

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Feeding Westchester's Agency & Partner Conference

September 24, 2024

Feeding Westchester's annual Agency Conference unites our comprehensive network of partners who play a crucial role in the ongoing fight against hunger in Westchester County. This conference holds in-depth discussions on the current state of the industry, our recent successes, previous challenges, and new creative solutions to our collaborative process to enhance our ongoing efforts to nourish our neighbors in need.



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](https://FeedingWestchester.org)

### Donate online at:

[FeedingWestchester.org/give](https://FeedingWestchester.org/give)

### For other ways to get involved:

[FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved](https://FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved)

### Follow us on:



# SEE YOUR IMPACT

APRIL '23 - MARCH '24



Neighbor visits  
monthly average

**225,000**



Pounds of fresh  
produce distributed

**8.1 MILLION**

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

**80,000**



Pounds of food distributed

**21.4 MILLION**



Number of meals distributed

**17.8 MILLION**



Retail Recovery (pounds recovered)

**4.4 MILLION**



## FEEDING WESTCHESTER CELEBRATES MS. SUZANNE'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Our staff was honored to celebrate Suzanne Johnson, fondly known as Ms. Suzanne, for her three decades of dedication and compassion at Feeding Westchester. The surprise festivities featured her son Jerrell, a 16-year Feeding Westchester veteran, and her daughter Kelly.

**Your support of Feeding Westchester** allows amazing people like Suzanne to do the work she was meant to do!

# FEEDING WESTCHESTER

# SUMMER

2024 NEWSLETTER

## PAINTING HOPE: "A NEW BEGINNING"

"Am I going to eat today? Am I going to find food tomorrow?" Linda Ramos, a 55-year-old single mother in Mount Vernon, reflects on her lowest moment. "You wonder if you're being a bad mom because you don't have the food that you need."

Linda's journey hasn't been easy. Battling domestic violence while pregnant with her now 16-year-old son Jaden, Linda found herself alone, seeking refuge in a shelter without family support. But her story didn't end there.

Hope emerged six years ago when Linda discovered Feeding Westchester through Jaden's school. Since then, Linda counts on food from Feeding Westchester through regular visits to our partner Westchester Community Health Center (WCHC). Thanks to your generosity, she can now afford to feed her family healthy and nutritious foods. And the food support alleviates financial strain, allowing her to cover rent and other living expenses.

Linda has turned to painting as a form of therapy, with each artwork carrying an inspirational message. One piece is titled "A New Beginning," symbolizing Linda's new-found optimism. "Feeding Westchester helps us know that there is hope," she says.

"The future looks good," Linda continues. "Jaden is going to be the first one that goes to college. It's like a mother's dream."

**Your support fuels transformational stories** like Linda's and helps forge partnerships with organizations like WCHC to ensure food reaches people in need.



Linda and Jaden

**Look inside for  
these stories!**

"Sun-sational" Event

Advocacy Works

See Your Impact



A MESSAGE FROM **THE CEO**

As you receive this newsletter, we will have just wrapped up our fiscal year 2024. While we await the final numbers, we know your support never wavers. We are grateful to live and work in a community that is so caring and supportive.

In this issue, you will meet Linda and her son Jaden, neighbors who count on support from Feeding Westchester in partnership with the Westchester Community Health Center in Mount Vernon. Many of you saw Linda’s poignant story in a moving video featured at An Evening In Good Taste, our annual celebration of Westchester’s exceptional cuisine. We truly savored this year’s event—

breaking records for attendees, participating restaurants, and funds raised. We couldn’t be more appreciative!

While summer brings beauty in nature, we remain focused on addressing the seasonal needs of our community, particularly additional support for kids on break who are without free and reduced school lunches for the summer. As always, we couldn’t do it without you!

Gratefully,  
*Karen*  
Karen C. Erren  
President & CEO



**A "SUN-SATIONAL" EVENT ECLIPSES EXPECTATIONS**

It was out of this world! Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) recently teamed up with Feeding Westchester to host a "Sun-sational" solar eclipse watch party on the scenic Yonkers riverfront. Thanks to your generosity, Feeding Westchester provided eclipse-themed snacks—including Sun Chips, Capri Sun, and oranges—along with solar-eclipse viewing glasses to more than 200 participating teens from YPIE’s afterschool program.

The watch party not only evoked awe but also showcased the impactful partnership between YPIE and Feeding Westchester. Marisa Swift, Senior Director of Operations at YPIE, captured the day’s magic: "Thank you for an amazing event! One student told me this was the coolest thing she has ever seen!"

The gathering illustrates the power of community, education, and partnerships in shaping brighter futures. With your support, we’re illuminating the path to achievement for over 1,200 Yonkers high school students enrolled in the YPIE program, which equips students for college success. When the next solar eclipse happens in 2044, these teens will have emerged as accomplished college graduates and will be thriving in their thirties.

**Thank you for making impactful moments** like this possible with our partners while creating brighter futures for teens in our community!



TOGETHER WE ARE  
**FEEDING WESTCHESTER**

**ADVOCACY WORKS FOR ALL OF US**

We asked — you responded! And we’re so grateful. Thanks to nearly 400 advocates here in Westchester County who signed petitions, we’ve secured critical funding for anti-hunger programs. Your support ensures that our neighbors receive nutritious food when they need it most.

Here’s a breakdown of the total funding amounts by program, which shows the impact of your collective efforts:

- \$57.8 million for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)
- \$54.3 million for Nourish New York (NNY)
- \$5.6 million for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)
- \$11.0 million in additional funding to support School Meals

While we didn’t achieve every goal, your voice was pivotal in securing this funding to combat hunger here in Westchester and across the state. But our work doesn’t end here. We remain dedicated to advocating for our neighbors in need.

Want to join the fight? Visit [FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved/advocacy/](https://FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved/advocacy/) to learn how you can lend your voice in the fight against hunger!

**THANK YOU for being a driving force behind positive change in our communities!**

**BAKING THE PERFECT PARTNERSHIP**

"The recent event hosted by LMNOP Bakery in Katonah spotlighted food insecurity in our community, while raising awareness of Feeding Westchester and the Community Center of Northern Westchester’s partnership to combat hunger.

We appreciate Feeding Westchester’s support, along with local residents and businesses who volunteer their time, donate food, and help raise funds to make our work possible.

We were delighted to thank LMNOP Bakery for their extraordinary generosity in providing freshly baked bread to people relying on the Community Center for support. Since 2020, LMNOP Bakery has donated almost 7,000 lbs. of delicious bread. Truly neighbors helping neighbors, and we are forever grateful!"

- Clare Murray  
Executive Director  
Community Center of  
Northern Westchester

**We extend a special thank you to Board Member Heberto (Herbie) Calves who had the vision, and led the planning, for this event.**



**JOIN US**

**Become a Nourishing Neighbor**

Join our Nourishing Neighbors monthly giving program to ensure we always have the resources needed to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger. When you make a monthly donation to Feeding Westchester, you immediately become a Nourishing Neighbor. It’s simple to sign up and easy to update or change billing details at any time via our secure donor portal. Consider making a monthly donation today—it’s what sustains Feeding Westchester’s most-needed programs and our neighbors. **Join at [FeedingWestchester.org/monthly](https://FeedingWestchester.org/monthly)**