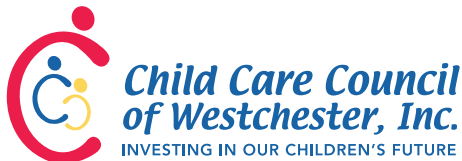
Aaron Soury, Managing Director at A Neumann & Associates, is a marketing and management executive with

extensive experience developing sales teams. During a 20-year tenure in the banking industry, his marketing and sales strategies increased revenue and profitability and created long-lasting relationships.

Make the Donation that Lasts a Lifetime

The Council's Early Opportunity Fund grants scholarships to working families in Westchester who otherwise could not afford quality early care and education for their young children. Visit [WWW.childcarewestchester.org/donate](http://www.childcarewestchester.org/donate) to learn more and contribute.

Did You Know? If one year's high school dropouts graduated instead, New York households would have an **additional \$23.4 billion** in accumulated wealth over the lifetime of those students.



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SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

HOW TO REACH US

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childcare@cccwny.org

www.childcarewestchester.org

To make a donation, visit
www.childcarewestchester.org/donate
or contact

Kathy Halas, *Executive Director*
(914) 761-3456 x102
kathyh@cccwny.org

Speak Up For Child Care

Your participation is more important than ever. Visit the Council's online Advocacy Action Center and lend your voice in support of affordable, quality early care and education for Westchester's families: www.childcarewestchester.org/takeaction.

What's the Difference?

At-risk children left out of quality pre-kindergarten are 5x more likely to enter the criminal justice system by age 27 than their peers in quality pre-kindergarten.

Young children who do not participate in afterschool programs are 3x more likely to use marijuana or other drugs.

"As a single mom who goes to school and works tirelessly just to make ends meet, the scholarship is a blessing, relieved me of some of the financial child care burden, especially since I was denied for the DSS subsidy for making approximately \$100 over the income limit.

There is not a lot of support for families in my income bracket. We are pretty much neglected. It was impossible for me to afford \$800 a month. I actually had to pull my son out of daycare at a point and left to depend on friends and family members who weren't always dependable. I will forever be grateful for the Child Care Council's efforts to help people in my position and hope that one day I can be a financial investor and pay it forward."
- Tashira

#yCCCWmatters

Advocacy Update

Protecting Every Child's Right to Quality Early Care

The Council fought hard to protect child care subsidy funding and the child care subsidy specialist position in the 2016 Westchester County Budget, and we were successful, once again. We're grateful to County Executive Rob Astorino and the Board of Legislators for their ongoing support.

Of course, with no increase in child care funding in the current State budget, we have much more work to do. Westchester children whose families struggle with poverty and other challenges are often not exposed to high quality early learning experiences - and by kindergarten, many are already so far behind that it will hold them back for an entire lifetime. And we continue to hear in our annual parent surveys that this is not only an issue for low-income families: even those at the highest income levels struggle to pay for child care.

We anticipate a very challenging 2017 budget. Year round, we keep the dialogue going at the county level through the Child Care Study Group, chaired by Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett and Board of Legislators Chairman Mike Kaplowitz, and at the state level through Kathy Halas's participation on the Board of Directors and Public Policy Committee of the New York State Early Care and Learning Council.

A grant from the Westchester Community Foundation will fund new advocacy materials, a survey on child care impacts on local employers, and a workshop on advocacy skills for child care leaders, all of which will help us prepare for the 2017 budget season and beyond.



At the 2016 Legislative Breakfast on Children and Youth, presented in partnership with the Westchester Children's Association, Westchester's NYS elected officials participated in an interactive discussion regarding child care subsidies, raising the age of criminal responsibility, and early childhood home visiting.

#yCCCWmatters

We're asking parents, providers, friends and supporters to share the story of their connection to the Council, and why the organization matters. Want to see more? Search #yCCCWmatters on Facebook. Ready to tell us your story? Write a note or film a short video and post it. Don't forget the hashtag!

Champions & Joey Winners Honored at Record-Breaking Breakfast!

Nearly 300 guests joined us on June 3rd at our largest-ever Annual Awards Breakfast, sponsored in part by Polaris Properties. In addition to hearing about the accomplishments and inspirations of our Champions for Children and Joey Award winners, highlights included a special “interruption” of our Board president’s speech by 10-year-old Isaiah who posed some tough questions about the importance of quality early care; a moving story about a mom and two young children who were helped through a crisis as part of our Babies Step forward program; our first-ever silent auction; and a very generous \$10,000 matching gift donation from an anonymous Board member.

A tremendous “thank you” to all of the attendees, sponsors, award winners and supporters who helped make the event so special – for recognizing the importance of creating a better future by “giving children the tools to succeed.”

Raising a Glass to Raise Awareness



Council Board members Felice Harris and Jeff Samuelson

More than 50 guests joined us for our annual wine tasting event at Vino 100 in White Plains in April; we were thrilled to see so many friends and new faces alike. The evening was a big success, with all funds raised benefiting the Council’s government advocacy efforts to increase and protect funding to ensure Westchester’s children benefit from quality child care no matter their financial circumstances. A special thanks to our host, Vino 100, and to Pax Romana who generously donated the food for the evening.



CCCW Board President Steve Wismuller, Greg Werlinich, Amir Asidi



Master of Ceremonies Tara Rosenblum of News 12, Champion Regent Judith Johnson, former Champion Mary Murray



Dr. Anne Lillis, representing Champion Monroe College School of Education



Above: Joey Award Winners Raquel Burton, Iris Rivera, Suzanne Newcomb, Shannon Shields, Lynda Merchant, Brent Morton



Right: Pat Braja and Dr. Terry Kirchner, representing Champion Westchester Library System



Check out our Facebook page to see more event photos:
www.facebook.com/childcarewestchester