

FALL 2017

Investing in Change

WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



A DIVISION OF THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST

Understanding history,
shaping our future

1825 Sing Sing cell block
Courtesy of Ossining Historical Society Museum

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Questions for Theresa Kilman, Chair of Board of Advisors



Theresa Kilman has served on the Foundation's Board of Advisors since 2008. We asked her to reflect on how the Foundation promotes community philanthropy and improves Westchester's quality of life.

What about Westchester Community Foundation are you most proud of?

At times when just turning on the news can bring a storm cloud of disillusionment the Westchester Community Foundation is a ray of hope that connects people who care with programs that help make our community better for everyone. It is heartwarming to see how funding an early childhood literacy program can mean the difference to a child, how investing in an environmental program can spur the cleanup of local waterways, and how spending on a legal services program can help keep a family safe.

What aspect of our work might prospective donors find surprising?

Our impact goes beyond donating money. It convenes groups to address current issues and develop solutions for community needs. For example, we might gather donors to collaborate on issue-specific topics such as prison reform, immigration, or environmental action while at other times we might moderate public forums on important community issues such as transportation, Alzheimer's, and volunteering. By fostering collaborative efforts, we leverage the best ideas and gathers resources to develop solutions.

You've often referred to our work as being "philanthropic coaches." What do you mean by that?

As with most important things in life, it helps to work with an expert. The same holds true for giving money. The Westchester Community Foundation staff members are experts in philanthropy and in the needs of the local community. They coach donors to invest in causes they care about in more meaningful ways and with more rewarding results.



Foundation Hosts Dialogues on Criminal Justice

The Westchester Community Foundation is committed to issues of crime and punishment, reform, rehabilitation, and re-entry after jail time. Criminal justice affects our local police departments and courts every day. It also influences our economy: Westchester is home to a county jail, and three state prisons--including the Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

To tackle some of the tougher issues of incarceration and rehabilitation, we brought together community leaders and those with experience in the prison system to discuss criminal justice and explore examples of progress.

Our Fall Donor Luncheon briefing detailed plans for a new Sing Sing Prison Museum, slated to open in the Village of Ossining in 2020. The museum will use the history of the Sing Sing Prison as a tool for sparking dialogue about criminal justice reform. "By understanding history, we won't make the same mistakes," said Project Senior Adviser Brent Glass, explaining the impetus behind the new museum. Glass was joined at the donor briefing by Sean Pica, Executive Director of Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, who talked about the value of educational opportunities for the incarcerated.

Create a legacy that



Courtesy of Dana White

A grant from the Foundation underwrote a month-long Community Conversations series at six Westchester libraries throughout October. The series, “Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today,” brought together experts in rehabilitation, reform, and re-entry to explore the question: How to improve the lives of those most affected by the criminal justice system, including the incarcerated, the victims, and prison employees.

Our grants also support local programs such as the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, which offers alternatives to prison for young men caught up in the criminal justice system. Support to the Westchester Children’s Association helped residents at the shelter push to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18. We also fund Family Services of Westchester’s EMERGE program to provide parenting and job training for mothers released from county jail.

And all along, our Community Matters film series and panel discussions have sparked discussions on the criminal justice system by portraying parenting at the women’s prison in Bedford Hills, the transformative power of the arts in the prison setting, and issues related to policing and gun control.

2017: A Year of Impact

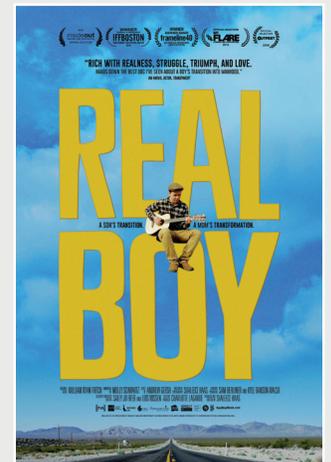
This was a year of accomplishments as we expanded our traditional grantmaking to foster dialogue for donors, nonprofit leaders, and the public on matters that affect our community’s wellbeing.

3 Donor Briefings

13 Community Events

78 Grants/\$2 Million awarded to support innovative programs and services throughout the county

2 Community Matters film & discussion programs



For more information, visit our website at www.wcf-ny.org.

lasts. Contact us today at (914) 948-5166.



WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



210 North Central Avenue
Suite 310
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Beverly Bender: A donor's unique legacy

Although Beverly Bender probably never envisioned her philanthropy would help support goats to control invasive plants, we think she would be thrilled with the job Shorty Smalls, Bo Peep, Tilly, and Lilly have done.

The story begins ...

Growing up in Pound Ridge, Beverly Bender's passion was sculpting animals. As an adult, she exhibited her stone creations all over the country. Friends described her as brimming with wonder and enthusiasm for life, and she was known for her wit and contagious laugh. Before she died in 2012 at age 94, she created a donor-advised fund at the Westchester Community Foundation to protect the environment.

Enter the goats ...

This year, her fund supported the Pound Ridge Land Conservancy's G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) project to bring four little goats to Pound Ridge to control invasive plants and help balance the ecosystem.

As of November, each of the hardy hooved animals had consumed more than 70 pounds of Japanese knotweed in downtown Scotts Corners. In addition to weed control, the goats spur community spirit—there's a waiting list to work with the goats in 2018.

An inspired legacy.

Beverly Bender's love of animals inspired her art, and her love for the environment inspired her gift to the Westchester Community Foundation. Today, her fund helps protect the environment in the town that nurtured her life.



We're proud to link people and projects to make our communities better places to live.