

Ensuring all Westchester's children are healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges.

## WCA PROJECT 2020



### Speak Up! Speak Out! Draws Young People from Across the County

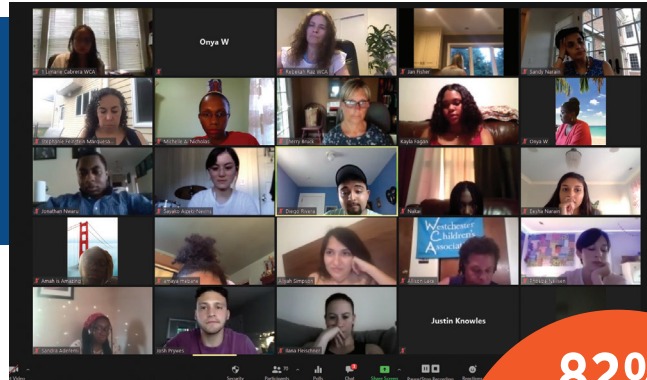
As many young people across Westchester and the country look for ways to make their voice heard and create lasting community change, WCA responded with a summer virtual event for our [Project 2020 civic engagement initiative](#), which is sponsored in part by the Westchester Community Foundation. Seizing this opportunity, 90 young people ages 15–21 registered and nearly 70 attended our July 21st youth event, 'Project 2020: Speak Up! Speak Out!', to speak, strategize, and connect with each other and Westchester leaders.

Building on local workshops from New Rochelle to Peekskill and resources shared throughout the year to better incorporate youth voice in community decision making, 'Speak Up! Speak Out!' featured 8 youth leaders and speakers, as well as dozens of young people from various Westchester communities, including Sleepy Hollow, Port Chester, Rye, Mt. Vernon, Greenburgh and Ossining, among many others.

Youth speakers presented their concerns and efforts for change on education, racial injustice and Black Lives Matter, food insecurity, social justice, and the safety of children during COVID-19. Smaller breakout room discussions led by youth focused on civic engagement in their communities and how they can use voting, relationships with decision makers, legislative advocacy, and strategic 'Theory of Change' planning to create local change.

Polls WCA conducted throughout the event identified race inequity as the issue youth most want to change—in large part, a response to current and historic racial inequities and calls for accountability. Behind race inequity was (2) police brutality and (3) environment and climate change. Voter pre-registration went into effect in January 2020 as part of new State voting laws and automatically enrolls a 16- or 17-year-old to vote once they turn 18. A third of youth participants were already registered or pre-registered to vote, and we have already acted to increase pre-registration among those who were not pre-registered to vote.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and Chairman of the County Board of Legislators Ben Boykin also listened, supported, and responded to questions and youth priorities, sharing how



### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT + POSITIVE FEEDBACK = BIG WIN

“We can use the tips and guidance from the event to organize our own actions... protests or voter registration or pre-registration drives or petition/write our elected officials or people in charge.”

– Project 2020 participant

**82%**  
of participants reported  
that tools learned from  
*Speak Up! Speak Out!*  
will help them in their  
communities

youth can stay empowered and offering to work directly with young people in attendance to create community change. WCA shared key information and resources to support youth long after the event, including our Project 2020 Toolkits on civic engagement, voting, and leading change, the NYS voter registration/pre-registration form, and 2020 election calendar timeline.

In the coming months, WCA will continue to promote and facilitate civic engagement opportunities for young people to make their voices heard, hosting Project 2020 civic engagement workshops with Sleepy Hollow High School and Good for Girls. We encourage all Westchester young people and families to complete the 2020 Census, register and pre-register to vote ahead of the 2020 General Election, and participate in community decision making.

**It's that time of year again:** every fall, we prioritize the needs of young people in the Westchester County Budget with our Campaign for Kids coalition of over 100 community organizations and individuals. The budget directly shapes over \$2 billion of County spending, setting the County's priorities for the upcoming year. We urge young people to get involved in November and December County Budget hearings, advocating for their needs and priorities—always speak up and speak out!

# Major WCA Projects and Initiatives for 2020-2021



## Remote Learning & School Reopening

- Build an advocacy agenda with school superintendents, community organizations, direct service providers, County administrators, and elected officials that enables all children to access technology and Wi-Fi for remote learning, as well as supports and accommodations for students and parents during remote and in-person instruction.



## Youth Justice & School Discipline

- Produce an Advocacy Training webinar for justice-involved/disconnected youth and their families and allies.
- Improve policies across County and State levels to combat the school-to-prison pipeline and reduce racial disparities in school discipline.



## Child & Youth Homelessness

- Collaborate with County and municipal governments, school districts, and community organizations to better identify students experiencing homelessness and connect them and their families with services and supports.
- Work with the Mt. Vernon City officials and the Mt. Vernon City School District to identify funding streams and solutions to student homelessness across the City.



## Early Childhood & Home Visiting

- Partner with Prevent Child Abuse-NY to lead Home Visiting Coordination Initiative summits for Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties as part of an effort to increase access to and investment in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting.

## new faces @ WCA

A warm welcome to the newest members of our Board of Directors.



**Kerry King** is the Senior Manager of Franchise Capabilities at Pepsi Beverages, North America.

**Romina Levy** has a longstanding commitment to volunteering. She is renowned in her community for her support of youth leadership and development through trainings, internships, and social impact projects.

**Daniel Naccarella** is Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer at a global macro hedge fund with overall responsibility for regulatory compliance and financial reporting.

**Dominick Petramale**, PCSB Bank Senior Vice President of Retail Banking Officer/Director of Cash Management, is a banking professional with over 25 years of experience leading operations, product management and retail banking teams.

**Harry Waizer** has been a partner at Cantor Fitzgerald since 1997 and Tax Counsel responsible for the firm's world-wide tax planning.

From top left, in clockwise order:

Kerry King  
Romina Levy  
Daniel Naccarella  
Dominick Petramale  
Harry Waizer



# Imagine a child...

A virtual benefit

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020 AT 6:00 PM EST**

Our annual fundraising event will be online this year celebrating our honorees and the impact of our advocacy. It will be free and open to everyone. **Join us as we imagine all children in Westchester growing, learning and thriving!**

**Register online at [wca4kids.org/imagine](https://wca4kids.org/imagine)**

## HONORING

**EDITH C. MACY AWARD FOR  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**Umran Beba**

Former SVP,  
Chief Global Diversity and  
Engagement Officer, PepsiCo

**CORPORATE CHILDREN'S  
CHAMPION AWARD**

**Dawna Michelle Fields**

Colgate-Palmolive Company;  
Associate Director Community Affairs  
Bright Smiles, Bright Futures, North America

**LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Louise De Vel Muller**

Past Westchester Children's  
Association Board Member  
and President

**Let's seize the chance to imagine  
new possibilities for all of our kids!**

**MAKE A  
DONATION  
\$250-\$500**

**PLACE A  
JOURNAL AD  
\$250-\$1,500**

**BECOME A  
SPONSOR  
\$3,000-\$50,000**

**For more information call 914-946-7676 ext. 303 or email [wca@wca4kids.org](mailto:wca@wca4kids.org)  
Sponsorships are due by October 23, 2020**





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Children's Association  
Board of Directors**

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**WESTCHESTER  
CHILDREN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

Children's Champions Since 1914

470 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 304  
White Plains, NY 10605

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**Please join us! See details on page 3**



**WESTCHESTER  
CHILDREN'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
Children's Champions Since 1914

**2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

*Dear Friends,*

Westchester Children's Association prides itself on ensuring that kids are healthy, safe and prepared for life's challenges. Our annual report is our thank you note to all of our supporters that made our work possible. If we are going to make a dent in creating a more just world, we need to continuously do the hard and time-consuming work of advocacy, mobilization, and systems change.

*We can only do this work  
in partnership with you.  
so Thank You!*

WCA4KIDS.ORG  
2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1

**VISIT US ONLINE AT  
WCA4KIDS.ORG**

**See how we are helping Westchester  
kids succeed in remote learning and  
read our 1st online only Annual Report!**

See highlights of our current advocacy for local families and vulnerable children during the pandemic. Find out how your support allows us to be the fierce advocates for Westchester kids!

**STAY UP TO DATE on critical issues affecting Westchester's children and youth!**

Sign Up for WCA email updates and our newsletter at [wca4kids.org/subscribe](https://wca4kids.org/subscribe) or email [wca@wca4kids.org](mailto:wca@wca4kids.org)

Follow us @wca4kids

