



HELP US GO GREEN

by providing your email in the Keep In Touch form and stay up to date with our most recent newsletters, events, client stories, volunteer opportunities and more!

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www.liftingupwestchester.org

Together We Lift

Leveraging Resources to Build Secure and Healthy Futures

At Lifting Up Westchester, we are united by one, bold and unwavering goal: to help build a brighter future with each person we support so they can fully participate as members of the Westchester community. Achieving this goal requires systemic change and community members who are committed to housing and economic opportunity for all. Thanks to the steadfast support that we have received over the past 43 years, we aren't just providing shelter and food to people who need it, we are helping them achieve lasting and impactful change in their lives.

Because of you, we have made many steps this year towards this powerful impact. Recently, Lifting Up Westchester's (LUW's) Board and senior staff interviewed LUW's clients, community organizations/partners, and staff as part of a strategic planning process to identify ways to meaningfully improve or expand our services to meet community needs. At the conclusion of this process, we came up with the following 5 priorities:



- 1. Expand our current shelter-based employment readiness program** to a central location in White Plains so we can serve people participating in all our programs as well as clients from other organizations who have significant barriers to finding employment.
- 2. Turn Grace's Kitchen into a full day community center** to give people a place to spend the day if they have nowhere else to go, offer meals and snacks throughout the day, and provide socialization, health and wellness programs and other resources for people who may not otherwise have access to these things.
- 3. Create new ways of increasing the supply of available housing for people we support** by looking at ways to incentivize landlords to lease to our clients through bonuses, long term leases or group leasing.
- 4. Explore how we can improve our facilities** to better meet the needs of the people we support.
- 5. Invest in our staff** to ensure that we continue to reward high performing staff with pay that is both competitive with our peers and provides a living wage.

I am incredibly proud of the impact that Lifting Up Westchester has had in the past four decades and I am even more excited about developing these new pathways to help people achieve long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

With gratitude for your continued support and partnership,

Anahaita Kotval, CEO

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

For many people, the end of the year and the holiday season brings up feelings of community and gratitude. We want to express thanks to some of the amazing individuals, companies, and organizations who have donated their time and food to provide nutritious meals people need to thrive! With rising food costs, it has been harder than ever. So thank you, thank you, thank you to these foodies:

Bona Bona Ice Cream
DeCicco & Sons
DoughNation Pizza
Episcopal Charities
Field Hall Foundation
M&T Bank
New Moon Farms
Nordstrom

Rotary Club of
White Plains
RXR Development
ShopRite
Spiral Giving
The Brightwater Fund
Tompkins Financial
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of
White Plains

Utica Pie
Webster Bank
Wegmans
Westchester Marriott
White Plains Bake
Shoppe
Whole Foods
Wood and Fire
Pleasantville

PLEASE COORDINATE ALL FOOD DONATIONS with Nancy Inzinna at ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org or 914-949-3098 ext. 9735. This helps prevent food waste and helps us to plan nutritious meals. If you or someone you know has access to quality and affordable protein or produce, let us know!

Get Your Kids Involved

Our annual essay contest is right around the corner!

Created by Hannah Nelson, LUW board member in memory of her sister Beth Massey Rubens, a lifelong teacher,

tutor, and mentor who had a love for language arts, our essay contest encourages students to reflect on LUW's mission.

The contest is open to all students grades 7-12 who live in or attend school in Westchester County.

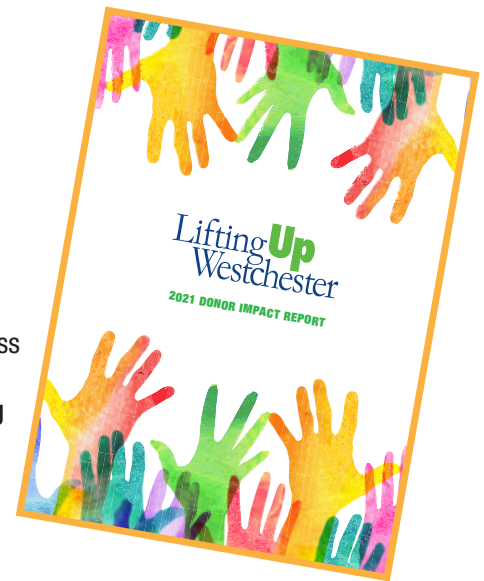
This year's topic centers around mental health and how to end the stigma attached to mental health and homelessness.

Go to www.liftingupwestchester.org for more information.



You Make a Difference!

Check out our **2021 Donor Impact Report** to see the difference that you made in the lives of over 2,500 adults, children, and families experiencing homelessness in Westchester. **Go to liftingupwestchester.org to read the report.**



The Journey Home

Join us for a one hour tour to learn more about our mission and impact!

This is a free - no solicitation event.

To select your date and to sign up go to www.liftingupwestchester.org

Lifting Up
Westchester

Reflections from LUW Community Kitchen Volunteers

We want to extend a very special thank you to our Community Kitchen Volunteers. Every week, they are the smiling faces who greet and serve our guests. We are infinitely grateful for your commitment to the community.

Mary, Volunteer for 9 months

The most impactful part of volunteering is getting to do hands on work and interacting with our guests. I worked in communications at an international NGO, which is important in its own right, but it's nice to feel connected and give back to my community.

So many of our guests are kind, gracious and grateful to have a place inside to share a meal with others. There is definitely a sense of community in this space.



John, Volunteer for 1 year

The most impactful part of volunteering with LUW is giving people a piece of my soul. I try to be relatable and always say hi when I see guests outside of the Community Kitchen.

One thing that surprised me is the sense of community. Everyone knows the staff and volunteers and it really brightens my days.



Shane, Volunteer for 1 year

I always wanted to volunteer but I was so busy at work that I never ended up doing it. Eventually, I realized that I would never have the time unless I made the time, so now I help at the Community Kitchen once a week.

Nothing else during my week gives me this feeling, you truly get more than you give.



Sacha, Volunteer for 7 months

I was surprised by how many different stories people have and the different backgrounds. I expected all of the guests to be homeless but many are underemployed and need help covering the costs of day to day life.

Even if you don't have time to come to the kitchen, there are so many ways that you can get involved by doing DIY projects. Emergency care kits, etc. they are tangible ways to give back and you can get your kids involved too!



Robert, Volunteer for 4 months

Originally, I saw Westchester as a wealthy county where everyone is doing above average financially, but that isn't the case. There are so many people who are struggling in plain sight, but a lot of people don't notice them and go about their lives. Living in White Plains, I see many of the Community Kitchen guests that I didn't think twice about before. Now I know their stories and the hardships they face.



Shari, Greeter, Volunteer for 1 month

This is my third week volunteering and I love it! Today is my birthday and I was happy to come to the Community Kitchen.

People should volunteer because why not? If you have the time, it is important to focus less on material items and more on what we can do to help others.



If you are interested in volunteering in our Community Kitchen or in any other capacity, please reach out to our Engagement Manager, Nancy Inzinna at ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org or 914-949-3098 ext. 9735.

Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.

— Helen Keller

Lifting Up Westchester

35 Orchard Street, White Plains, NY 10603

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](https://www.instagram.com/LiftingUpWestchester)



How you can Help for the Holidays:

REGIFT UNUSED GIFTS & GIFT CARDS

Send us your unused gifts & gift cards and we'll pass them on to the men, women and children in our many programs. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

HOLIDAY TOYS & OTHER JOYS

You can bring holiday smiles to homeless children by donating toys and gift cards... the only gifts that some of them will get. Gifts for adults are needed too.

HOLIDAY MEALS

You can help provide 2,000 holiday meals and fill 500 holiday grocery bags to support our holiday meal celebrations.



Go to our volunteer page liftingupwestchester.org/volunteer
or reach out to Nancy Inzinna ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org to learn more!