Reflections from Anahaita…

As we begin the New Year, I can’t help but reflect on the challenges we faced in 2021 and how we overcame them because of our amazing community of supporters. We had to get creative, work smarter, and be more persistent to help our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness. Thanks to you, we also expanded three vital areas; Employment Services, Housing Retention Services, and our College Success Program. These expansions allow us to do the intense work it takes to build self-sufficiency.

While our work is not done, and challenges remain, including Covid-19, I know we can do our best in 2022 with you standing by our side.

As we strive to build understanding about our mission, our theme this year is “Home.” From the Essay Contest topic “What Role Does Housing Play in Influencing Our Future?” to our upcoming “Journey Home” Experiences to our theme at this year’s gala “When I think of home”…we are looking forward to exploring this theme together throughout the year.

We have exciting plans for 2022 and we can’t wait to share them with you. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, you will find expressions of gratitude in this newsletter that I hope will Lift You Up as much as it Lifts Up the people you help and our staff on the front lines.

With Gratitude Always,

Anahaita Kotval, CEO
Sharing the Love

We truly appreciate each and every supporter of Lifting Up Westchester, from volunteer to donor. Here are some remarks from staff, volunteers, and clients who shared their gratitude and thoughts about the impact you make happen.

Miss Garcia, you are my whole inspiration if you haven’t noticed. You are the only teacher I’ve ever seen care this much about her students, like genuinely. You make learning geometry into a whole life lesson and I can’t even thank you enough for that.

No teacher has made us pay attention to our own self growth like you have. You’re truly amazing.

Here’s my vision board, just like you. Thank You! Xoxo, Rosario

You just made my heart melt. You are the reason I teach in Yonkers and work with Lifting Up Westchester. You are the future of the LatinX community.
— Miss Garcia

Dear Lifting Up Westchester,

This email is in appreciation of all services delivered to me during my stay in Open Arms. My mission from the outset, was to return to normalcy after repeated financial and emotional losses this year in a short amount of time.

Back story aside, Open Arms was by far the best experience that I had in a homeless shelter, chiefly the employment advisors.

At the outset, one may generalize that these people would advise a job in supermarket, loading dock, restaurant, or as a security guard. But the professionality and honesty of the team wiped out that generalization from what was displayed on the bulletin boards. The experience was more like physical therapy for the elite.

Charles, Jessica, and Elizabeth were with me the entire process to landing my Senior Systems Administrator role at Vestwell. Their guidance and use of equipment to facilitate interviews were second to none. The goal was always to return to normalcy without regression. One example, is due to the fact that my visual eye is deteriorating. Spelling leaves a lot to be desired. Mr. Stott’s offered help in resume writing, punctuation, and proofreading, along with Jessica and Elizabeth.

As to homeless shelters, Open Arms and especially the employment team was key to my road back to normalcy and I just can’t thank everyone involved with Lifting Up Westchester enough.

Regards,
Anthony
Hi Nancy,

What you do with LUW is extraordinary. The small amount of time I donate is part of a machine that serves the community and I love that.

Best regards,
Liz T

In Grace’s Kitchen, a guest was heard saying “I love seeing the staff and volunteers doing God’s work! Thanks to Ada I was able to get my SNAP certification.”

Wine Enthusiast

Dear Lauren,

We are so proud of the great work you do + your reputation in the community is stellar. Happy Holidays & take care.

Sy Bil

“As I reflect on 2021, the memories of so many past clients bubble up to the surface. However, in my four years at Lifting Up Westchester, one recent client named Michelle stands out from all the rest…

Michelle first came to Lifting Up Westchester back in 2018. Numerous roadblocks and barriers constantly delayed her eligibility to getting stable housing year after year but she would always re-apply. Anytime I called her to get updated information or provide her with housing leads, she was extremely thankful and kind. She was always understanding and patient with this tedious process.

This September, we were finally able to find Michelle a suitable apartment.

She called the office and said, “Roberta, thank you. Thank you so much for being patient with me. You never forgot about me or made me feel like I was chasing an impossible dream. You never made me feel like a burden. I am so appreciative. Thank you so much.”

The reality is, while we work every day to serve others, it is hard to see so many people suffering and at times we can feel down right broken – but clients like Michelle make our jobs worth it. Michelle reminded me that service to others is often not tangible, but knowing that there’s someone in your corner is priceless.”

—Roberta Young, LUW Housing Specialist

You’re Invited to Experience

The Journey Home... one hour tours to learn about our work.

Space will be limited. Masks required.

If you are interested in attending please sign up at LiftingUpWestchester.org/theJourneyHome

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Together We Lift

To get involved, donate or ask questions contact the Development Department.
www.liftingupwestchester.org
info@liftingupwestchester.org

Connect with us on social media:
@LiftingUpWestchester

4.28.22 COMMUNITY OF HOPE 2022 GALA

We are excited to announce the honorees for the 2022 Community of Hope Gala on Thursday, April 28th.

M & T Bank
Lois and Stephen Fendler
The Good Wolf – John Delf and Jade de Saussure
The Legacy of Barbara and Charles Wiggins

Special Honor to Lifting Up Westchester Staff of 25+ Years
Barbara Bento-Fleming | Ada Raiford
Denise Reshard | Eileen Torres

We are optimistic we can gather in person. Your health and safety are our first priority. We made the decision that all guests, event staff and LUW team members attending must be fully vaccinated and have a negative test. A reminder with complete COVID protocols will be sent before the event and updates can be found at liftingupwestchester.org.