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WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION HONORS JUDGE JUDY AND NICOLE SHEINDLIN OF HER HONOR MENTORING, BUILDING & REALTY INSTITUTE, AND DR. KATHERINE LOBACH AT 2022 WCA SPRING BENEFIT

White Plains NY, June 3rd, 2022 - Westchester Children's Association (WCA) held their annual Spring Benefit entitled *Imagine A Child...* on June 1st at the Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle, New York. Over 150 supporters and advocates gathered to honor Nicole Sheindlin and Judge Judy Sheindlin of *Her Honor Mentoring*; The Building & Realty Institute (BRI) of Westchester; and Dr. Katherine Lobach, past President of the WCA Board of Directors.

"We imagine a child growing, learning, and thriving in Westchester, that comes from working together to make our dreams a reality," said Allison Lake, WCA Executive Director, at the opening of the program. "As advocates, we speak up for children and youth in Westchester County ages 0 to 25 - who often cannot speak for themselves. Lending your support to our advocacy can change the trajectory for thousands of children - 307,000 to be exact – by changing policies, increasing investments, and finding solutions to large societal problem."

Nicole Sheindlin and Judge Judy Sheindlin, Co-founders of *Her Honor Mentoring*, were awarded the 2022 *WCA Edith C. Macy Award for Distinguished Service* in recognition of their role in shaping the lives of hundreds of young women in Westchester through mentorships with community leaders. Attendees viewed a recorded thank you speech by Judge Judy, and Nicole Sheindlin, *Her Honor Mentoring* CEO, was on hand to receive their awards and proclamations. Following this presentation, The Building and Realty Institute of Westchester (BRI) was honored with the *WCA 2022 Corporate Children's Champion Award* in recognition of their effort to address the lack of affordable housing and child and youth homelessness through their Welcome Home Westchester initiative. Westchester BRI CEO Tim Foley accepted the award.

Dr. Katherine Lobach delivered a rousing speech as she received the 2022 *WCA Lifetime Achievement Award* presented by WCA Board President Ann Umemoto. Dr. Lobach was recognized for her long-term commitment and leadership efforts for early childhood development, adolescent health, and maternal supports. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Lobach called upon WCA to address the epidemic of gun violence that has become the #1 cause of death for children in the U.S.

Lake added "We are very pleased at the overwhelming support from our WCA community who turned out for this year's event, thanks in part to our benefit committee led by Ellen Adnopoz. The honorees were very gracious and deserving of their awards. We are also tremendously grateful for our sponsors, including *Her Honor Mentoring*, Hudson Road Foundation, Louise Muller, Patrick Monninger, The Sud Foundation and Ann Umemoto, along with Hudson Valley Credit Union and PCSB Bank. Without them, it would be difficult for us to continue our important work as advocates for the children and their families who lean on us. We move forward inspired by their support, along with each and every donor and volunteer who have stepped forward to make sure kids here in Westchester are healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges in the months and years ahead."

The event was emceed by former WCA staff member, Erica L. Ayala, who currently leads Brown Rosie Media in sportscasting. Guests bid to support the advocacy initiatives at WCA: child mental health, home visiting, and youth justice as well as auction items including conference tickets for the New York Rangers. Chairperson of the WCA Board of Directors, Dr. Maris Krasnow ended the event by saying that "kids count on (WCA) because they don't have a voice or a vote. Tonight, reminds all of us, that together we must continue to work to get the voices of children and youth heard – and their needs met!"

Donations and sponsorship for this event support the WCA advocacy and work for children in Westchester. For more information about the organization and opportunities to support their mission, visit wca4kids.org/imagine/ or contact Onya West at 914.946.7676 x304 email owest@wca4kids.org.



About Westchester Children's Association: Westchester Children's Association (WCA) is a multi-issue, child advocacy nonprofit that works to ensure that every child in Westchester is healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges. Since 1914, WCA has been the leading independent voice for Westchester by identifying their needs, making those needs known to the public, and ensuring those needs are met through advocacy and mobilization efforts. For more information about Westchester Children's Association, visit www.wca4kids.org. #WCABenefit