“Community Matters” film series celebrates five years
Celebrating “Community Matters” films

What makes a community truly a community? At Westchester Community Foundation, we think it’s the people who live here and work together to make our county a vibrant place to call home. We bring together people with good ideas from different places and backgrounds to celebrate our diversity. That’s why five years ago we started “Community Matters,” a film and discussion series at the Jacob Burns Film Center.

We work with the JBFC, an educational and cultural nonprofit in Pleasantville, to present stories that inform and inspire. Each screening is followed by a panel discussion, and we host a gathering in the gallery upstairs so audience members can continue the dialogue.

Our audiences have been moved by stories of families affected by Alzheimer’s disease, inspired by the history of the women’s movement, jolted by the controversy of rising college costs, and galvanized by discussions on nuclear power.

Our 2016 series launched with a look at inmates in Sing Sing prison in Ossining who are changed by a theater program. During the reception, attendees wrote notes to send to the prisoners (cover photo). Many shared their hope about breaking cycles of violence and recidivism.

The series continues on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. with Poverty, Inc., a critical look at the international humanitarian aid system, plus new approaches to improve lives in the developing world. On Sunday, June 5 at 12 noon, we present Bikes vs Cars, which profiles a worldwide movement to make streets safer for people, including those of us who live in Westchester.

We’re pleased to offer complimentary tickets to our donors. If you’re a donor or if you know of someone who might like to be, contact Jennifer Hu Corriggio at jcorriggio@wcf-ny.org or 914-948-5166, ext. 4. Join us!
Developing tomorrow’s workforce

The City of White Plains, considered the hub of Westchester, has, with a $100,000 grant from the Foundation, launched an innovative partnership designed to link job-seekers to high-quality training and educational opportunities.

The White Plains Education and Training Center brings multiple partners under one roof to provide a range of resources and services to those seeking a new job, a better job, or an entirely new career. The center is geared to meet the employment needs of our region, including culinary and hospitality, medical and health care, and technology and entrepreneurship. Job-seekers receive coaching and assistance with career navigation, financial literacy, help for first-time homebuyers, and access to a state-of-the-art computer training center featuring an E-Learning Library.

“It’s great to see a city investing in its people this way,” notes program officer Tara Seeley. “It’s a simple formula that works in thriving communities: employers find the talented workers they need and residents find opportunities to prepare for quality jobs, jobs with a future that pay a family sustaining wage.”

The Foundation partnered with JPMorgan Chase to play an essential role by supporting admissions coaches and career navigators.

Impact

$6 million
The amount disbursed from the Foundation’s donor-advised funds and discretionary grants in 2015.

$1.7 million
The amount awarded through our competitive grants program.

70
The number of local nonprofits in the county that received funding from WCF.

We know Westchester.
Food pantry provides fresh, healthy food

The Community Center of Northern Westchester provides programs and services to families and individuals from 27 communities throughout Northern Westchester. Our new Patterson fund to support low-income families in Ossining is helping CCNW meet the rising need. It anticipates feeding 9,000 Ossining residents in the coming year.

Make Westchester better for everyone

How can YOU expand access to the arts, help communities prepare for disaster, and protect animals in distress? Join our annual campaign! Thanks to the many generous donors to the Fund for Westchester’s Future, we are halfway to our goal for 2016. Help us get there so we can do even more. Contact Jennifer Hu Corriggio at jcorriggio@wcf-ny.org or 914-948-5166, ext. 4, for more information.