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WCA to Host "Uplifting Courageous Voices: from the Frontline of Poverty in Westchester" Virtual Panel Discussion

Westchester, NY (February 26, 2024) – Westchester Children’s Association (WCA) will host a [virtual panel discussion](#), **"Uplifting Courageous Voices: from the Frontline of Poverty in Westchester," on March 7th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am**. Victoria Esposito, Esq., a renowned advocate for low-income families and a visiting professor at Albany Law School, will be the featured guest.

The panel discussion will center around the newly released “2024 Child Poverty Focus Group Report.” Following months of dedicated research and documentation, WCA has released the report which compiles the experiences of parents across Westchester, shedding light on the critical issues of food instability, housing access, and healthcare that affect impoverished communities. Sponsored by a generous grant from the Robin Hood Foundation, the focus groups were conducted at the Westchester Community Health Center’s Mount Vernon and Greenburgh locations, as well as the Open Door Family Medical Center’s Ossining and Port Chester locations, ensuring a broad representation of family backgrounds. These sessions were conducted in both English and Spanish to include diverse voices in the conversation.

During the upcoming Zoom webinar WCA staff will unveil the findings of the 2024 Child Poverty Focus Group Report and provide an insightful overview of poverty policy, showcasing common themes and highlighting the real experiences of parents battling poverty in Westchester. Victoria Esposito, Esq., with her extensive background in addressing systemic issues through legal advocacy and her impactful work as the first Advocacy Director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, will offer her expert commentary. Esposito's significant contributions to poverty law, including her recent article “A Systemic Reimagining of Poverty Law” in the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy, make her an invaluable voice in this discussion.

“One in five children and youth in Westchester are considered poor or low-income. This virtual panel discussion will bring to the forefront the courageous stories of those living on the frontline of poverty and explore meaningful program and policy supports that can alleviate their struggles. We know what works. We look forward to discussing these findings and hearing feedback from attendees as we work together towards a future where every family in Westchester has access to the resources they need to thrive.” states Allison Lake, Executive Director of WCA.

WCA invites the media, elected officials, school representatives, healthcare providers, mental health providers, and attorneys to join this critical conversation. Registration can be made using this link <https://bit.ly/3UEhepu> .

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, regardless of race or zip code. Since 1914, WCA has been the leading independent voice for Westchester’s children 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 their website at www.wca4kids.org.

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