

Media Contact:

Michelle Barbero
Assistant Account Executive
Buzz Creators, Inc.
(914) 358-5080
michelle@buzz-creators.com



**NONPROFIT WESTCHESTER HONORS CHANGEMAKERS AT
THE 2022 KEEP WESTCHESTER THRIVING AWARDS CEREMONY**

This distinction recognizes active professionals and organizations in the County's nonprofit sector.

White Plains, New York – December 2, 2022 – This week at the [Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) Annual Meeting and Keep Westchester Thriving Awards Ceremony, more than 250 attendees celebrated the work of NPW, the nonprofit sector and the winners of the 2022 Changemaker Awards.

“Selecting a few of the many exceptional nonprofit professionals for the changemaker awards was a daunting task. This year’s honorees reflect the best attributes of our sector – commitment, innovation, collaboration and work that is changing systems and advancing equity,” stressed Jan Fisher, Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester. “While volunteers and board members are recognized at so many events for their tremendous contributions to nonprofit agencies, the nonprofit workforce and sector as a whole, seldom receives such deserving accolades. NPW is so proud to provide the platform to do this.”

Those honored last night were:

Karin Anderson Ponzer, Esq., Ph.D., [Director of Neighbors Link Community Law Practice](#), was recognized for building a nonprofit immigration law practice that is holistic, comprehensive, and collaborative. Focusing on clients who are often retraumatized from telling their stories and staff members who often experience secondary trauma, Dr. Ponzer has integrated critical support into legal services to help lawyers and paralegals succeed in their challenging work and immigrants thrive in their new communities.

Steve Myrthil, Vice President of IT at [Westhab](#), was honored for leading efforts to address the urgent technological needs of over 10,000 shelter and affordable housing residents across Westchester and New York City. He dedicates his time to elevating underserved communities and creates solutions that help thousands of students and teachers across New York and Connecticut learn remotely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

[The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester](#) has been named a changemaker because of its innovative, collaborative, and life-changing programs that tackle the racial injustices rooted in the criminal legal system and provide pathways for justice-involved young people ages 16 to 25 to succeed in life.

[The STEM Alliance](#) was recognized for bridging systemic gaps in education to provide equal access to science, technology, engineering, and math learning experiences, empowering communities, inspiring innovation, and creating opportunities for all.

“Now more than ever, it’s important to recognize the leaders and organizations that make our Westchester nonprofit community so strong,” said Lisa Morris, Assistant Vice President at Hudson Valley Credit Union, a Keep Westchester Thriving Awards sponsor. “The tenacity and grit shown by so many these past few years is on full display with this year’s honorees.”

NPW would like to thank all of the event sponsors who helped make it such a success, including [Mutual of America Financial Group](#), [Westhab](#), [Hudson Valley Credit Union](#), and [Neighbors Link](#) at the hero level. [Andrus](#), [The Children’s Village](#), [The Mental Health Association of Westchester](#), and [Wartburg](#) showed support at the champion level.

“Mutual of America is proud to support Nonprofit Westchester’s 2022 Keep Westchester Thriving Awards. Families in Westchester are fortunate to have such a strong and committed nonprofit sector, with thousands of people dedicated to driving change and improving lives every single day,” says Matt Saidman, Vice President of Mutual of America Financial Group. “Congratulations to all the honorees, and thank you all for your dedication to our community.”

[The Loft Community Center](#), [Maier, Markey & Justic LLP](#), and [PKF O’Connor Davies](#) also provided funding at the leader level, and [914INC Magazine](#) and [Westchester Magazine](#) were media sponsors.

Photos from the event can be found [HERE](#).

For more information on how to get involved in Nonprofit Westchester in 2023, please visit www.npwestchester.org.

About Nonprofit Westchester

[Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) is Westchester’s only membership organization dedicated solely to advancing and advocating for the needs and interests of the county’s nonprofit sector, the people and populations served and the nonprofit workforce. Representing more than 250 members, NPW’s vision is to build a thriving county with vibrant nonprofits and resilient, inclusive communities that value equity and inclusion, innovation, and integrity. The mission of NPW is to strengthen Westchester’s nonprofit organizations as they transform lives, empower communities, and drive positive change. This mission and vision are strengthened through advocacy, education, and connection. To learn more about Nonprofit Westchester, visit their website at www.npwestchester.org.

###