Lifting Up Westchester Announces Essay Contest Exploring “Why Second Chances Are Important”

WHITE PLAINS — Lifting Up Westchester, a non-profit agency committed to giving individuals in need a second chance by helping them to achieve self-sufficiency, announces their second annual student essay contest, “Why Second Chances are Important.” Open to all Westchester students in the 7th to 12th grades, students are invited to reflect on what it really means to give someone a “second chance.”

The essay contest was established in 2017 in memory of Beth Massey Rubens, a lifelong teacher, tutor and mentor who had a love for language arts.

This year’s essay asks students to reflect on how they have seen or experienced a second chance in action and what they learned from it. The contest also asks students to think through the complexities surrounding this issue. Can everyone change the course of their life? What would it take to accomplish that? Does everyone deserve a second chance? Does everyone need or deserve a champion rooting for them through the good AND the bad?

“By inviting high school students to reflect on the importance of second chances, we hope to cultivate empathy and respect for those in our community who are experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, incarceration or who are struggling to change their lives,” noted Anahaita Kotval, Executive Director of Lifting Up Westchester. “Challenging our high school students to seriously think about second chances can kickstart an important conversation about the part each of us can play in helping those in need.”

First, second and third place cash prizes will be awarded in three grade groups; 7th and 8th graders, 9th and 10th graders and 11th and 12th graders. First prize in each category is $500,
second prize $250 and third prize $100. An Awards Brunch will be held at Ruth’s Chris Steak House in Tarrytown.

Students can enter the contest from November 1, 2018 through January 31st, 2019. Essays must be submitted in PDF format via e-mail to: luwessaycontest@gmail.com. Students, teachers and parents can learn more about how the contest works and the judging criteria by visiting www.liftingupwestchester.org.

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**About Lifting Up Westchester**

Lifting Up Westchester (www.liftingupwestchester.org) is a 501 (c )(3) organization whose mission is to restore hope to Westchester County’s men, women and children in need by providing them with food, shelter and support - lifting them to greater self-sufficiency with dignity and respect. It is one of the largest social services agencies in Westchester County and has been fulfilling its mission since 1979 through the operation of eight community-based programs. The agency serves 3,500 men, women and children each year providing almost 100,000 meals to the hungry and 20,000 nights of shelter to the homeless.

For more information about Lifting Up Westchester, visit www.liftingupwestchester.org or contact Chris Schwartz at cschwartz@liftingupwestchester.org or (914) 949-3098.