In the Community Matters series continues

REAL BOY
Thursday, June 1, 2017 • 7 p.m.
Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

“Real Boy” is the intimate story of a family in transition. As a 19-year-old navigates early sobriety, late adolescence, and the evolution of his gender identity, his mother makes her own transformation from resistance to acceptance of her trans son.

Join us for a post-film panel with Jamie Bruesehoff, a writer, speaker, and advocate whose first-born child transitioned at age 8 and became a national symbol for the transgender community, and Shepard Verbas, program manager at The LOFT Community Center, and prominent spokesperson for trans rights who was profiled in National Geographic’s January 2017 Gender issue.

A reception will follow upstairs in the Jane Peck Gallery.

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Donor Spotlight
A Family’s Loss Creates Opportunities For Others

THE PAMMY FUND LEGACY

Pamela Lynn Posen, 20, was aboard Pan Am flight 103 from London to New York on Dec. 21, 1988, returning home after a semester abroad when the plane blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Pammy Posen was a poet, a music lover, an eternal optimist. The final page of her journal noted that one day she hoped to make a movie titled “I Laughed. That’s All That Mattered.”

Her father, Dr. Jack Posen, a prominent Westchester orthodontist, wanted to honor her by helping young people fulfill their dreams, so in 1989, he established the Pammy Fund at the Westchester Community Foundation. “Her spirit is what is being carried forward in the Pammy Fund,” Dr. Posen told the New York Times at the time. Nearly 30 years later, the Pammy Fund still supports early literacy programs for young people.

One program is the Parent-Child Home Program at Westchester Jewish Community Services, which helps families in the county’s low-income communities create a home environment that prepares their children for school and academic success. Scores of 5-year-olds have started their first day of kindergarten better prepared for school thanks to the Pammy Fund’s consistent support.

Briana Mosquera was 2 when her mother and grandmother enrolled in the Parent-Child Home Program. While Briana’s mother worked, Briana’s grandmother kindled her curiosity about learning. When Briana went to kindergarten, she was ready to learn.

Today, Briana is a social worker in New York City, helping countless families improve their lives. “Without early support from the Pammy Fund,” she says, “my family may not have been able to help me achieve academic success. I am grateful for the ways in which the Pammy Fund shaped my life.”

Dr. Posen, who died in 2009, took an active role in getting to know the families the Fund helped—he met with them and attended their graduations. Today his family carries on the good work — and Pammy’s legacy lives on in every life the Pammy Fund touches.
Helping young people along the way

How would you react if you encountered a clearly distraught teen? Would you turn the other way, or reach out and help?

In Westchester, mental health disorders are the main reason teens age 13 to 17 are hospitalized. Yet school staff and administrators, coaches, police, and even parents often fail to recognize or react to warning signs of mental distress. Our support to two agencies is helping them tackle this growing problem.

Youth mental-health first-aid training in Tarrytown, Ossining, and Peekskill school districts by Westchester Jewish Community Services is teaching professionals the steps in helping a distressed person: assess for risk of suicide or harm, listen nonjudgmentally, give reassurance and information, encourage appropriate professional help, and encourage self-help and other support strategies.

Children who have experienced trauma at an early age need continuing support at home, so Family Services of Westchester clinicians are being trained in trauma-informed therapy, which focuses on the child’s emotional and behavioral needs as well as the environment—home, school, and community. These clinicians will counsel families in Port Chester, Yonkers, and Mount Vernon.

Helping mental-health programs like these gives young Westchester residents a better chance for a full and happy life.

What do you care about? We can help you help others. Call us @ 914-948-5166.