

WCA eBulletin

WESTCHESTER
CHILDREN'S
ASSOCIATION
Children's Champions Since 1914

Monthly updates of how
WCA advocates for
Westchester's kids
wca4kids.org/subscribe

eBulletin # 27



Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 2023

December 2022

Changing the Mental Health Conversation

More Info



Pictured: Angel Gray (WCA's Program Manager) and Anahaita Kotval (Lifting Up Westchester's Executive Director) at the *Ending the Silence* presentation.

Navigating through the pandemic and its aftermath has highlighted the importance of social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of Westchester's students for all of us, but especially educators and service providers. Because students spend most of their day at school and in after-school programs, WCA and Lifting Up Westchester partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illnesses (NAMI) to bring NAMI's *Ending the Silence* presentation to providers.

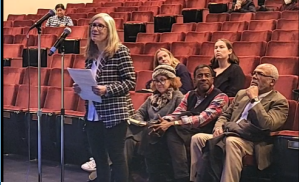
This compelling presentation provided information about the warning signs of mental illnesses and the steps to take if a student exhibits symptoms of a mental health condition.

During active engagement in this presentation, an after-school provider shared her interaction with a student who asked, "Are you a good teacher because you're a mother?" Her reply, "No, I'm a good mother because I'm a teacher," underscores the holistic impact information shared throughout the school system has on all those involved.

WCA recognizes that early interventions could result in more positive outcomes and will continue the conversation around child and youth mental health at our **Mental Health Roundtable, coming in the new year**. You will hear about it in an eBulletin like this one, so please subscribe if you haven't already.

UPDATE:
Westchester
County Budget

[More Info](#)



Pictured: Maris Krasnow (WCA's Board Chair) addressing the Westchester County Board of Legislators at one of three County Budget hearings.

We asked. You stood with WCA and the Campaign for Kids! Thank you. The \$2.3+ billion 2023 Westchester County Budget has been signed.

Thank you to those who showed up at Budget Hearings to insist on continued funding for programs and policies that impact our kids from birth to twenty-five. **Thank you**, also, to those who sent messages through WCA's online form to our elected officials that these programs are critical:

- Invest in Kids
- Increased access to affordable housing
- Home Visiting and childcare services
- Efficient mental health services

While the funding for each line item in the budget has not yet been analyzed, our combined voice was heard. Thank you for partnering with WCA!

Westchester Children's Association (WCA) identifies the needs (like those above) of Westchester's children and youth, makes those needs known by sharing the data and stories of youth, families, and service providers, and makes sure they are met. We do this annually in our county and again around the state budget. We can't do it without you.



If you are new to Westchester Children's Association (WCA) and our work, welcome. If you are a longstanding friend, thank you for your continued support.

We need all allies now, {{FirstName or 'Friend'}}!

With your help we can ensure all children are healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges regardless of race or zip code.

[Donate Now](#)

Recent WCA Publications



DOWNLOAD the **November 2022 edition of ChildWATCH.** Contents include:

- The Advocacy Breakfast is Back, *A Better Normal: Raising Equity in Support of Youth Social-Emotional Growth*
- Hope Quilt Project on Home Visiting
- Results of Our Digital Access Survey
- Highlights From Our Spring Benefit, *Imagine a Child*

VIEW & DOWNLOAD the **2021 Annual Report** (online only!) documenting our year's work on the following:

- Digital Access Equity

Subscribe

- Child and Youth Homelessness
- Child Poverty
- Youth Justice

Donate to WCA

Update your Contact Profile

[Update your contact profile](#) with WCA and sign up for **Action ID** to customize your preferences.



Follow us [@WCA4kids](#) [#WCAeBulletin](#)
See other editions our [eBulletin here](#)

Westchester Children's Association
470 Mamaroneck Ave., Suite 304
White Plains, NY 10603
914.946.7676 | wca@wca4kids.org

Westchester Children's Association does not share contact information with any third party.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please go to [\(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews\)](#).