



Lifting Up Westchester Board and Senior Staff Celebrating Completing the Strategic Plan

Thinking Strategically

2022 was a significant year for Lifting Up Westchester laying the groundwork for changing the way the community thinks about people who become unhoused and the support they need to be independent and self-sufficient. It was a year to be grateful to everyone who helped make an impact on people's lives and to prepare for the challenges ahead.

In our Summer Newsletter we highlighted the key results of our Strategic Plan conducted by LUW Board and senior staff.

You can find a copy on our website. We believe our strategy is both realistic and reflective of a problem-solving/pro-outcome approach to permanently help people achieve stability and independence in their lives. We have already begun to tackle our strategic priorities because of your support and commitment to making lives better for everyone.

The name of this newsletter is "Together We Lift" because we simply cannot provide the right support without you.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT SET THE STAGE FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT:

Data: LUW customized a client data system for each LUW program for the purpose of tracking client service participation and outcomes across all LUW programs, as well as aggregating data to identify trends in needs, areas for improvement, and gaps in service delivery. Client data is now being entered into this system for 2023.

Staff Development: Monthly staff training and development workshops took place to build the skill sets of LUW employees in all programs and departments. We spent a lot of time learning about Trauma Informed Care to better help both our clients and our staff on the front lines.

Staff Salaries: We continued our efforts to raise staff pay to remain competitive, retain quality employees and offer all LUW employees a living wage. Through advocacy efforts, we secured increases in some of our government contracts and were able to increase our lowest wage workers (shelter overnight workers) to a living wage. We will continue to build on this success so staff in other programs also receive needed increases.

continued inside

New Mission and Vision

Thanks to the Branding Committee – Despina Kartson, Leslie Green, and Kat Nemecek for working with Anahaita and Lauren to bring clarity, heart, and impact. The new mission, vision and tagline reflects the depth of our work and the connection to the well being of the entire community.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide life-changing support to people who have lost their housing or are struggling to meet other basic needs. We work together with those we serve to build a more secure future for them and their families.



OUR VISION

Lifting Up Westchester is united by one, bold and unwavering belief: that stable housing is the foundation on which human wellbeing and advancement is built. When people have a secure, affordable home, they can focus on advancing their employment, education, and health. We help individuals find that home and build on that foundation to achieve greater self-sufficiency. When we support others in living healthier and more productive lives, our entire community benefits.

OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK

We provide comprehensive support to people in crisis by:

- Providing emergency shelter, food, and support to keep people safe.
- Facilitating employment readiness and securing job opportunities to increase and sustain income.
- Finding safe and affordable homes of all types and providing ongoing support to maintain the stability of that housing.
- Coordinating and navigating community resources to obtain personalized support.
- Offering education and mentoring services to youth who are homeless or in unstable housing so they can achieve success.

LIFTING UP WESTCHESTER 2023 GALA CELEBRATING LIFELINES TO LASTING CHANGE



SAVE THE DATE
for Our Super Fun Big Impact Gala
Thursday, April 27, 2023
at Fogo De Chão. White Plains

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOREES



AVALON BAY...

AvalonBay Communities, Inc. is an equity REIT in the business of developing, redeveloping, acquiring and managing multifamily communities primarily in New England, the New York/New Jersey metro area, the Mid-Atlantic, the Pacific Northwest, and Northern and Southern California.

Rooted in its core value of A Spirit of Caring, AvalonBay has a long-standing history of building strong communities by giving back. AvalonBay deepened its commitment in 2015 launching its Building Strong Communities philanthropy program and community engagement strategy, which focuses on community preparedness and disaster relief, affordable housing, and support for at risk populations. Over the last 5 years, AvalonBay has been proud to partner with Lifting Up Westchester to help achieve their mission of providing support to men, women and children in need.



LEON FEIGENBAUM...

Leon Feigenbaum is one of Lifting Up Westchester's outstanding volunteers and supporters. Leon has contributed hundreds of hours of his time to LUW over the years, including coordinating meals for the kids during summer camp, volunteering at the Golf Outing, coordinating food prep and serving meals at our holiday events, and being a greeter throughout the year in the Community Kitchen. Leon always has a keen eye to help us improve our service delivery. After moving to the U.S. from Cape Town, South Africa in 1977, Leon ran his own leather garment manufacturing business, Chordas Inc., and in prior years was in logistical operational leadership roles for various companies. While Leon is now retired, his passion for feeding and caring for people in need combined with his operational skills have impacted LUW staff and the people we support in remarkable ways.



SYLVIA AND WALTER SIMON...

Walter and Sylvia Simon have been advocates since 1980 for Westchester County residents who become homeless. Caring for people who lost their housing and were living on the streets was not seen as a priority in the 80's. When a man experiencing homelessness died alone outside one freezing cold winter day, the Simons and their fellow Grace Episcopal Church parishioners took to the streets carrying a coffin to raise awareness of the need for homeless services. Walter was a founding board member of what was then called Grace Community Center and is today Lifting Up Westchester (LUW). Sylvia started as an active volunteer at LUW's Neighbors Home Care and assisted in the creation of Samaritan House, LUW's Women's Shelter. Over the decades, Walter and Sylvia have remained active supporters of Lifting Up Westchester's efforts to support people regaining their independence.



ENTERTAINMENT...KENNETH SALAZ, "THE MASTER OF ASTONISHMENT"

Mr. Salaz is one of the world's premier Corporate Entertainers. His astonishing abilities have been featured on National Television including "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon", and the CBS "Early Show." His client list is filled with A-list celebrities like Howard Stern, and Bruce Springsteen, heads of state (Colin Powell) and fortune 500 companies (IBM, Google, etc). He is a unique and rare entertainer because he is able to provide a wide variety of entertainment including Mentalism, Magic, Mind-reading, and Pick Pocketing. You will be captivated by his interactive, friendly, and humorous style of entertainment.

Sponsor and reserve your tickets early as we will expected to sell out. www.liftingupwestchester.org/events

Thinking Strategically continued from front cover

Prevention & Outcome Based Initiatives:

Consistent with our vision to catch people either before they lose their housing or early-on in their experience of homelessness, we have laid the foundation to launch two new initiatives in 2023:

- Expanding our employment readiness, job placement and employment retention program through the launch of a new employment center which will serve not only LUW clients but clients of other social services providers in Westchester.
- Expanding the community kitchen to a full day program providing educational, social and health and wellness programming in addition to the meal program and case management support currently offered.

*Thanks to the KeyBank Foundation and the A2Foundation for foundational support for the Employment Center. With everyone's support in 2023 and thanks to the **matching challenge gift below**, we can successfully launch these two centers.*

CHALLENGES:

Retaining and hiring qualified employees: The competition for talent in the post-pandemic world has impacted LUW as it has all employers. In addition, many people are leaving the human services field. It is difficult to find qualified candidates and to retain and hire qualified employees.

The second challenge is that we have to make salary commitments without knowing how much money we will raise till the end of the year. Ultimately, we would like to raise sufficient reserves so that we have a year and a half to two years of operating budget on hand so we can make salary and other longer-term program and capacity investments with confidence.

Stay tuned for more outcomes and impact in our 2022 Donor Impact Report coming this spring.

“I was determined to change my life for the better. With nowhere to go, I ended up at Open Arms Men’s Shelter. That was the best thing that could have happened. The employment staff helped me write my resume and cover letter, and they helped me practice answering interview questions. Thankfully I was able to get a full time job in environmental services at a local hospital.” — David, LUW Client

Big Impact...Big Challenge

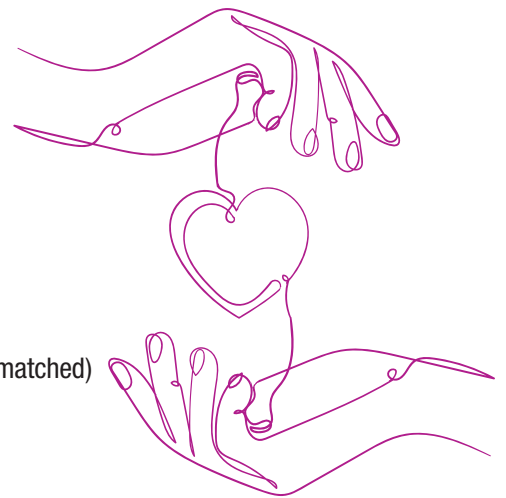
Thanks to an amazing family, their awesome generosity, and their understanding that we need to do more to support people who are unhoused, under/unemployed, and unable to meet basic needs, **LUW has received a \$200,000 matching challenge grant** to help launch the two new initiatives in 2023: The Community Center and The Employment Center.

The following gifts donated between January and April of 2023 are eligible*:

- New donors and past 2021 & prior donors who give \$1,000 + (100% matched)
- Donors who gave less than \$1000 in 2022 who upgrade to \$1,000 + (100% matched)
- Donors who gave \$1,000 + in 2022 who increase their donation (100% of the increase matched)

If there was ever a time to increase your donation, sponsorship or become a new \$1,000+ donor this is it!

**Includes donors making monthly donations totally \$1,000+ over twelve months and pledges payable in 2023.*



**Lifting Up
Westchester**

Journey Home Events

Journey Home

Come join us for a one hour tour to learn about our mission and impact! Visit www.liftingupwestchester.org

- January 12th – 9:00am at Open Arms Men’s Shelter**
- February 9th – 8:30am at Samaritan House Women’s Shelter**
- March 9th – 9:00am at Open Arms Men’s Shelter**
- April 13th – 8:30am at Samaritan House Women’s Shelter**

Special Thanks to Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner Volunteers and Everyone Who Contributed



Thank you for giving up some family time to give back on Thanksgiving to provide a hot meal and kindness to the guests at our Community Kitchen! Angelo, Nicholas, Milagros, Tommy, Jenn, Suzanne, Marley, Dana, Elizabeth, Leon, Debra, Michael, Robert, Lissa, Dan, Sofia, Penny, Anthony, Lillian, Charles, Matthew, Elizabeth, Margaret, Michael, Melissa, Jody, Nick, Ilaria, Cinzia, Jackson, Penelope, Kol Ami Synagogue and Wells Fargo Advisors.

Thanks for our rock star chef's Andrew, Naomi, Ed, and Harry for assisting Chef Stef in cooking Christmas Eve and Day meals for the men staying at our Open Arms shelter.

Thanks to the Avalon Bay team for putting up the Christmas decorations. Thanks to Bartaco, DeChicco's, and Claudia and Westchester Foodies for providing hams, turkeys, and chickens.

Thanks to Tom, Elena, Lou, Kieran, Mary, Michele, Eunice, Nick, Bet Am Shalom Congregation, Our Lady of Sorrows Parishioners, Bartaco, Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry, Pladis, and Corina for providing Christmas meals and gifts to guests coming to our Community Kitchen. Everyone enjoyed extra special food and guests at the Community Kitchen had plenty to take home.

One woman was so touched that with tears in her eyes she thanked everyone for the food and gifts she was able to bring home to her teenage son. These are the many heartfelt moments you made possible in 2022.

To get involved, donate or ask questions contact the Development Department.

www.liftingupwestchester.org

info@liftingupwestchester.org

Connect with us on social media:

@LiftingUpWestchester



**Above: Showing appreciation to our staff on Thanksgiving.
Left: Training a new generation to give back to our community!**