

## Just the Facts

Quality Early Care and Education means a better future for each child, and for all of us:

- improved school performance
- higher high school graduation rates
- more likely to attend college
- increased lifetime earnings
- less likely to need special education services
- lower incidence of risky, unhealthy and criminal behavior

# Early Opportunity Fund

## Make a Donation, Make a Difference

It's simple: we want every child to have every possible opportunity in life, and the years between birth and age 5 are the most critical. For many children, our scholarship is the difference between time spent with a babysitter or in front of the TV, and a rich learning environment where they can flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

In fact, we hear over and over from parents that our child care scholarships are unequivocally life-altering. Children who are able to move into quality care start to flourish and improve immediately, and research tell us that these experiences will make a lifelong impact. And, not just for the children in care - for the communities they live and will work in.

**We need your support.** Our early care and education scholarships are 100% privately funded. Without you, we can't continue to offer this critical help to families and children in need throughout the county.

To make a donation, contact Dana Lawless at (914) 761-3456 x 127 or DanaL@cccwny.org, or visit [www.childcarewestchester.org/donate](http://www.childcarewestchester.org/donate).

### Spanish Quality Improvement Club Fosters Collaboration

With the support and guidance of Council Quality Specialist Aniberca Rosario, a group of 30+ Spanish-speaking family providers (who met during a 2014 business series we hosted) gathers for monthly training and activities. Between meetings, they visit each other's programs to redesign their spaces, and share materials and resources. Many are engaged in intensive quality improvement efforts that include program assessments and ongoing technical assistance visits from Aniberca.



### Raising a Glass to Raise Awareness



Forty guests recently gathered for a fabulous wine tasting event at Vino 100 in White Plains, to raise funds to support the Council's scholarship program. Special thanks to Stuart Levine and his team at Vino 100 for helping make this event possible.

To see more pictures, visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/childcarewestchester](http://www.facebook.com/childcarewestchester)

# Celebrate with Us!

Join us and 300 members of the business, education, nonprofit, and philanthropic communities at our Annual Awards Breakfast, to recognize those who work hard every day to make a positive impact in the early care and education community.

## Champions for Children:

Congresswoman Nita Lowey  
Family Services of Westchester  
Sarah Lawrence College

## Joey Award Winners:

Dawn Meyerski, *Mount Kisco Child Care Center*  
Elizabeth Spano, *Oak Lane Child Care Center*  
Patrice Cuddy, *Parent Child Home Program, Westchester Jewish Community Services*  
Bettina Langsam, *Morning Star Day Care*

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## LITTLE LEARNER SPONSORS

Family Services of Westchester •  
Westchester Children's Association

The Child Care Council of Westchester's

# 2015 Annual Awards Breakfast

**Friday, June 5, 2015 • 8-10am** • DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tarrytown

For details and tickets, visit

[www.CCCWawards.eventbrite.com](http://www.CCCWawards.eventbrite.com) or call (914) 761-3456 x127.



313 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583

**SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER**

## HOW TO REACH US

(914) 761-3456 TEL  
(914) 761-1957 FAX  
[childcare@cccwny.org](mailto:childcare@cccwny.org)

313 Central Park Avenue  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**[www.childcarewestchester.org](http://www.childcarewestchester.org)**

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[www.childcarewestchester.org/donate](http://www.childcarewestchester.org/donate)  
or call Dana Lawless,  
Development Specialist,  
at (914) 761-3456 x 127 or  
[DanaL@cccwny.org](mailto:DanaL@cccwny.org)



**“We need current and future elected officials to take a longer-term perspective, because failures in early education manifest later in school.”**

**Michael Smith, Westchester County Board of Legislature**

**“It’s an investment that pays off, allowing children to grow up to live productive lives that benefit society.”**

**Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Board of Legislature**

## **We envision a day**

**when every child’s potential is maximized from birth**

**when every parent can go to work free from distraction or worry**

**when Westchester businesses have access to a talented, well-educated homegrown workforce**

**when community leaders universally acknowledge that quality early care is essential**

## **Youth Pose Tough Questions at Annual Children’s Legislative Breakfast**



**W**estchester’s future leaders held a lively Q&A with elected officials at our annual “town hall” event in February, presented in partnership with the Westchester Children’s Association. County Legislators Benjamin Boykin, Catherine Borgia, Michael Smith and Alfreda Williams participated. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer, Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, and Regent Harry Phillips were also present, along with an audience of approximately 100 educators, child care professionals, community and nonprofit leaders, and parents.

The youth, ages 10-21 from Ossining, White Plains, New Rochelle, Mt. Vernon, Yonkers and Elmsford, posed questions regarding the legislators’ own experiences as children, what they’ve done in their careers to support the availability of early care and education, the lack of STEM programs in Yonkers and other areas of lower Westchester, the cost of bussing in White Plains, and access to college for children of undocumented immigrants. All of the legislators readily acknowledged the importance of universal access to quality early care and education for children, starting at birth.

## **Book Drive Supports Literacy in Young Children**

Learning to read and write is a process that starts at birth, and can be seriously inhibited when children don’t have access to books from a young age. Following our 7th Annual Book Drive, which took place during March and April, Westchester child care providers who serve children from low-income families



have an extra 1,500 books on-hand to read and share. This year, we were pleased to have Nordstrom as a book drive sponsor. Special thanks to HR Manager Heather Harewood, who coordinated the effort, and Melissa Capasso, Erin Dunleavy, Susan Saladino, and Tina Howard who came to help us sort books.

# Website 2.0

# www.childcarewestchester.org

We're excited to announce the relaunch of our website! Now parents, professionals and employers can quickly find exactly what they need, and all of our visitors can easily navigate to opportunities to get involved, staff and Board info, our photo gallery, upcoming events, organizational news, and the latest research related to early care. Interactive features include the Advocacy Action Center, a job bank for providers and job seekers, and the e-child care search database.



**Interested in joining our advocacy efforts or Board of Directors? Contact Executive Director Kathy Halas at (914) 761-3456 x102 or [kathyh@cccwny.org](mailto:kathyh@cccwny.org).**

## #GivingTuesday: Council Raises \$5k in One Day

On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, the Child Care Council participated in #GivingTuesday, an internationally recognized day of online charitable giving.

# #GIVINGTUESDAY

The Council's #GivingTuesday theme, "the one day you can make a difference that lasts an entire lifetime" focused on specific aspects of the Council's mission including early literacy, training for child care providers, scholarships for families in need, legislative advocacy, and referral services for parents who want to find safe, quality care they can afford.

We sincerely thank those who contributed on this special day, including our Board of Directors, who inspired the generosity of others by matching donations up to \$2,500.

Save the Date for #GivingTuesday 2015: December 1. Follow us on Twitter @CCCWNY and like us on Facebook.

## 2015 Board of Directors

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## Mission Accomplished!

Last summer, we set out to educate Westchester parents that when it comes to child care, quality matters!

Thanks to generous and thoughtful sponsors, our Smart Child Care campaign, developed in partnership with United Way of Westchester and Putnam, has reached tens of thousands of people countywide on the radio, in print, and online.



**Did You Know?**  
The 3,500+ parents who call us each year for child care referrals and information represent approximately 1,000 Westchester businesses and a wide variety of locations, income levels, industries, and job titles. Everyone needs quality child care!

Supported by

