

The Guidance Center of Westchester

TIMES

Spring 2019



FutureWorks!

You don't need a crystal ball to see that trained, qualified candidates are needed for a myriad of construction projects sprouting throughout Westchester County. The problem isn't a lack of jobs; it's a lack of programs that can get candidates trained, credentialed, and ready to work in an effective and timely manner.

TGCW's answer: FutureWorks, a construction vocational skills training program run through our Center for College & Careers (CCC), funded by Westchester Community Foundation, and implemented in partnership with Soulful Synergy.

"The need for a vocational skills training program that leads to a successful career in a high-demand field such as the construction industry is more critical than ever," says Deputy Executive Director for the CCC Daniel Bonnet. "Young adults—particularly individuals with no more than a high school education—struggle to obtain

and maintain jobs that pay enough to support themselves and permit upward mobility. The construction industry is one of the largest and fastest growing employment sectors in Westchester County and offers a middle-income wage."

The curriculum is employer-driven so that FutureWorks graduates receive certifications and credentials that meet the critical need for entry-level positions or apprenticeships. FutureWorks includes three weeks of required certification courses followed by one week of optional certification and hands-on learning experiences.

Thanks to Westchester Community Foundation, FutureWorks is free for people 17-24 years old from New Rochelle or Mount Vernon. The first FutureWorks session began March 4 and had 16 participants. Registration is open for the June and July session. Course details are on our website:

TheGuidanceCenter.org.

The Guidance Center of Westchester

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FROM THE CEO

Learn. Work. Thrive.



This newsletter focuses on work. Meaningful work plays a vital role in the lives of our program participants as they work toward recovery in mental health and substance use. Whether someone is seeking first-time employment or looking to return to the workforce after an extended absence, TGCW stands ready to help. As you'll read, our vocational programs are growing by leaps and bounds. As we work to eliminate the barriers to employment that our participants face, we are grateful that you are supporting us—and them—along the way. Together, we thrive.

Chief Executive Officer

Honorees

Emcee



Dawna Michelle
Fields



GEM Management Partners LLC
(George, Edward, and
Michael Nukho)



Sonny
Hagendorf



Erica
Hill

May 14 Gala

Drum roll, please! Introducing the prestigious honorees for our May 14, 2019 Gala:

- Dawna Michelle Fields (Mount Vernon), National Program Manager—Bright Smiles, Bright Futures, NA, Colgate-Palmolive Company
- GEM Management Partners LLC (Yonkers), George Nukho, Edward Nukho, and Michael Nukho
- Sonny Hagendorf (New Rochelle), President, Columbian Stamp Company, Inc.

"This year's honorees are a wonderful example of partners and friends who are committed to helping create a Westchester where everyone, regardless of age or

circumstance, has the opportunity to learn, work, and thrive," says Mitzi Ambrose-Washington, co-chair of the event. "They are all leaders in helping to remove the barriers that some of the most vulnerable Westchester residents face when it comes to treatment for mental health or substance use issues, education, housing, and employment."

We are delighted that award-winning journalist Erica Hill, of CNN, will again join us as the emcee. Ms. Hill captivated our guests during our 75th Anniversary Gala in 2017.

Tickets and sponsorships are available through our website: TheGuidanceCenter.org/events

Together, we thrive—please be there!

Core Rehabilitation Services

“First of all, Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) have absolutely nothing to do with abdominal strength,” laughs Allison Watson, coordinator of vocational services. “CRS is a career and employment program for adults and young adults who have mental health, learning, or substance use disorders. We do in-depth assessments and evaluations to help participants identify skills and interests. We go on to work with participants on everything from preparing for interviews through on-going job support.”

What are they, anyhow?

As part of our vocational services, CRS offers training, educational support, and job coaching to help participants develop and attain a plan for employment or continuing education.

In order to participate in CRS, a person needs to have an open case with New York State Education Department (NYSED) Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES-VR). Ms. Watson can also assist with the ACCES-VR application process.

To learn more, email us at VocationalServices@TheGuidanceCenter.org.

It's not just fun & games

Picture yourself wandering around the New York Toy Fair at the Javits Center as it is full of the hottest and newest products to hit the toy market. Now, imagine that you've been given a \$5,000 budget to buy any items you want to sell at your employer's store. This remarkable scenario, which invokes images of being gifted a "golden ticket" in Willy Wonka, is exactly where Claudia C., a former TGCW Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) participant, found herself thanks to the vision and leadership of Kemesha Salmon, owner of TP Toys and Accessories in New Rochelle.

After SYEP ended, Kemesha hired Claudia, noting how Claudia matured over the course of the program. "She's definitely more responsible. She's open to suggestions and seeks advice," says Kemesha.

In February, Kemesha asked Claudia to join her at the Toy Fair to help select items for the store. "It made me feel so valued," says Claudia. "I had to stop and think about which items to choose." With Kemesha's blessing, Claudia exceeded her shopping budget by \$800. She chose some educational products, a light up car (which has already received rave reviews from customers), and some traditional board games, like Mancala.

"It was amazing," Claudia continues. "I've really enjoy working with Kemesha at TP Toys. I definitely have more confidence and carry myself differently."

TGCW salutes Claudia on her success and applauds Kemesha on her commitment to helping our youth find the meaning and purpose of work.

If you're interested in supporting our youth employment programs, email CCC@TheGuidanceCenter.org



Getting the rundown on the newest toys.



Angry Birds take over the Javits Center.

Estate planning

Bern Livingston, a lifelong supporter and board director of TGCW, was a firm believer that everyone should have access to mental health services. A gift of \$100,000 through his will has assured that the work of The Guidance Center of Westchester toward this goal will continue. You can follow Bern's example and put TGCW in your will. Contact Ahyatt@TheGuidanceCenter.org to get started.



The Guidance Center
of Westchester

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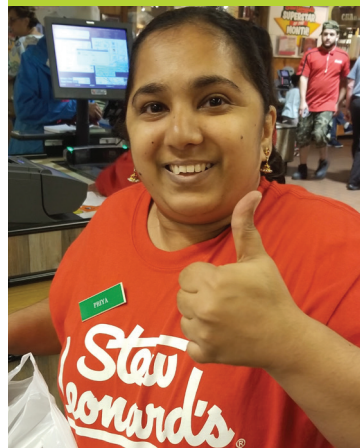
Bernard Livingston

1917 – 2018

Serving up confidence



Allison Watson (right) encourages Priya as she sells snacks at TGCW.



Priya enjoying a great day at work.

At first, her call of “snacks” was barely above a whisper as she pushed the trolley loaded with iced teas, sodas, nuts, yogurt, salads, and crackers down the halls at TGCW’s 256 Washington Street offices. But, once Priya saw how appreciative staff was to have the opportunity to buy a light lunch or afternoon treat, her voice began to grow.

Priya’s snack trolley experience emerged from the small business course, which is offered through TGCW’s Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services (PROS). This particular course gives participants the opportunity to practice work-related skills in a familiar setting, helping them gain confidence so that they can go on to pursue employment in the community.

For Priya, the snack trolley role was just what she needed. With the new found self-confidence cultivated during the experience, she applied for and obtained a job at Stew Leonard’s. With support from her TGCW job coach and the management at Stew’s, Priya is happily working part time and thriving in her role.