

THE CAMPAIGN FOR

The Center for All Ages

**Bringing the
Generations
Together**

Family
Services
of Westchester





Families today are different than they were generations ago

when multigenerational households were commonplace... and extended families often lived together in the same community. In today's world, children frequently live thousands of miles away from grandparents... while older adults often become isolated at home or in senior communities where they rarely hear the sound of a child's laughter.

Yet older adults have a lifetime of knowledge to offer children and teens... besides the emotional and social benefits their nurturing can bring. Equally important, children's simple pleasures can bring joy and renewal, a sense of purpose, and memories of earlier, happier lives to brighten seniors' days.

The Center for All Ages takes its inspiration from the idea of extended family, bringing the generations together to share in life. It harks back to a time when young and old would interact through everyday life experiences, learning from and encouraging one another and playing a central role in each other's lives. Through interactions with "the Grandmas" and "the Grandpas" at our Center, children can develop self-esteem, a sense of well-being and security, and learn to respect and appreciate older adults for the love, support and life experience they offer.

The Vision

Family Services of Westchester's Center for All Ages

will break new ground as a multigenerational center bringing children, teens and seniors together at one site to participate in programs and share experiences, just as they would in a family. Located in White Plains, NY, our Center will be an Early Learning site where toddlers and pre-schoolers will be prepared to start school ready to learn, and parents will develop strategies to help their children succeed. For teens, it will be a home base where they can enjoy healthy recreation after school and on weekends, engage in community and hone their leadership skills. And for older adults, The Center will provide socialization and stimulation in a homelike, safe environment, answering the growing need in Westchester for quality programs that keep older adults healthy, safe and active in their home communities.

But in addition to the individual components, complete in and of themselves, The Center for All Ages will replicate the award-winning Intergenerational Community we helped create in Mount Kisco, NY, to bring diverse age groups together, fostering opportunities to make cross generational connections, new friends and fond memories. Participants interact during regular planned intergenerational activities, as well as through informal encounters during the course of the day. Children, teens and older adults garden together, sing songs together, enjoy occasional meals and special events together and take pleasure in a wide variety of activities that allow them to break down age barriers and form lasting bonds.

A generous Challenge Grant of \$1,000,000 from The Lanza Family Foundation has launched The Center for All Ages Capital Campaign. FSW seeks donors who share our vision and a love of innovation to help us meet this challenge.

**Because of this
Challenge Grant
opportunity,
your investment
will have double
the impact.**





Because of this Challenge Grant opportunity, your investment will have double the impact. It will leverage a matching contribution of equal value and enable FSW to fulfill its goal of creating a dynamic Center for All Ages, benefiting so many in our community.

All pledges and gifts received by December 31, 2012 and designated for The Center for All Ages will count towards the Challenge. Your pledge or gift now will have twice the value.

Numerous naming and recognition opportunities are available for donors at a variety of levels. Our Development staff look forward to working with donors to match their specific interests with the identified needs of The Center.

The Concept

This diverse range of populations creates a family-like environment that nurtures and enriches everyone involved.

Since 1954, Family Services of Westchester has been helping to strengthen and support families in Westchester through a broad range of programs that address needs throughout the life cycle. This holistic mission of caring for the entire family, recognizing the role intergenerational connections play in mental and physical well-being, is embodied in The Center for All Ages concept.

Our Center for All Ages will house FSW's Head Start/Early Head Start and Prime Time pre-school programs; a Summer Camp for special needs youth; Big Brothers Big Sisters activities; our Westchester County Youth Councils; after-school and weekend programs for older youth and teens; an Adult Day Program modeled on our successful My Second Home program in Mount Kisco; a Family and Caregivers' Support Center; as well as a range of auxiliary services that support families.

In a specially designed building, separate wings will provide a warm and welcoming environment, privacy, and up-to-date facilities appropriate to the special needs of each age group — children, teens and seniors. Ample space will be designated for family activities and intergenerational programming. Activities may include bringing teens and seniors together to share in cooking, computer learning, exercise and art; older adults and teens volunteering in the early childhood programs, nurturing toddlers and helping them develop language and literacy; or supporting immigrant families and their capacity to integrate into a new culture.

Expanding on a Winning Model

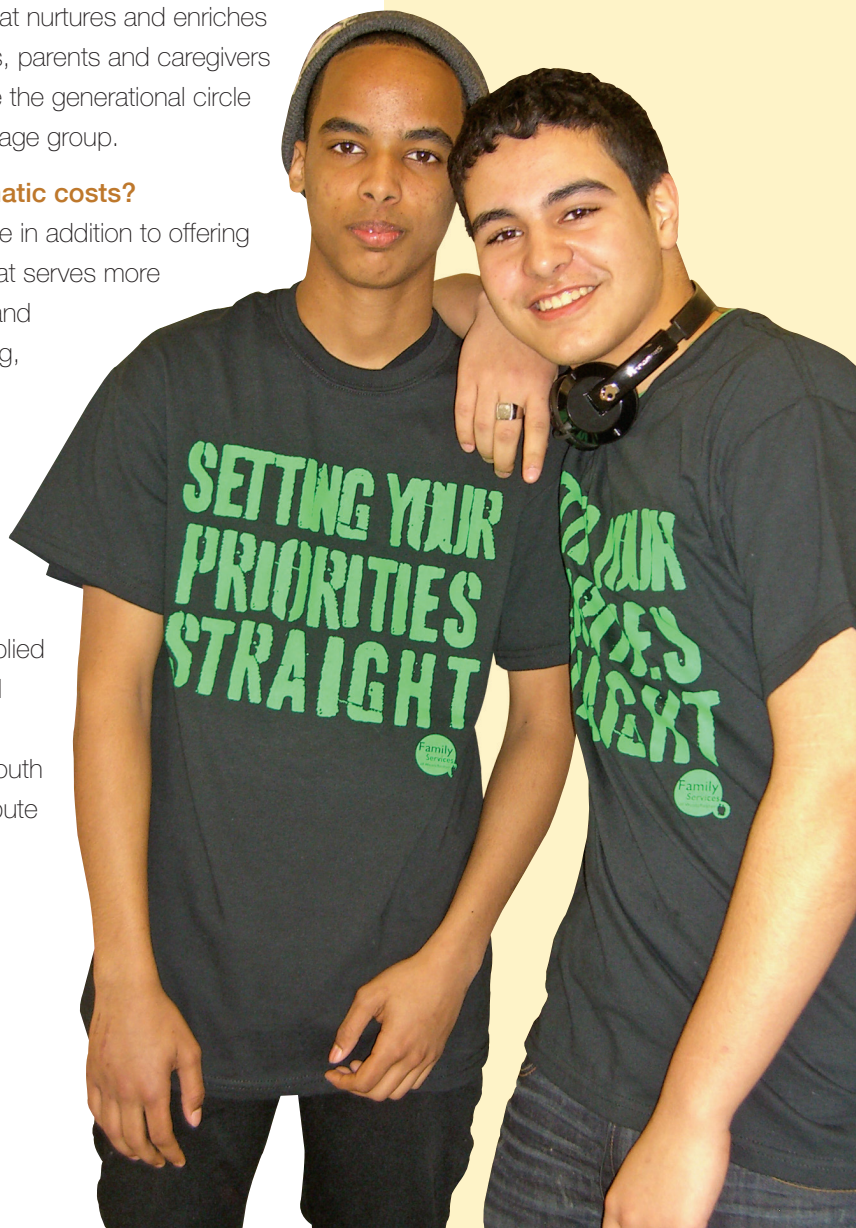
Since 1998, FSW's Intergenerational Community in Mount Kisco, created in conjunction with Mount Kisco Child Care Center, has been a dynamic community for young children and older adults where interaction between the generations is a priority. It has attracted national attention and won many prestigious awards. Singled out by the American Society on Aging, the MetLife Foundation and Generations United, the New Age of Aging and the Alliance for Children and Families, it is a national model to be replicated in other communities.

With The Center for All Ages, FSW is building on this award-winning model by integrating top-quality youth programs into the concept. This diverse range of populations creates a family-like environment that nurtures and enriches everyone involved. Supportive services for families, parents and caregivers will round out the offerings, enabling FSW to close the generational circle with a complementary range of services for every age group.

How will FSW sustain the ongoing programmatic costs?

Shared-site programming makes good fiscal sense in addition to offering abundant social benefits. Constructing a facility that serves more than one purpose makes optimum use of space and resources, while providing opportunities for exciting, creative, integrative programming.

Programs to be housed in The Center are attached to funding streams that can sustain site operations and programming once The Center is built. Early childhood programs like Head Start, Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Prime Time come with federal and state funds that can be applied to operations. Our Adult Day Program is sustained through client fees as well as some government funding that offsets costs. Similarly, many of our youth programs have budget allocations that can contribute to ongoing operational costs.



Building Our Center

Flexibly designed rooms, ample open space, and movable walls will accommodate a diversity of programming for all age groups.

The proposed Center will be located in the heart of Westchester County, making it easily accessible by car, bus, and our own customized transportation for the older adult population.

The building will feature separate and discrete areas for Early Childhood Education, the Youth Activities Center, and the Senior Adult Day Program. Each space will be secure within itself for safety and privacy, but the building will be creatively designed to include dedicated space where the generations can come together to share in events and activities.

The facility will be wheelchair and handicapped-accessible, making it comfortable for our older adults to navigate the facility.

Flexibly designed rooms, ample open space, and movable walls will accommodate a diversity of programming for all age groups, including:

- Sports Activities
- Indoor Play Space for rainy day programming
- Special Events for larger groups
- Meetings and Conferences

Other features of the building may include:

- A Caregiver and Family Support Center
- Library and Computer Center
- Indoor Garden Room
- Large Activity Rooms
- Music and Arts Facilities
- Industrial Kitchen with in-house catering capacity
- Overnight Respite Accommodations
- Counseling Offices

The grounds will be landscaped to make optimum use of the property for outdoor activities, an important aspect of our programming. Outdoor space design will feature areas for intergenerational gardening, patios for activities and relaxing, age-appropriate playgrounds and sports facilities for older youth.



About Family Services of Westchester

Founded in 1954, Family Services of Westchester (FSW) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a broad range of social and mental health services to strengthen and support families, children and individuals at every stage of the life cycle. FSW has grown from its beginning stages with one social worker—the agency founder—to its present size and scope, with more than 50 program initiatives; 430 professional and paraprofessional staff; 300 volunteers; and an annual budget of nearly \$20 million. Headquartered in Port Chester, NY, FSW has five additional Family Center locations in key regions of the County: Mount Vernon, Pelham, Sleepy Hollow, White Plains and Yonkers. FSW is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. (COA). It is a member agency of the National Alliance for Families and Children, the New York State Association of Family Service Agencies, and United Way of Westchester and Putnam.



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Photos courtesy of The JEWEL program, a partnership of Mount Kisco Child Care Center and My Second Home, Family Services of Westchester.

**“Somehow we have to get
older people back close to
growing children if we are to
restore a sense of community,
a knowledge of the past and
a sense of the future.”**

— *Margaret Mead*



Family Services of Westchester

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