

# MKCCC

## Mount Kisco Child Care Center 2023-24 Annual Report



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# MISSION

WE HELP WORKING FAMILIES THRIVE BY PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION TO A DIVERSE GROUP OF CHILDREN THROUGH INNOVATIVE, DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PROGRAMMING AND A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUPPORTING FAMILY NEEDS.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on another year, we are reminded of how vital our mission is, and we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our community. Mount Kisco Child Care Center (MKCCC) began in 1971 after a study by the Village of Mount Kisco and the Interfaith Council showed that mothers entering the workforce needed access to safe, affordable, quality child care. Over 50 years later, our mission is more critical than ever. Today, most families rely on two incomes to make ends meet, and research consistently shows that access to high-quality care and early education has a profound and lifelong impact on children's success and well-being. Access to affordable, dependable child care is essential for families and the health of our community. Yet, the challenges facing child care and early education providers have never been greater.

Rising costs and staffing shortages have placed immense pressure on child care centers. The greatest challenge for many is attracting and retaining qualified staff. Increasing parent fees to cover rising operational costs and pay teachers a livable wage would make child care unattainable. For most working families, child care is already the largest monthly expense, often exceeding the cost of housing. In Mount Kisco, nearly 40% of families live below the income threshold identified by the United Way as needed for basic survival including child care. Our system is in urgent need of reform.

At MKCCC, we are incredibly fortunate to have a strong and supportive community investing in local working families. This past year, we broke fundraising records, saw tremendous participation in our Feed Me Fresh event by local restaurants, and launched the MKCCC Partners Program with businesses like C Clean and M&T Bank stepping up to support our work. We could not be more grateful for the generosity of our community, whose support enables us to provide a lifeline for many families. We recognize this support is an acknowledgement by you of how important child care access is for our community to thrive.

Thanks to your ongoing support, MKCCC remains a strong advocate for families, and together, we will continue to champion accessible, safe, and high-quality child care for all.

Warmly,

Dawn Meyerski, Executive Director



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
Keira Treanor

**Vice President**  
Anne Papaelias

**Treasurer**  
Peter Schwarz

**Secretary**  
Elizabeth Marwell

Soraya Ruiz Abderrashman\*

Alan Biem

Martin Brodbeck\*

Kelly D'Amato\*

Amy Epstein

Dennis Gochuico

Robin Jacobs

Barbara Klein

Christie Noelle Krase

Anthony Mamo\*

James Moore

Fran Osborne

Sonia Tanklsey

\*LIST INCLUDES BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE TERM BEGAN OR ENDED DURING THE '23-'24 FISCAL YEAR.

## ADVISORY BOARD

Thomas Coleman

Mary Farley

Dr. Bruce and Judy Golden

Robert Greene

David M. Griff

Nancy Hack

Marian Hamilton

Linda Heath

Jeanne Hinrichs

Dottie Jordan

Wendy Lipp

Gretchen Menzies

Sharon Pollack

Clark Robson

Janet Schloat

Maryann Simpson

Cecily Stone

Beverley and Sabin Streeter

William Zeltner



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## STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION

Dawn Meyerski, Executive Director  
Kerry Wilson, Program Director  
Steve Mustacchi, Outgoing Director of Finance and Operations  
Jim Altieri, Incoming Director of Finance and Operations  
Paula Backer, Director of Development  
Meghan MacEnroe, Development Manager  
Ann DiChiara, Controller  
Tami Albanese, Receptionist  
Ingrid Hernandez, Administrative Assistant  
Ruth Goodman, Social Worker

### INFANT PROGRAM

Victoria Rivera, Supervisor & Head Teacher  
Victoria Fields, Head Teacher  
Courtney Cardea, Assistant Teacher  
Yerimar Garcia, Assistant Teacher  
Naomi Kamerman, Assistant Teacher  
Sydney Young, Assistant Teacher

### TODDLER PROGRAM

Vanessa Kardos, Supervisor & Head Teacher

Nicole Kastan, Head Teacher  
Deja Spruill, Head Teacher  
Lauryn Diggs, Assistant Teacher  
Jaclyn Caruso, Assistant Teacher  
Melissa Dalling, Assistant Teacher  
Julia Santoro, Assistant Teacher  
Bridget Farmer, Assistant Teacher  
Santana Alers, Assistant Teacher

### PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Laura Rubin, Supervisor & Head Teacher  
Lauren DeRosa, Head Teacher  
Jennifer Bernhard, Head Teacher  
Jackelien Hamouche, Head Teacher  
Timothy Meyerski, Assistant Teacher  
Daneli Feda, Assistant Teacher  
Jaraya Buchanan, Assistant Teacher  
Luz Victoria Sunagawa, Assistant Teacher  
Jennifer Farjado Lopez, Assistant Teacher  
Savanna Jordan, Assistant Teacher

### SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM

Stacey Ford, Supervisor & Head Teacher

Devon Grimes, Assistant Teacher  
Emma Flores, Assistant Teacher  
Ingrid Hernandez, Head Teacher  
Linda Menta, Assistant Teacher

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Haylee Lehning, Assistant Teacher  
Joseph Dominguez, Assistant Teacher

### FEED ME FRESH KITCHEN

Michael Bochar, Kitchen Manager  
Laurie Feldstein, Head Cook  
Tracey Hynes, Kitchen Assistant

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# FINANCIALS

In 2023-2024, MKCCC continued to support a diverse group of local working families by providing high-quality, reliable child care and early education regardless of the families' income. Ensuring MKCCC classrooms represent our diverse community is an important component to providing equitable care. Families that do not have the means to pay the full tuition are supported by MKCCC with scholarships from the MKCCC Scholarship Fund and by assisting eligible families in accessing government subsidy support. Successful advocacy efforts and our work to support family applications have led to an increase in government subsidy funding. Private capital expenditure fundraising and a government grant provided the funding to build new playgrounds for the Center which will be enjoyed by the Center's children for many years to come.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS:

TUITION & FEES.....	\$1,938,113
GOVERNMENT & AGENCY SUBSIDIES.....	\$618,032
PRIVATE CAPEX FUNDRAISING.....	\$375,000
EVENTS INCOME.....	\$357,937
GOVERNMENT GRANTS.....	\$330,293
OTHER FUNDRAISING.....	\$184,911
FOUNDATION GRANTS.....	\$86,500
OTHER INCOME.....	\$227,153
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT:</b>	<b>\$4,117,939</b>

## EXPENSES:

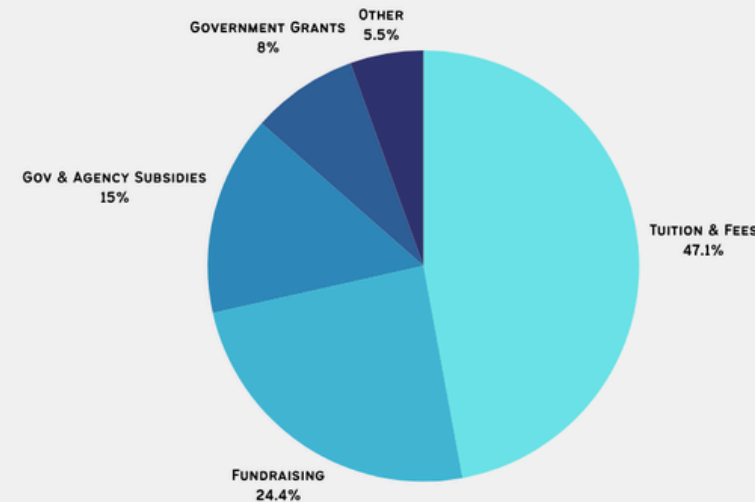
PROGRAM.....	\$3,127,475
ADMINISTRATIVE.....	\$401,158
FUNDRAISING.....	\$366,105
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$3,894,739</b>

## BALANCE SHEET:

TOTAL ASSETS:	\$10,393,798
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$466,184
NET ASSETS/EQUITY:	\$9,927,614

MKCCC'S LARGEST ASSET IS THE PROPERTY AND BUILDING WHERE THE CENTER OPERATES WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MANY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

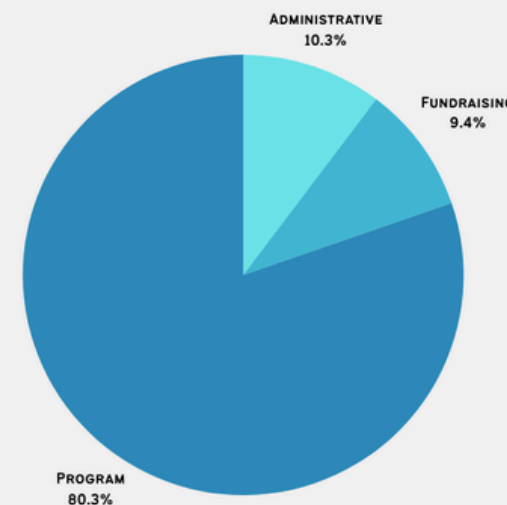
NOTES:  
AUDIT REPORT PENDING



## FISCAL 23-24 OPERATING INCOME

TUITION & FEES:	\$1,938,113
FUNDRAISING:	\$1,004,348
GOVERNMENT & AGENCY SUBSIDIES:	\$618,032
GOVERNMENT GRANTS:	\$330,293
OTHER REVENUE:	\$227,153

**TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT: \$4,117,939**

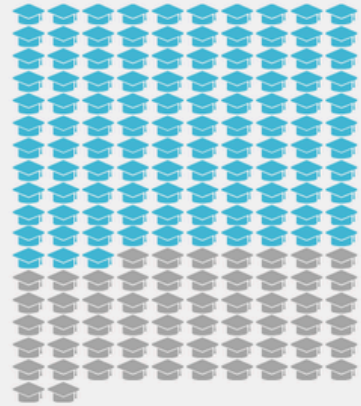


## FISCAL 23-24 OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM:	\$3,127,475
ADMINISTRATIVE:	\$401,158
FUNDRAISING:	\$366,105

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,894,739**

# BY THE NUMBERS



## \$486,841

IN TUITION ASSISTANCE TOWARDS 113 SCHOLARSHIPS

AVERAGE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP: \$4,310

### 2023-24 DEMOGRAPHICS

BASED ON JANUARY 2024 ENROLLMENT

#### RACE

CAUCASIAN: 53%  
 HISPANIC: 28%  
 AFRICAN-AMERICAN: 6%  
 ASIAN-AMERICAN: 10%  
 BI-RACIAL: 2%

#### GENDER

FEMALE: 45%  
 MALE: 54%

#### NEEDS

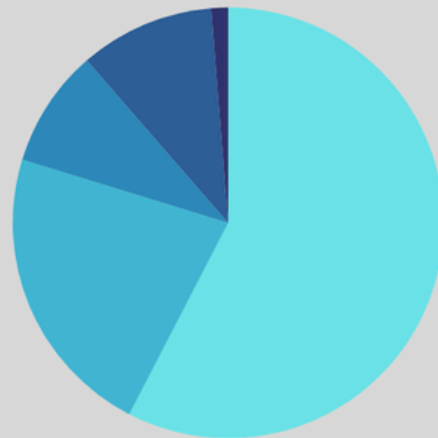
EMERGING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEAKERS: 19%  
 SPECIAL NEEDS: 20%

#### HOUSEHOLD

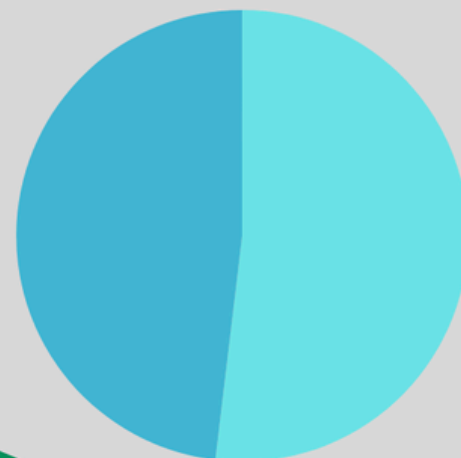
WESTCHESTER RESIDENTS: 98%  
 SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS: 20%

INCREASED SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES LESSENS THE BURDEN ON THE MKCCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND WHICH IS 100% RELIANT ON PRIVATE DONATIONS. CONTINUED ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND SUPPORT OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN ACCESSING THESE FUNDS WILL CONTINUE TO BE KEY PRIORITIES FOR MKCCC.

CAUCASIAN HISPANIC  
 AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
 ASIAN-AMERICAN BI-RACIAL



FEMALE MALE



## WHY IT MATTERS

Child care for families of any income level-- but most especially low and moderate income levels-- has never been more scarce. Since the pandemic, New York's child care workforce has shrunk by 42%, resulting in centers with empty classrooms, overflowing waitlists, and staff that is overworked and undercompensated. Many centers have had to close altogether, furthering the burden on centers that are barely staying afloat. Coupled with the skyrocketing inflation rate, raising the cost of living as well as the cost of care, families that are able to find child care still face the challenge of affording it. The need for accessible, affordable, high quality care for all is greater than ever.

Since 1971, the MKCCC Scholarship Fund has provided an avenue to high quality child care and early education to families who would not otherwise have access to it. Every day at MKCCC, children of all backgrounds, abilities, and socio-economic statuses come together to learn and grow, from both our incredible teaching staff and from each other. MKCCC works to bridge the gap between families who are able to afford the rising cost of child care and those who cannot, while also providing care that considers the individual needs of each child for the most nurturing care possible. This includes actively advocating for child care legislation, providing in-house guidance and support, and partnering with local schools and organizations in order to provide special services. MKCCC works tirelessly so that our families know that their children are in a place dedicated to meeting each child's individual needs and celebrates all of their successes.



# '23-24 HIGHLIGHTS



## ADVOCACY ADVANCES

In February, during an essential Advocacy Day at the state capital, MKCCC's Executive Director, Dawn Meyerski was introduced on the assembly floor by Assemblymember Chris Burdick in Albany on behalf of child care.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROWS

At the end of 2023, MKCCC was the feature story in Inside Press' final issue of the year. In a 3-page spread, writer Ella Ilan perfectly captured everything that makes MKCCC so special. In summer '24, MKCCC was the beneficiary to our longtime foundation supporter, IICF's, annual softball tournament. Our students were thrilled to go down to Central Park to meet the teams playing and visit NYC! Also launched in 2024 was our corporate partners program, further solidifying collaborations with organizations like C Clean, M&T Bank, Kohlberg & Co., CBRE, and Landscape Concepts this past year. We are hugely grateful to be surrounded by such a dedicated and supportive community.



This summer, our campers chose to make a donation of \$75 each to The Interfaith Food Pantry and to Memorial Sloan Kettering using money they raised from their annual summer farmer's market.



In November 2023, after many months of hard work, we officially relaunched the new and improved MKCCC website.



MKCCC had many guest programs this year, including gymnastics, karate, dance, a puppet show, a petting zoo, and more!



MKCCC's Junior Chefs joined us again at this year's 20th Annual Feed Me Fresh cocktail hour with a delicious spinach and couscous salad!



## MKCCC PLAYGROUND PROJECT COMPLETED

MKCCC was thrilled to unveil a brand-new playground for our school-age children, just in time for summer to complete our playground renewal project. After replacing our toddler and preschool playgrounds in October 2023, we hoped to extend the life of the school-age playground. However, the winter weather caused significant wear, and a full replacement was necessary. Thanks to the generous support of the Krase Family Foundation, who also funded the first leg of the project in the fall alongside a grant from Senator Pete Harckham, we were able to make this vision a reality. With thanks also to Corsetti Contracting and Landscape Structures, we held a special naming dedication to honor the Krase Family Foundation's pivotal role in transforming our outdoor spaces in July. The new school-age playground is now a vibrant, safe, and exciting environment for our children to enjoy. We are incredibly grateful for the continued partnership with the Krase Family Foundation and their dedication to enriching the MKCCC experience.



## 2024 PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

A highlight of the year, every year, MKCCC's annual Preschool Graduation saw a remarkable class of 30 graduates off to kindergarten. The group joined together to loudly and proudly sing the songs they had been rehearsing for a month to the joy of all of our very proud families, teachers, and staff. Then came the highly anticipated diploma ceremony, where graduates joined Ms. Dawn on the stage, tried to remember to shake hands, and posed with their very first academic milestone.



## GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At the end of 2023, the community came together under the rallying cry of MKCCC social worker, Ruth Goodman, to support MKCCC families during the holiday season. High school volunteer, Emma Jorgensen, organized a holiday toy drive, and Seven Bridges Middle School's SHARE Jr. and Baking Clubs teamed up to hold a bake sale that raised over \$1,000 as well as a food drive.



## DAY FOR DOING GOOD

Last fall, upon the completion of our Pre-K and Toddler playgrounds, these areas were in need of final updates to the playground garden beds and sheds to finish the spaces. For Regeneron's Day for Doing Good, dozens of Regeneron employees arrived at MKCCC to volunteer, building brand new garden beds, repainting old sheds, and sprucing up the outdoor space. Their hard work was the perfect finishing touch and we are so grateful for their support.



## RECORD-BREAKING SUPPORT

The 2023-24 fiscal year was filled with record-breaking campaigns, thanks to the tremendous support of our community and their belief in the value of accessible, high-quality child care. In '23, our 19th Annual Feed Me Fresh event saw a record breaking Raise the Paddle, quickly surpassed this year by the 20th Annual Feed Me Fresh Raise the Paddle! The holidays brought in record numbers of year end gifts to close 2023. Our '24 Spring Fling was a great success, raising over \$25,000 and becoming our most successful Fling yet. Quickly following the Spring Fling, our annual Plant Sale exploded with orders, filling our parking lot in May with 660 plants and was a beautiful sight to see as friends new and old arrived for pick up. The milestone 20th Annual Feed Me Fresh did not just break the Raise the Paddle record, it was also our most successful Feed Me Fresh to date, raising over \$330,000 with 350 guests joining us under the tent for a truly magical evening for child care.

# PROGRAMS



Mount Kisco Child Care Center provides child care and early education for ages 3 months to 11 years. At MKCCC we go well beyond the traditional requirements — our programs and tools help teachers create individualized learning and care plans for every child. Progress and updates are available each day for families to ensure home / school continuity is in place for our little learners.

## INFANTS

In our infant rooms, we create a warm, nurturing environment that acts as an extension of our infants' homes. Infants are provided with daily opportunities that encourage social and emotional development, speech and language, cognitive growth, and fine and gross motor development through group and independent activities. We even use basic American Sign Language to provide avenues of communication to our youngest children.

## TODDLERS

Toddlers love to explore the world around them. The toddler rooms are designed to allow children to use all of their senses to learn and grow. Toddlers are engaged in activities and experiences designed to meet their emerging skills in language, socialization and personal autonomy. In addition, the toddlers have their own playground, a place where they can run, jump, climb, and develop those large motor skills as well.

## PRE-SCHOOL

Our preschool is a mixed 3, 4, and 5 year- old age group. We think it makes sense to teach children developmentally rather than chronologically. Each child comes in with different experiences and skill sets. Lesson plans are written to prepare children for Kindergarten in ways that are play based and developmentally appropriate. We use the Creative Curriculum, which is a child-initiated curriculum. Children learn best when they are learning about the things that they are interested in. Lesson plans cover all content areas necessary for school success; literacy, math, science, and social studies.

## SCHOOL AGE

Our school age program consists of our before and after school programs. Both programs provide a place where students can get homework help and prepare for or unwind from the day while they socialize with friends and play games. This program also takes part in diverse, engaging programming such as Feed Me Fresh where they maintain their class gardens and utilize recipes to prepare fun and healthy snacks.

## SUMMER CAMP

MKCCC offers a full-day, 8 week summer camp program for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Every day is a new day filled with fun in the sun while also focusing on each child's development. We provide a variety of programming that every child can find an interest in from karate, dance classes, and daily trips to the local pool, to STEM endeavors like roller coaster and robot building. The Feed Me Fresh program thrives during summer camp, with new garden projects every day. Our camper-run farm stand teaches campers how to manage a farm stand, advertise, and the importance of supporting their community when they donate their profits to a local organization of their choice at the end of the summer.

# IN-CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

## PROVIDING GARDEN EDUCATION FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

Developed in consultation with nutritionists, teachers, local farmers, and chefs, Feed Me Fresh (FMF) is an innovative, year round, garden-to-table food service and nutrition education program. FMF pairs hands-on gardening units with cooking classes based on seasonal offerings from our playground garden beds, and includes healthy meals and snacks from our in-house FMF Food Service team. Each year, close to 200 MKCCC children learn about healthy eating through exposure to fresh foods they get to grow themselves. For some of our at-risk families, the program provides nutrient dense food they might otherwise not have access to. In addition, it builds life-long healthy eating habits for all the children at MKCCC.

Our 2023-24 gardens were abundant with all of our usual favorites-- we were even able to harvest a watermelon that sneakily hid behind the shed! In Fall 2023, with the help of volunteers from Regeneron, we installed a dozen brand new galvanized steel garden beds and were able to increase the number of beds in each playground space. This summer, the focus of our campers' annual farmer's market was salad dressings and drinks, all made fresh with ingredients from the gardens. They made delicious vinaigrettes using fresh herbs and infused waters, teas, and lemonades with various herbs, fruits, and veggies. They were able to raise \$150 which they split between The Interfaith Food Pantry and Sloan Kettering Memorial.



## STEM AT MKCCC

In 2023-24 MKCCC teamed up with the STEM Alliance to bring STEM programming into our classrooms. Early exposure to STEM fosters children's interest and confidence in STEM subjects but is often missing from preschools. Funded by a grant from the Bailey Foundation, STEM Alliance was able to run a pilot program in our preschool classrooms during the '23-24 school year. Together, MKCCC and STEM Alliance approached potential funders for a more robust, ongoing program to bring STEM curriculum and staff development to MKCCC permanently. Assembly-member, Chris Burdick, answered the call and approved a grant to launch our long-term program at the start of the new school year in September '24.



# TESTIMONIALS

"THE DECISION TO SEND OUR KIDS TO MKCCC IS ONE OF THE ABSOLUTE BEST CHOICES THAT WE HAVE MADE AS PARENTS. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO TO FOSTER THIS LOVING, AFFIRMING, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENT. OUR KIDS HAVE GROWN SO MUCH HERE AND HAVE FORMED TREMENDOUS BONDS WITH THEIR TEACHERS. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL!"

"WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS WHAT THIS PLACE MEANS TO OUR FAMILY. WE'VE WATCHED OUR CHILD BLOSSOM AT MKCCC!"

"IT'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS HOW MUCH MKCCC HAS MEANT TO OUR FAMILY OVER THE PAST MANY YEARS. IN THE UPS AND DOWNS OF PARENTING, THE ONE CONSTANT WE HAD WAS THE LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM THE TEACHERS AND STAFF AT MKCCC EVERY DAY."

"MKCCC HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL AND GENEROUS TO US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. MY BOYS STARTED IN AUGUST OF 2020 WHEN MY YOUNGEST WAS 4 MONTHS AND MY OLDEST ALMOST 2. WHEN MY HUSBAND WENT BACK TO SCHOOL THE NEXT YEAR AND THINGS BECAME A LITTLE HARDER, THE CENTER PROVIDED US SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, ETC. SO THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO AFFORD TUITION. WHEN MY OLDEST WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER IN SUMMER OF 2023, THE CENTER WAS TRULY AMAZING TO US. THEY HELD HIS SPOT IN HIS CLASS WITHOUT CHARGING US, SO THAT ON THE DAYS HE WAS ABLE AND ALLOWED BY HIS DOCTORS TO BE THERE HE STILL COULD. THEY HELD A LUNCH FOR HIM WHEN HE GOT DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL AND DID IT OUTSIDE IN THE COURTYARD SO HE WOULD BE SAFE AND HAVE DECREASE EXPOSURE TO GERMS. WHEN I NEEDED TO LEAVE MY JOB IN ORDER TO CARE FOR MY OLDEST, MKCCC WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE MY YOUNGEST A SCHOLARSHIP WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND BEING CARED FOR WITHOUT HAVING HIS DAILY ROUTINE AFFECTED. WHEN MY OLDEST WAS FINALLY ABLE TO RETURN FULLTIME IN APRIL OF 2024, IT WAS LIKE NOTHING HAD CHANGED. THE SCHOOL HAD ALREADY BEEN LETTING HIM JOIN IN ON GRADUATION REHEARSALS SO HE WAS ABLE TO JUMP BACK IN EASILY AND GRADUATED PRESCHOOL WITH HIS CLASS IN JUNE. WHILE I RETURNED TO WORK AND WE CONTINUED TO CATCH UP ON BILLS FROM THE PAST YEAR, MKCCC PROVIDED OUR OLDEST A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP AT THE CENTER TUITION FREE, SO THAT BOTH OF OUR CHILDREN WOULD BE SAFE AND WELL CARED DURING THE TRANSITION. THE PROGRAM WAS SO HELPFUL ALL THROUGH THE SUMMER TO PREP HIM FOR KINDERGARTEN, AND HE HAS BEEN HAPPY TO RETURN NOW AS A SCHOOL-AGE CHILD IN THE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO MKCCC FOR HELPING US IN OUR TIME OF NEED, AND HOPE THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR OTHER FAMILIES IN THE FUTURE."

"MKCCC HAS BEEN OUR SECOND HOME AND A HUGE PART OF OUR VILLAGE. IT IS A TRULY WONDERFUL, SPECIAL PLACE. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO-- THE TIRELESS EFFORT YOUR PUT IN TO ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, TEACHERS, AND THE COMMUNITY AND WE APPRECIATE THE CULTURE YOU HAVE CULTIVATED."

"I JUST LOVE MKCCC SO MUCH AND AM SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU AND HOW YOU HAVE INSPIRED SO MANY! I'M HAPPY THE SMALL BITS I CONTRIBUTE OVER THE YEAR CAN HELP A CHILD OR TWO!"

# HONORING GREAT FRIENDS



## GLADYS CATERINICCHIO

Gladys F. Caterinicchio, a resident of Mt. Kisco for 60 years, died on Monday, October 21, 2024, at Northern Westchester Hospital after suffering a heart attack. Gladys was born on September 18, 1934, in Queens, NY to the late Albin and Antoinette Cibeu.

Gladys attended high school at the Assumption Academy in Nicolet, Province of Quebec, Canada. After high school, Gladys graduated from Manhattanville College as a dual major in French and History. While attending Manhattanville College, her brother Lou, introduced her to his medical school lab partner, Ben Caterinicchio. Ben was her husband for 65 years until his death in 2023. After Ben completed his military service in Colorado, Ben and Gladys settled in Mt. Kisco to raise their family. While raising two children, Gladys became involved in politics as both a member of the League of Woman Voters and as a member of the planning board in Mt Kisco. Once her children were in high school, Gladys went back to work holding many positions including the Research Director for Flashmaps Publishing. Gladys worked well into her late 70's, finishing her career working for her beloved North Greenwich Congregational Church.

Gladys is survived by her daughter Maria (Michael) Skrokov of Whitestone, NY, and her son, Ben Caterinicchio Jr. (Maria-Jean) of Irvine, CA. Gladys was the proud and loving grandmother of Ben Caterinicchio, III of Irvine and Christopher Caterinicchio of Austin, Tx.



## JAMES "JIM" WOOD

James (Jim) Wood was born on May 2nd 1927 in Mt Kisco, New York where he lived until 2005, when he and Twink moved to the Kendal on Hudson Retirement facility in Sleepy Hollow NY. The only child of Martha Speakman Wood and L. Hollingsworth Wood. Jim grew up on his family farm, Braewold, attending local schools and Deerfield Academy 1941-45. He then joined the service USNR in 1945-46 before attending Haverford College, graduating in 1950. He took graduate courses at New York University and the University of Michigan while working at the Bank of New York for 28 years, Prescott, Ball Turbin and Smith Barney until 2002, when he retired. During this time he served on the boards of Bryn Mawr and Haverford College, The American Bible Society (of which he was president for 10 years), the Kellogg Foundation and many others.

Jim was married to Frances (Twink) Randall on May 2nd 1953. They celebrated their 70th anniversary just before Twink passed on May 29th 2023.

Jim and Twink were founding residents of the Kendal on Hudson (KOH) Retirement facility. Jim served on their Pennsylvania and New York Corporate Boards as well as on the KOH Sleepy Hollow board and various committees, including Education and co-chair with Twink of the welcoming new residents committee.

Jim was always active in participating and or watching baseball and tennis and other adventure activities such as skydiving and rafting. He remained active in the Westchester, Bedford and Mt Kisco communities and area happenings including the Historical Society, Mount Kisco Child Care, Bedford 2030, Bedford Farmers Club and Lions Club. Jim was very dedicated to the running and upkeep of the Croton Valley Quaker Meeting house in Mt Kisco. Jim loved nothing better than to spend time with family and friends and to travel the world to spend time with many of them.

## MKCCC'S LEGACY PROGRAM

A gift of legacy is an important way to provide quality care and early education for local families and ensure that the legacy of your giving spirit lives on in the lives of MKCCC children for generations to come. Contact your financial advisor for information about planned giving and request more information about MKCCC's Legacy Program by contacting Paula Backer in MKCCC's Development Office at [pbacker@mkccc.org](mailto:pbacker@mkccc.org).

# SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORTERS



MKCCC is fortunate to have dedicated supporters of the Center and of child care at large, all who support MKCCC in many different ways. Here are just a few of our many amazing supporters and how they've come to be involved with MKCCC.



## REBECCA CERUTTI

Rebecca Cerutti has been a dedicated and invaluable supporter of MKCCC for many years. Her involvement spans across several roles, including donor, board member, volunteer, and committee leader. One of her most impactful contributions has been her work with the Feed Me Fresh planning committee, where her creativity and attention to detail have transformed the event into something truly extraordinary. For those who have attended, it's clear that the evening is filled with thoughtful touches and a magical atmosphere—much of which can be credited to Rebecca's vision and dedication. She has a unique ability to elevate the entire experience, infusing it with a sense of wonder and care. A beloved friend of MKCCC, Rebecca's contributions have been essential in making Feed Me Fresh the incredible event it is today. We are deeply grateful for her ongoing commitment and support.



## THE KRASE FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Krase Family Foundation has supported MKCCC in a variety of ways through the years but truly came to our rescue to transform our outdoor space. After 20 years of love and hard use, our playgrounds needed to be replaced. The cost of the project was intimidating but essential. Exceptional outdoor fun and learning is a core part of the MKCCC experience. The Foundation immediately stepped forward to fund the project and give our children three gorgeous outdoor learning and play spaces designed for each age - toddler, preschool, and school-age. Their dedication to and investment in the children of this community is a gift and we are incredibly lucky to have them as a vital partner.



## LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS

Landscape Concepts, owned and operated by Mary Ann and Gary Rivera, has been a dedicated supporter of MKCCC for years. The company first became involved by providing stunning outdoor decor for MKCCC's annual tented fundraiser, Feed Me Fresh. Mary Ann and Gary's expertise in landscaping and design transforms the event space, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere with gorgeous fall-themed decor. Their beautiful arrangements and thoughtful touches elevate the event, helping to raise funds for MKCCC's mission to support local children and families. Landscape Concepts' generous contribution, along with their commitment to the community, has made them a valued partner in MKCCC's success. Their dedication to enhancing the Feed Me Fresh experience reflects their deep-rooted belief in supporting local nonprofits and enriching the community. The Rivera family's involvement continues to play a key role in making Feed Me Fresh a memorable and impactful event each year.



## LESLIE LAMPERT

Leslie Lampert, Founder and Executive Chef of Ladle of Love, is a passionate philanthropist and dedicated supporter of many local nonprofits, including MKCCC. Each year, Leslie generously contributes to MKCCC's Feed Me Fresh fundraiser by participating with a restaurant booth that delights guests with beautiful, expertly crafted food samplings. Her presence at the event adds a special touch, showcasing her culinary talents while supporting the important work of MKCCC. Leslie's commitment to the community and her hands-on approach in giving back make her a beloved partner in MKCCC's mission. Her contribution is a delicious experience for attendees and helps to raise funds for the center's scholarships. We are deeply grateful for Leslie's ongoing support, and her generosity continues to make a meaningful impact in the lives of local children and families.

THE 20TH ANNUAL

# Feed Me Fresh

AN EDIBLE EVENING

## FEED ME FRESH COMMITTEE

*Keira Treanor, Co-Event Chair & MKCCC Board President*

*Elizabeth Marwell, Co-Event Chair & MKCCC Board Secretary*

*Paula Backer*

*Tommy Calandrucci*

*Rebecca Cerutti*

*Kelly D'Amato*

*Amy Epstein*

*Dennis Gochuico*

*Robin Jacobs*

*Barbara Klein*

*Meghan MacEnroe*

*Dawn Meyerski*

*Fran Osborne*

*Anne Papaalias*

*Caroline Pasquale*

*Sonia Tanksley*

*Mary Ann Rivera*



## THE 20TH ANNUAL FEED ME FRESH: AN EDIBLE EVENING



This year was a major milestone for Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening-- our 20th year! Feed Me Fresh was once again generously supported by top local restaurants such as Exit 4, Mount Kisco Seafood, A&S Marketplace, Ladle of Love, Little Drunken Chef, and more who provided truly delicious bites during a showstopping cocktail hour. During such a momentous year, we were thrilled to honor MKCCC's Social Worker, Ruth Goodman, and longtime board member and supporter, Pete Schwarz. Featuring a fabulous meal by Chef Tommy Calandrucci of Stone Fire and followed by an incredible dessert from Chef Maarten Steenman of La Tulipe Desserts, the 2024 event was our most well attended with 350 attendees and our most successful raising over \$330,000 for MKCCC's Scholarship Fund!

## 2024 FEED ME FRESH RESTAURANT PARTNERS



A & S MARKETPLACE  
681 Main Street,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 241-6919  
asmtkisco.com



BEN & JERRY'S  
639 Main Street,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 666-2555  
www.benjerry.com/mtkisco



CAPTAIN LAWRENCE  
BREWING COMPANY  
369 Lexington Ave.  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(845) 261-3279  
www.captainlawrencebrewing.com



CRABTREE'S KITTLE HOUSE  
11 Kittle Road  
Chappaqua, NY 10514  
(914) 666-8044  
www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com



EXIT 4 FOOD HALL  
153 E Main Street,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 241-1200  
www.exit4foodhall.com



LA TULIPE DESSERTS  
455 Lexington Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 242-4555  
www.latulipedesserts.com



LADLE OF LOVE  
18 Palmer Avenue,  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
(914) 346-8883  
www.ladleoflove.com



LEXINGTON SQUARE CAFE  
510 Lexington Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 244-3663  
www.lexingtonsquarecafe.com



LITTLE DRUNKEN CHEF  
91 Mamaroneck Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 615-9300



LITTLE KABAB STATION  
31 E. Main Street,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 242-7000



MENTOR'S MEDITERRANEAN  
STEAKHOUSE  
415 King Street,  
Chappaqua, NY 10514  
(914) 861-2386  
www.mentorssteakhouse.com



MIMI'S COFFEE HOUSE  
37 S. Moger Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 864-1646  
www.mimiscoffeehouse.net



MONARCA  
37 S. Moger Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 864-0337  
www.monarcamtk.com



MT. KISCO SEAFOOD  
477 Lexington Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 241-3113  
www.mtkiscoseafood.com



STONE FIRE  
251 Lexington Avenue,  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 864-1888  
www.stonefireny.com



VILLAGE SOCIAL  
251 Main Street  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 864-1255  
www.villagesocialkb.com



FEED ME FRESH  
JR. CHEFS  
95 Radio Circle Dr.  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 241-2135  
www.mkccc.org



**YOUR SUPPORT OF MKCCC AND OUR  
COMMUNITY IS WHAT ALLOWS US TO REMAIN  
DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION AND IS  
GRACIOUSLY APPRECIATED.**

TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING MKCCC AND TO FIND MORE  
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.MKCCC.ORG](http://WWW.MKCCC.ORG)