

# Investing in Change



## All hands on deck!

**2016** was a year of growth and change for the Westchester Community Foundation. We made more impact in our communities by helping people train for and get jobs, helping college students succeed, bringing arts to more children, and protecting our natural resources.



## WE KNOW WESTCHESTER

At the Westchester Community Foundation, our job is to put our generous donors' dollars to work on the causes they care about.

Our expertise in philanthropy and local issues makes us a leader in the county.

We connect our donors to the nonprofits that meet our high standards for impact.

Interested in learning more about how we can help you help others?

Contact Laura Rossi, Executive Director, at 914-948-5166, ext. 3, or Jennifer Hu Corriggio, Director of Philanthropy and Donor Relations, at 914-948-5166, ext. 4.

**ON THE COVER: WCF staff spent a day of service at a local animal shelter this past summer.**



## A legacy of family giving

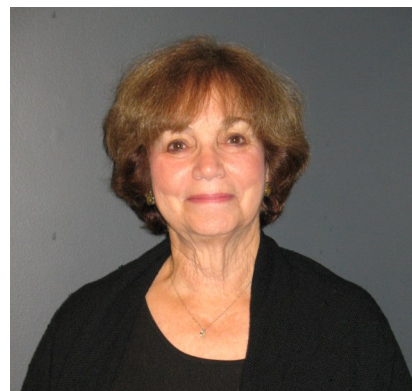
**F**aye Kimerling of Ardsley-on-Hudson grew up in a family that strongly believed in the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah*, which says that giving is more than just charity. Giving is an obligation because it is the just and righteous thing to do. Supporting the work of nonprofits in the community was important to the family, she says. "I wanted to transmit this spirit on to my children and grandchildren, and set an example for them through my own actions."

Faye took this purpose to heart when she was introduced to the Westchester Community Foundation in 2000. She opened a donor-advised fund so she could provide financial resources to agencies that support adult career mobility through programs, internships or skills training.

But as it will happen, her busy life as a career counselor and mother took over, and her fund went dormant.

In spring of 2016, Jennifer Hu Corriggio reached out to Faye to check in, to see how the Foundation could help her connect to the needs in Westchester and help her fill her charitable intent, or *tzedakah*.

"I had a very productive meeting with Jennifer and Laura (Rossi) about my expectations with the fund, needs



that had been identified in career development, and needs of the Westchester population. They provided me with several options to choose from, and after I made the decision on which agencies to support, I received updates on how my gift was being used."

Faye was delighted with the expert guidance offered her. "The Westchester Community Foundation really helped me a lot. They were the experts on where the funds could best be used." However, such gifts and matches cannot occur without the philanthropic intent and desire that starts with donors such as Faye. "I am hoping that my experience with the Westchester Community Foundation can open doors for others too."

We are honored to be a part of sending Faye's blessing out in the world.



# Create a giving plan

**Y**our giving tells your story and expresses your values and hopes for the future. You care about Westchester and want to see a community that is better for everyone.

Westchester Community Foundation provides vehicles that are **efficient** and **flexible** for your charitable giving wherever your passions lie, locally and nationally. When you establish a fund with us, you benefit from our expertise on community issues and the local and regional organizations making an impact.

Often, when you start to tackle questions of your legacy and philanthropy, it's easy to get overwhelmed. What kind of assets can I give? Should I give now? Can I give later, and even after I'm gone? Can I create a fund for just one cause? Can my family be a part of the giving?

We can help you answer these questions. At the Westchester Community Foundation, you can create a fund with assets as varied as cash, publicly



traded stock, retirement plan assets, closely held stock, copyrights, and life insurance. In some cases, you can even give art and real estate.

We're experts in working with charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts, as well as dissolving private foundations into funds. We can help you work out a plan for giving today, or through a will or planned-giving vehicle.

Not only will we help guide you with the technical aspects of your philanthropic plan, but we will then work with you to fine-tune your giving plan through the years.

## We know YOU care about Westchester.

By giving to our **Fund for Westchester's Future**, you showed us that you care about what happens in our region.

Thanks to our generous donors, we are halfway to our goal of **\$200,000** for 2016. Help us continue our work!

Grants in 2016 expanded access to the arts for seniors (see page 5) and for children.



## Common mistakes donors can make

### FORGETTING YOUR WILL

Did you know that 55 percent of U.S. adults do not have a will? If you don't have one in New York, all assets go to your closest relatives. So, yours could end up with Cousin Ernie instead of supporting a cause you're passionate about.

### GETTING THE NAME WRONG

Do you know the difference between Kids Wish Network, Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the Children's Wish Foundation International? Some fraudulent charities take advantage of similar names. Make sure your gift goes to a bona fide charity that represents your philanthropic goals. We know the good charities, and we know the needs. We're here to help.

### DOING THIS ON YOUR OWN

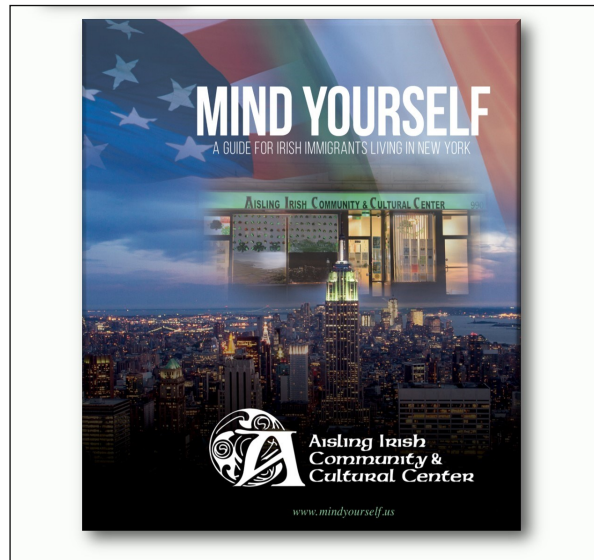
Giving to charity should feel great, not cause stress. Talk to our staff at the Westchester Community Foundation. We can help you identify groups solving pressing problems. We offer as much—or as little—help as you want.



## IMPACT

*"Tonight's group was incredible. I feel like I finally found a place where I fit in. Even before anyone started talking, I felt like I was right where I belong. I've never felt like that before."*

*Comments from a transgender student after the youth's first visit to the Trans Young Adult Group hosted by Westchester Jewish Community Service's Center Lane, a Foundation grantee since 2014.*



**\$110,000**  
in grants



**HEALTH**

## Living healthy lives

Mental health problems affect an entire society. Too many people in Westchester have succumbed to heroin and prescription drug abuse. Immigrants and LGBTQ youth are at high risk for depression and suicide. Our support to the Aisling Irish Community and Cultural Center, Westchester Jewish Community Services, Mental Health Association of Westchester, and Putnam Family and Community Services is increasing the availability of mental health services to vulnerable populations from Yonkers to Yorktown. Foundation support underwrote the guide for immigrants at left.



Students who participated in the Foundation-funded college center at New Rochelle High School celebrated next steps!

## Going to college, and staying

Since 2009, we have been committed to helping our county's youth get to college. This year, with grants totaling \$300,000 to Yonkers Partners in Education, The Guidance Center, and Westchester Community College, we've pushed the goals even further, to persistence and college graduation. These agencies have created innovative programs to support youth through

mentors and intensive personal guidance. And to encourage collaboration and communication, we convened college prep agencies to explore best practices in their work.

A new fund for youth allowed us to expand our reach. We focused on mental health and increased access to the arts to underserved youth in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties.



**YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT**

**\$500,000**  
in grants

## Music appreciation

Caramoor artist-in-residence Jonathan Biss led a series of nine concerts this summer on the music of Beethoven. The series—which included Beethoven’s piano concertos, vocal chamber works, and string quartets as well as his only opera—was supported in part by our Rudyard and Emanuella Reimss Fund. This donor’s wish was to ensure that people in our county had opportunities to enjoy and learn about German culture, through the arts and music.



Photo by Gabe Palacio

Fellowships totaling \$66,000 supported through our **Valentine Fund** are helping three filmmakers, a composer, and a ceramic artist in 2016. They’re poised to take their careers to the next level.



**ARTS**

**\$300,000**  
in grants



Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Fund for Westchester’s Future, a grant to the Westchester Library System is bringing a creative aging program back to the libraries. Emerging research shows that arts learning programs lead to better health and prevention of disease among older adults. “Libraries today are active learning centers that encourage making and doing things,” says Terry Kirchner, executive director of the Westchester Library System. “The Creative Aging in the Libraries project taps into the creativity of our older adults, connects them with others, and improves their quality of life.”





\$154,000  
in grants

At right, a grant to the **Bronx River Alliance** helped staff clear out floatables from the trash boom in the Bronx River just south of the county line (that's all Westchester trash!). Below, **Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak** leads water quality testing in the Saw Mill River, thanks to a grant from the Foundation.



Photo: Bronx River Alliance

## Cleaning our urban rivers

Ever noticed litter and debris in the Bronx River?

A lack of coordinated pollution control has degraded water quality in the Westchester portion of the river. The **Bronx River Alliance** has worked to clean the river in Bronx County for years. Funding from WCF is allowing for coordinated restoration efforts in Westchester as well.

In the Saw Mill River from Chappaqua to Yonkers, what's not seen — untreated sewage — is an ongoing threat. The **Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak** is monitoring for harmful bacteria. **Beczak** has joined with the **Bronx River Alliance**, **Riverkeeper** and local watershed alliances to form the Lower Hudson Urban Waters Collaborative, which promotes stewardship of four urban rivers: Bronx River, Saw Mill River, Pocantico River, and Sparkill Creek.



Photo: Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak

Help us to do more. Consider a gift to the  
**Fund for Westchester's Environment.**

wcf-ny.org

## Our fund for Tarrytown helps everyone

Arnold and Olga Feldman loved Tarrytown, and when they wanted to leave a lasting legacy for their neighbors, they opened a fund with us.

Since 2003, the Feldman Fund has supported a number of Tarrytown programs. WCF helped launch JCC on the Hudson's *Keepin' It Real in the Neighborhood* program for developmentally disabled youth in 2014.

Here's one client's story, as told by a social worker:

*"B" is a 19 year old male Life Skill student who has greatly benefitted from the KIRTN programming.*

*He attends three after school programs where he socializes and receives support from staff, interns and his fellow students.*

*He has also worked through the school year as an intern in one of the JCC's recreational programs, improving his work skill capacities.*

*"B" has been in and out of crisis this year. He is multiply handicapped and has experienced many losses and traumatic experiences in his short life. **Without KIRTN programming**, he would not have the much needed support that keeps him safe and positively engaged in the school and wider community.*

We're sure the Feldmans would be pleased.



Highland Hill residents learned there's strength in numbers.

## Having their say

What happens to struggling residents when their city experiences a development boom without them? With a grant from the Foundation, they find their voice.

With our support, **Community Governance and Development New York** is surveying residents in the Highland Hill neighborhood of Yonkers about their priorities for neighborhood improvement, training youth to be leaders in their community, and gathering information that will help developers see the potential in the neighborhood.

Now, the 10,000 residents of the Highland Hill neighborhood will have their say in their own futures.



**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

**\$605,000  
in grants**



**\$83,000  
in grants to strengthen  
the nonprofit sector**





**‘We make a living by  
what we get, but  
we make a life by  
what we give.’**

**—Winston Churchill**

**Join us today.**



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**Investing in Change** | Fall 2016 newsletter

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





### A glance back, and a look ahead at 2017

**S**ince 1975 the Westchester Community Foundation has worked to hold up what is good in our county, and to address what should be changed. In a place with multiple governmental jurisdictions, a fragmented educational system, and a high cost of living, that's a tall challenge.



Theresa Kilman



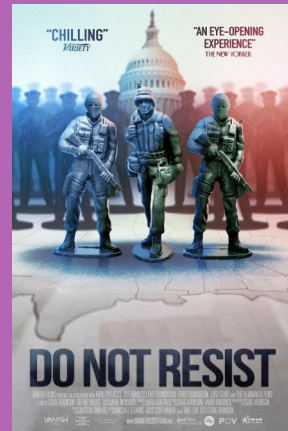
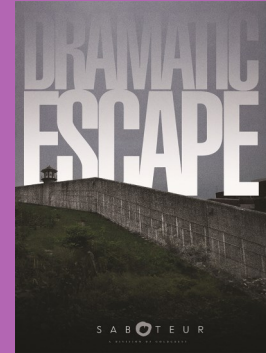
Laura Rossi

We embrace that challenge. So in 2016, we welcomed new staff and donors and joined with leaders across Westchester to make life better from Yonkers to Bedford. We try to solve problems in several ways: investing in promising programs, research, and advocacy; educating the public; bringing together decision-makers; and engaging donors.

We are inspired by the stories of the people who started funds at the Westchester Community Foundation. Many of our permanent funds were established by individuals who cared about arts, the environment, schools, and more — about Westchester's future. They knew that when we combine money from many donors we can accomplish great things.

Their generosity furthers our goal: to create a stronger community where everyone can thrive. We hope you will join us as we invest in a better Westchester.

Theresa Kilman is the Chair of the Board of Advisors. Laura Rossi is the Executive Director.



# 4

## Community Matters films shown:

Bikes vs Cars  
Dramatic Escape  
Poverty, Inc.  
Do Not Resist



## **Year in Review**

**\$6 million**

in total grants awarded

**\$1.75 million**

**in funding awarded through our  
competitive grantmaking process to  
address community needs**

**74 agencies supported**

**\$123,000**

in scholarships  
awarded to  
54 students

**1,200**

**young people  
impacted by our  
support for college  
success**