

“THEY CARE FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE.”

When Yolanda and her two adult daughters came to the U.S., they settled in Westchester. Despite both daughters’ employment, the family of three was living on a tight budget due to the high cost of living—and food often didn’t make the cut. Yolanda feared difficult times for her family.

A friend suggested that Yolanda visit the Greenburgh Health Center, a Feeding Westchester community partner, for help. There she found healthy food—and more. She felt seen and cared for.

“The truth is that I was very pleasantly impressed because I was treated with affection,” she says. Yolanda found the community there to be friendly, generous, and empathetic.

“This program was, for me, a moment of salvation,” Yolanda says.

Through the food pantry, she found fresh fruit and vegetables and other healthy options. “This program was, for me, a moment of salvation,” she says. And Yolanda shudders to think about life without it. “I don’t want to imagine it,” she continues. “I would be going through very difficult times.”

Your generous support means that Yolanda and her daughters receive regular access to nutritious food, along with a community that truly cares.

Thank you for being a community that stands by its neighbors—each and every one.

THANK YOU FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES.



Yolanda

**Look inside for
these stories!**

Partners for Change
Battle Food Waste
See Your Impact

A MESSAGE FROM **THE CEO**

As we kick off a new year, I want to thank you for your incredible support over the holiday season. Because of you, we could ensure that our Westchester County neighbors facing hunger had holiday meals. Because of you, they gathered with loved ones and made lasting memories.

You helped provide more than 8,000 whole turkeys alongside whole chickens, fruit, vegetables, and beloved holiday staples like stuffing. That's why I'm grateful that we have committed supporters like you who help nourish our neighbors no matter the season.

In this issue, Yolanda's story (pg. 1) illustrates a beautiful example of how your support changes lives. Below, you can see how our

agency conference has helped strengthen our network of hunger-fighting partners, equipping them with knowledge and strategies to better support our neighbors.

Lastly, we hope you'll attend our signature event, *An Evening in Good Taste*, on April 18.

Thank you for all that you do for our Westchester community. It is an honor to work alongside you.

Gratefully,

Karen C. Erren
President & CEO

YOUR SUPPORT EMPOWERS **COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT HUNGER**

How do we achieve long-term transformation in the fight against hunger? It's a question that Feeding Westchester tackled at our *Hunger, Health, and Equity: Creating Sustainable Change in Our Communities* agency conference last September. Featuring Keynote speaker, Joel Berg, CEO of Hunger Free America, the event served as a communal space to hear from our hunger-fighting partners about the challenges we collectively face and to share ideas and solutions.

Feeding Westchester President & CEO, Karen C. Erren, and other team members spoke about our upcoming plans to strengthen our hunger-relief systems. And a panel discussion on *Creating Sustainable Change* was held with leaders from our partner food pantries.

"85% of the food we provide is distributed by our amazing partners. We can't nourish our neighbors without them."
- Tami Wilson, Feeding Westchester COO

Breakout sessions sought to empower our partners with the knowledge and resources they need to enhance their operations. Topics included building a volunteer force, diversifying funding sources, educating partners on the importance of technology and data to better meet clients' needs, and strategies for partners seeking new funding.

You're helping neighborhood pantries, churches, shelters, and more **better serve a community that needs them.**



Ken Jenkins,
Deputy County Executive

TOGETHER WE ARE **FEEDING WESTCHESTER**

STUDENT WARRIORS BATTLE FOOD WASTE

The Hastings Waste Warriors are on a mission to fight hunger. When Farragut Middle School encouraged students to make a social impact, this group of 9th graders began researching various causes. Hajeong (on the far left of the photo) and her friends recognized a paradox in their school: hundreds of pounds of food were being thrown away each month while many students were facing food insecurity.

The students mobilized to end food waste and fundraised for Feeding Westchester to support our food recovery efforts. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the Hastings Waste Warriors raised \$1,019 and their donation will support our programs that prevent good food from ending up in a landfill. During Pride Month, the students held a silent auction as part of their school's fundraising event to raise even more funds for neighbors facing hunger. Thanks to donors like you, the next generation of food waste warriors have a place where they can make a difference in our community.



Together, we're creating a space for the next generation to help build a better tomorrow.

FOOD IS A LIFELINE TO HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

Feeding Westchester volunteers like Kate Fink are an integral part of feeding the community—with her help, we are fighting hunger on college campuses. We asked her to share why she loves serving others:



"My favorite part of volunteering is the satisfaction of knowing that the food we distribute reaches those who truly need it. It's about ensuring that everyone, especially those who might otherwise struggle to find easy access to food, gets a fair chance to have a nourishing meal. Food is more than sustenance; it's a lifeline to hope and opportunity."

-Kate Fink, Associate Professor at Pace University and Feeding Westchester volunteer

JOIN US

Company Matching

Many employers offer matching gift programs to encourage their employees to support charitable causes such as hunger relief. Some may match your gift or volunteer time dollar for dollar—and sometimes by much more. See if your employer will match your donation by visiting [FeedingWestchester.org/matchinggifts!](https://FeedingWestchester.org/matchinggifts)

UPCOMING EVENTS

An Evening in Good Taste

April 18, 2024, 7 - 9:30 pm

Westchester's top chefs and drink purveyors will come together in support of our community and neighbors in need. Guests are invited to enjoy a night of exquisite cuisine, fine wine, craft beers, and specialty cocktails, while networking with fellow Feeding Westchester supporters. *An Evening in Good Taste* is not to be missed! All event proceeds remain in our community, helping to bring healthy, nutritious food to Westchester's neighbors struggling with hunger.

To learn more, visit
FeedingWestchester.org/aeigt



Feeding Westchester serves Westchester County, providing food to a hunger-relief network of nearly 300 partners and programs. With a mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger, we source and distribute good, nutritious food and other resources wherever they are needed most.

Feeding Westchester is located at:
200 Clearbrook Road,
Elmsford, NY 10523
914.923.1100

FeedingWestchester.org

Donate online at:

FeedingWestchester.org/give

For other ways to get involved:

FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved

Follow us on:



SEE YOUR IMPACT OVER THE LAST YEAR



Neighbor visits
monthly average

223,761

Child visits through
pantries, deliveries,
and school programs
monthly average

81,087



Fresh produce
distributed

**8
MILLION**



Pounds of food distributed

20.6 MILLION



Number of meals distributed

17.2 MILLION



“I am an ardent advocate to alleviating hunger. This topic is very personal to me. I can't tell you how many times I opened the refrigerator as a child, and it was empty. Having to go to school and live life through that is incredibly difficult.”

- *Lucria Ortiz, Former President & CEO Yonkers Family YMCA, Feeding Westchester partner*

We wish Lucria the best in her new role as President and CEO of The Opportunity Network. **THANK YOU, Lucria, for your incredible service to Westchester County.**

