November 28, 2018

Lifting Up Westchester Awarded $5,000 Grant From M&T Bank

WHITE PLAINS – Lifting Up Westchester (LUW), a non-profit agency that provides poverty and homeless services to 3,500 men, women and children in need annually, was recently awarded a $5,000 grant from M&T Bank to support its Brighter Futures After-School Mentoring Program.

The Brighter Futures Mentoring Program is a free, educational enrichment program serving children/youth, ages 5 – 19, who are from homeless or very low-income families. Started in 2004, the program provides a variety of literacy, tutoring and college prep activities designed to help children learn and achieve on par with their more affluent peers.

The program has been very successful at improving grades and standardized test scores, decreasing truancy and drop-out rates, and instilling career and college aspirations in its participants. For the past four years, 100% of the high school seniors in the program have graduated on time. This compares to an average graduation rate of only 50% for homeless students nationally.

“We are extremely grateful to M&T Bank for their investment in our Brighter Futures Mentoring Program,” said Anahaita Kotval, Executive Director of Lifting Up Westchester. “With their partnership, we hope that the students who participate in our program will be the first in their families to go to college, and the last to live in poverty.”

“We believe supporting Lifting Up Westchester is a great way to help our neighbors, and the Brighter Futures Mentoring Program will benefit local students who need some extra help. As a community-focused bank, M&T’s long-term success is tied to the success of the communities we serve,” said Paula Saraiva, Vice President for Business Bank at M&T Bank in Westchester County.
Lifting Up Westchester has been serving the county for almost 40 years. The agency has four key program areas: Emergency Food & Shelter, Housing Stabilization, Vocational Training & Employment and Next Generation Educational Opportunities.

To learn more about Lifting Up Westchester’s mission and programs, please visit: www.LiftingUpWestchester.org

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.

About M&T

M&T is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T’s principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, operates banking offices in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Trust-related services are provided by M&T’s Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank.