

Now, we turn our attention to the New York budget. We'll be sharing parent stories like this one with State leaders:

“My husband and I are fortunate to make decent salaries. We don't (and won't) likely ever qualify for child care subsidies. With student loan debt, cost of living, and the cost of child care, we can barely make ends meet. We both work second jobs to afford child care for ONE child. The cost of child care makes having another child feel impossible.” Ready to add your voice? Contact Kathyh@cccwny.org to get involved.



Santa returned to the Council in early December! About 30 families enjoyed hot cocoa and snacks, and got their picture taken. Part of our holiday toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots, many attendees brought a gift for a child in need.

Historic Advocacy Victory

\$10+ Million for Westchester Child Care

The 2022 Westchester County Budget includes an unprecedented investment in child care that will have a multi-generation impact for children, families and all of Westchester. County Executive George Latimer proposed \$4.1 million to expand Title XX and \$1.5 million to reestablish the Westchester Child Care Scholarship Program. The Board of Legislators Budget & Appropriations Committee added \$2.5 million to raise the subsidy reimbursement rates for contracted child care providers up to NYS market rates, and an additional \$2.1 million for child care scholarships. These funds will immediately increase access to safe, quality child care for Westchester families - especially those who earn just a little “too much” to get help but nowhere near enough to afford child care - and help providers build their businesses and earn/pay fair wages. Long term, fewer Westchester families will struggle to meet basic needs, more children will reach their potential, and Westchester will be safer and healthier.



Council Recognized as “Changemaker”

We were honored to be selected by Nonprofit Westchester as a 2021 recipient of the Organization Changemaker Award, in recognition of going “above and beyond with innovative approaches in partnership and collaboration to ensure that our Westchester communities remain thriving.” Throughout the pandemic, every request from a parent or child care provider was met with creative problem-solving, innovative solutions, and a selfless determination to just step up and get it done. As a result of our staff's actions, parents were able to find and pay for child care, and go back to work serving our community. Children were kept safe and healthy, and their development and mental health needs were addressed.



Fostering Leadership (with a little help from our friends)



We love funding a scholarship to Volunteer New York's Leadership Westchester program each year,

to share the impact of the child care community's critical work and support the professional development of our early care and education leaders. This year's Cathryn A. Riley Leadership Fund Scholarship was awarded to **Dawn Meyerski**, Executive Director of the Mt. Kisco Child Care Center, who was chosen for her leadership of an outstanding child care program, and her commitment to advocacy on behalf of children, families and the child care industry. We can't wait to hear about Dawn's experience!

Supporter Spotlight: Frog Rock Foundation

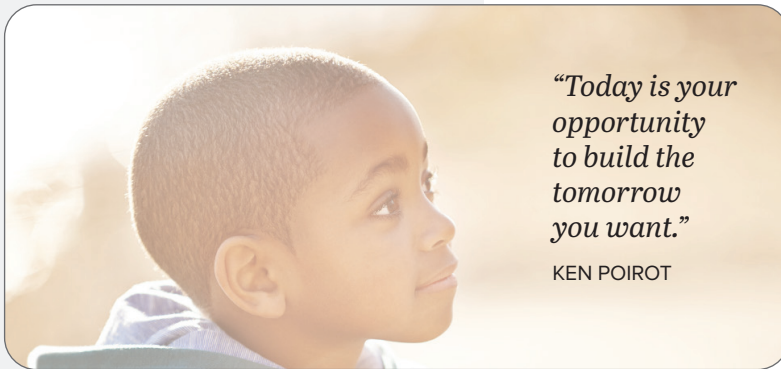
Support from the Frog Rock Foundation has transformed the way we deliver services and helped us reach more parents with urgent needs. Our relationship began in 2007, when they funded a new model of quality improvement technical assistance that we still use today. Subsequently, Frog Rock helped us launch our Quality in Action program to enhance the educational quality of licensed group family programs operated by Hispanic women, and support the social-emotional needs of the children and their families in their care through the services of a mental health specialist.

Starting in 2020, the Foundation funded the Council to meet the urgent and pervasive basic needs of Westchester families, primarily through the child care system. With that support, we have provided emergency items and distributed a great deal of food. We will also be distributing other items needed by young children such as mittens, jackets, hats, socks, and feeding utensils, in addition to continuing to make baby formula and food available.

With funding from the Frog Rock Foundation, we supply backpacks with interactive, developmentally-appropriate toys and books to families with young children who visit our office for assistance with DSS subsidy applications or referrals.



Thank You!



"Today is your opportunity to build the tomorrow you want."

KEN POIROT

\$27k for Child Care on #GivingTuesday! There's still time to make your gift

Right now through year end, we're raising funds to support our efforts to make equitable access to child care a reality for every child and every working parent in Westchester. We are immensely grateful for every donation that has helped us surpass our \$20,000 goal, and encourage you to give today if you have not had a chance to do so: www.childcarewestchester.org/donate.

On that page, you can also choose 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.



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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