

The Guidance Center of Westchester

TIMES

Summer 2022

From the CEO



Supporting community need: the Access Network is built for this. Across the Access Network and our affiliate agencies, which includes The Guidance Center, we boast a combined knowledge base of more than 2,000 staff members who are trained, certified, and credentialed in a wide variety of topics that can help us all live healthy, happy lives. From parenting tips and family dynamics to more sensitive topics such as the opioid crisis and suicide prevention, we are eager to share our expertise so that our community can thrive.

In just two months, we hosted 10+ different trainings covering Narcan, QPR (suicide prevention), and virtual town halls on parenting. After the tragedies in Buffalo and Uvalde, our clinical teams from across the Access Network pulled together to host virtual conversations regarding trauma where both staff and community members shared experiences, talked through feelings, and shared resources.

There is so much talent and inspiration across the Access Network. Offering training and educational opportunities is something we are proud to do and, frankly, part of our obligation.

I hope to see you at one of the trainings. See the image upper right and scan the QR code for details.

Ronald Colavito
President & CEO

ACCESS:
SUPPORTS FOR LIVING

Trainings for ALL

See our calendar of trainings and community offerings.

We hope to see you at one in the future.

www.TheGuidanceCenter.org/trainings

SCAN ME

HITTING THE AIRWAVES

(left to right) Matt Ricker, Shawna Aarons-Cooke, Catherine White

Senior Vice President of Programs Shawna Marie Aarons-Cooke, LCSW-R, CASAC-2, joined Catherine White, executive director of New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, on the group's radio show on WVOX. Hosted by Matt Ricker, Ms. Aarons-Cooke talked about the many programs and services TGCW offers. No one understands or explains our multitude of programs better.

The Guidance Center of Westchester

256 Washington Street • Mount Vernon, NY 10553 • 914-613-0700 • TheGuidanceCenter.org

WORKING FOR OPPORTUNITY

Stigma creates obstacles for people who have disabilities to find work. Our Vocational Services recognized Walgreens of Yonkers and Eastchester as valuable partners who work with us to move beyond barriers and help our participants finding meaningful work. In the past year and a half, one store has welcomed seven program participants.

Tina Tedesco, vocational counselor, says, "Walgreens is a pleasure to work with. They are supportive and encouraging. They created experiences that helped the participants gain skills and confidence." Ms. Tedesco connects program participants to employers and continues to provide job support throughout the work experience.

Michael was hired after his work experience and writes, "This job is an incredible experience for me. It lets me try out new things, and it gives me time to put my skills of organizing and carefulness into action. Every day is a challenge, and I can always find a way to resolve my issues by calling to my manager."

Employers interested in working with us can call 914-627-2536. In addition to providing job support, most programs also cover the salary of the participant for a period.



Michael enjoys the challenges and rewards of working.



Keshia Carter, senior WIOA counselor, CCC; Amrika Sieunarine; Marissa Grande, human resources and recruitment for Candela Systems Corporation; Alexis Lloyd, administrative assistant, CCC.

Workforce Innovation AWARD WINNER

The Business Council of New York State recently recognized our **Center for College & Careers** and the **FutureWorks to FutureCareers** program as one of four recipients of the inaugural New York State Workforce Innovation Awards. The awards recognize outstanding workforce development training and education providers, as well as business leaders, who focus on developing a strong and diverse talent pipeline.

"This award is a testament to the commitment of our staff, our youth, our community, and our partners as we collectively work to prepare the

next generation of workforce leaders," says Kate Hackett, job developer for the program.

"We are grateful to the Westchester Community Foundation for supporting FutureWorks to FutureCareers from the very beginning. Knowing they believed in us, and our students, has made all the difference."

FutureWorks to FutureCareers helps young people 16-24 years old from Mount Vernon and New Rochelle by providing trainings, certifications, and credentials to prepare them for a job in construction and related fields.

NEUBERGER

BERMAN

DAY OF SERVICE



Mount Vernon High School students enrolled in our Center for College & Careers (CCC) took part in a financial literacy workshop conducted by our friends at Neuberger-Berman. And here's the best part: it was really a lot of fun for the volunteers and the students.

Set up "speed dating" style, students took part in round table discussions on understanding credit, the importance of saving and investing, and retirement. During the afternoon, students tested what they learned through a spirited Jeopardy-style game.

"This organization has truly been amazing since the first time I worked with them in 2019. I see myself in these kids. I grew up in foster care and have a soft spot for people who may feel they don't have many options," says Saul Ellison, senior associate at Neuberger-Berman. He continues, I want to dispel the myth that you need to be in a rich neighborhood or know someone to have opportunities. The students are eager and enthusiastic."

Jaylen Brimais, who graduated MVHS in 2022 and will attend Mount Saint Vincent College in the fall, says, "I want to be an

accounting major so today was a very good experience. I got to talk with real financial advisors and learn more about how to improve my credit."

We are grateful to Neuberger-Berman Managing Director Marshall Jaffe, a long-time supporter of our work, for initiating the day, and to Eric Pelio, senior vice president/portfolio manager, who also took part. We appreciate that they all chose to spend their day helping young minds expand their potential.

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of Westchester

256 Washington Street
Mount Vernon, NY 10553



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**UPCOMING
EVENT**

BASH FOR THE FUTURE

Benefiting the Center
for College & Careers
Wednesday • October 19
The Davenport Mansion
on the Sound
New Rochelle, NY



Westchester Golf Outing
Tuesday, August 9th 2022

GlenArbor Golf Club
234 Bedford Center Road • Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Golf Outing Hosted by
Trey Wingo
Sports Journalist/ ESPN Veteran



ACCESS:
**SUPPORTS FOR LIVING
FOUNDATION**



For more info, call Rose (914) 613-0700 ext. 7076 or Rdimarco@theguidancecenter.org

CHEERS TO 80 YEARS

ANNUAL GALA HIGHLIGHTS

Our 80th anniversary Gala marked the perfect return to celebrating our success in-person. Held May 3, 2022 at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, the evening was a sparkling success. Festivity and a touch of nostalgia were the bookends to a remarkable night. CEO Ron Colavito gave opening remarks and thanked the honorees: Emilio DiMatteo, Matteo Development LLC; Marshall Jaffe, Neuberger-Berman; Matthew Searles, Meritt Healthcare Advisors; and Amy Gelles, TGCW's former CEO.

"I had always wanted an agency to be fair and equitable. To that end I tried to create a positive supportive work environment to attract the best diverse talent needed to do our difficult and meaningful work—work that helps repair the world," shares Ms. Gelles.

Shawna Aarons-Cooke, senior vice president, served as a good-natured emcee, especially when she had to deliver a speech prepared by Jeff Ranbom who, at the last minute, had to forgo the Gala. In the remarks, Mr. Ranbom reflected on his time as not only a program participant but also a staff member at TGCW:

"You can uplift yourself by serving others. But it is not enough just to stand with a person who is



CHEERS 80 YEARS TO ANNUAL GALA HIGHLIGHTS

despondent, traumatized, or homeless—it is also our work to take on the responsibility of being a helping community. We can reestablish hope for many people who are fine and broken instruments—and piece them back together and fortify the community in the process.”

As always, we thank all those who attended as well as our generous sponsors. You can see more photos, the video journal, and a special 80th anniversary tribute on our website: TheGuidanceCenter.org/past_events



2022 GALA SPONSORS

GOLD – \$15,000

Kelly & André Hunter
Lance R. Wachenheim

SILVER – \$10,000

Charles & Ray Lickel
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
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Kevin & Gwen Reardon
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BRONZE – \$5,000

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Surgical Specialty Center of Westchester

PEWTER – \$3,000

Sandy Adelsberg
AffinityBST Advisors / Nicholas S. Preddice
Missy & Chris Avery
Naomi J. & Marshall W. Jaffe
Sheryl & Barry K. Schwartz
Rachel & Alex Stern

FRIEND – \$1,500

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