

**UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM**  
**55th Annual Meeting**  
**September 18, 2017 5:30pm**  
**Putnam County Golf Course**

**Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Janet Walker, Vice-Chair for Administration Committee and Co-Chair of the Community Impact Committee, welcomed everyone present to the 55th Annual Meeting and called the meeting to order on behalf of David Yawman, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Ms. Walker first recognized the role of local United Ways during the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma and noted that United Way's purpose in disasters is about being in it with people for the long-haul – it means standing by the people in the months and years of rebuilding, much as we did closer to home, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Walker noted that in the last year we've acted on our mission - of helping those in Putnam and Westchester find self-sufficiency in their lives - both as individuals and families, by focusing especially in two areas:

- 1) Education, and specifically in early reading, because it is such a powerful, 'make or break' predictor of future success in school and in the workforce.
- 2) Workforce Preparation and Personal Financial Education. We focus here to help the thousands in our counties who need to achieve) self-sufficiency now, for themselves and their families.

Ms. Walker share a few examples of recent work undertaken in each area:

**In Education:**

- We collected over 6000 books for children and provided 1000 reading kits – each containing 3 books and reading activity card sets for parents - so they can continue the work and habit of teaching their children to read at home.
- We piloted a bookmobile with a large public school district to gauge the potential for distributing books and reading tools to children and parents in this way.
- We continued our 'collective impact' work in education with our multidisciplinary "Learn Group" of professionals from across our counties. It's part of our work with the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading.
- Through our partnership with the NFL, we have made it possible for 15 middle schools in Westchester and Putnam to adopt our Character Education Program, providing a foundation for the development of the soft skills that will be needed to be successful in the workforce and in life.

**In Workforce Preparation & Financial Education:**

- Last winter, New York State United Ways released a landmark report shining a light on the shockingly large population in our counties living on the edge – individuals and families, just one missed paycheck away

from a crisis. The study is called “ALICE” - an acronym that gives dimension to their particular situation – “ASSET LIMITED.....INCOME CONSTRAINED...and EMPLOYED.”

- Our Community Impact team led 20 financial education workshops last year, and they are developing a program for the coming year to help moderate income residents, like many in our ALICE report, to gain eligibility for mortgages and first time home ownership.
- Our Community Impact team also managed a program to help individuals from the most challenging and traumatic backgrounds find employment – in screening nearly 1000 candidates for training, nearly 350 were trained and placed in employment last year.
- At the most basic level of need, we help those with urgent needs to find their footing by:
  - Preventing nearly 250 evictions in the counties.
  - Generating, together with our partners, nearly 123,000 meals for the hungry.
  - Saving families and individuals roughly \$175,000 on prescription drugs, this year alone.

### 2-1-1 Helpline:

- We answered nearly 42,000 calls from our counties last year, to link individuals and their families to virtually any kind of resource or guidance to help them address a pressing situation.
- As part of the United Way National Network, we recently committed to answer 2-1-1 overflow calls from Texas and the Southeast, to support our neighbors there in the long-term recovery ahead.
- Our 2-1-1 team sits on Putnam’s Long-term Recovery Coalition, a multidiscipline group of government, business and non-profit professionals who think about what happens when disasters come to our backyard and ways to prepare for them in advance, to coordinate services and care in recovery.
- In August, we met our goal of expanding our 2-1-1 service to 24 hours a day, as some of people’s most pressing concerns happen in the middle of the night. The move to 24/7 also opens doors to important national accreditation, and our ability to serve organizations who require 24-7 providers.

## II. OUR WORK

Ms. Walker welcomed Alana Sweeny, President and CEO, who shared her thoughts on the past year and the year to come:

- Attendance at our Spring Gala was up more than 40% over the previous year and we exceeded our fundraising goal. Plans are already underway to generate even more buzz at our gala in Spring 2018.
- Our Gifts-in-Kind program is literally a national powerhouse. More than \$3MM in donated goods for social service agencies and their clients were received this past year – the 6th highest total in the country out of more than 1100 local United Ways.
- Our annual golf event, and festivities like Putnam’s Best Chefs are picking up momentum each year, both in terms of fundraising and as importantly, the widening circle of attendees who get to hear our story.
- We continue to meet or raise the bar in running the organization efficiently, and serving as a resource to our peers:
  - Our auditors give us high marks, as does Charity Navigator
  - We’ve recently created a new staff position - a Chief Impact Officer - to construct and implement our community impact strategy, integrating it with our marketing and communications approaches and program development.
  - Our 15th Annual Leadership Summit was the largest, most prominent day of professional non-profit training in our region.

- The New York State ALICE study reveals that so many families are living on the edge in our counties. We expect it to have a dramatic impact not just on our own advocacy and program development moving forward and see it as a game changer for every organization, government and individual concerned with the fundamental social and economic progress in our counties and beyond.
- We are finding ways to expand our 2-1-1 work with other agencies and institutions, and to create ever stronger integration between 2-1-1 and our other programs at United Way.
- In the case of our New York State ALICE report, the United Way Network means being able to muster the kind of investment and commitment across the state to get at insights and root causes, and to provide rock solid data and rationale for the kind of advocacy and program development we aspire to do.
- In recent weather tragedies, our National network of United Ways created an immediate force multiplier for Houston and Florida's emergency and ongoing recovery efforts. The network value is something few other organizations anywhere have. We intend to continue to bring it to bear to our benefit in Putnam and Westchester in coming years.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 MINUTES**

Ms. Walker invited Ingrid Richards, Secretary of the Board of Directors to the podium. Ms. Richards indicated that according to the Bylaws, everyone in attendance, as donors, are members of the assembly and, therefore, have the right to vote. She noted that the Legal Notice announcing the Annual Meeting had been published in The Journal News and posted on our website and sent to the general membership, as required.

She called attention to the copy of the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting which were included in the program book at each seat. She asked that the group to dispense with the reading of these minutes, and that they be accepted as submitted. David Stutz moved the adoption of the Annual Minutes as presented. Janet Walker seconded the motion. After there was an opportunity for discussion and there being no additions or corrections, the motion to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as submitted carried unanimously.

### **IV. 2016-2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Walker noted that the next order of business was to approve the 2016-17 Nominating Committee Report. She asked Ms. Angela Brock-Kyle, Chair of the 2016-17 Nominating Committee and long-time active member of the United Way Board of Directors to present the report. Ms. Brock-Kyle noted that serving with her on the Committee this year were several Community Leaders who worked tirelessly over the past year:

**Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson**  
Thompson & Bender

**Debra Martinez**  
Westchester County Dept of Mental Health

**Stephen J. Jones, Esq.**  
Jones Morrison, LLP

**Swati Goel-Patel**  
PURE Insurance

**Mike Piazza, Jr**  
Putnam County Depts. of Mental Health,  
Social Services and Youth Bureau

Ms. Brock-Kyle then referred those present to page 7 in the program book and presented the nominations for new Board Members:

**Community Representatives:**

**At-large Representatives**

**Central and Rivertown Communities:**

Eric D. Eller  
White Plains

Kenneth J. Gould, Esq.  
White Plains

Janet Walker  
White Plains

**Sound Shore Communities:**

Gregory D. Bassuk, Esq.  
Rye Brook

**Northern Westchester:**

Donald Calabrese  
Buchanan

David Stutz  
Armonk

Joanne Wright  
Armonk

**Class of 2020**

Vincent D'Ambroso  
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Taryn Duffy  
Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Stephen K. Hunter  
Dobbs Ferry

Frederick P. Wiener, Esq. Law Office of  
Frederick P. Wiener

Ms. Brock-Kyle made a motion to approve the 2016-17 Nominating Committee report and proposed Board members. Kenneth Gould moved the motion and Steve Hunter seconded. After there was an opportunity for discussion, this motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Brock-Kyle noted that our Bylaws stipulate that the Board of Directors elects the organization's officers for the coming year at the first meeting of the new Board. Thus, the Committee would present the Slate of Officers for the Boards' approval at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Walker thanked Ms. Brock-Kyle for all her involvement in so many ways and gave special thanks to the Nominating Committee members.

She then recognized the retiring Board Member and acknowledged his service:

Meyer Koplow, Esq.,  
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz (ret.)

## **V. PROPOSED 2017-2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Ms. Walker referred the attendees to the list of proposed members of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee in the program book and added that the Nominating Committee was still recruiting additional members who would be approved by the Board at future Board meetings:

**Michael Piazza**

Chair, Nominating Committee

Commissioner, Putnam County Depts. of Mental Health, Social Services and Youth Bureau

**Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson**

Partner, Thompson & Bender

**Angela Brock-Kyle**

Founder and CEO, B.O.A.R.D.S.

**Swati Goel-Patel**

Director, Human Resources  
PURE Insurance

**Hon. Nan Hayworth, MD**

Board Member, United Way of Westchester  
and Putnam

She asked for a motion to accept the proposed members of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee. Ingrid Richards moved the nominations as presented and Kenneth Gould seconded the motion. There being no additions or corrections to the list of proposed members for the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee, the motion to elect the proposed slate carried unanimously.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RUTH TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS**

Ms. Sweeny reported on the Ruth Taylor Scholarships program and thanked the members of the Ruth Taylor Award Fund Committee and the Application Review Sub-Committee and announced the recipients of the 2017 Ruth Taylor Scholarships:

- **Rita Amaya-Oates**, Mount Vernon, Lehman College
- **Amanda Tatiana Gonzalez**, White Plains, New York Medical College, School of Health Sciences and Practice
- **Jermoh Kamara**, White Plains, New York Medical College, School of Health Sciences and Practice
- **Marsha Nicole Mariani**, Cortlandt Manor, New York University, Silver School of Social Work
- **Tara Alexandra Ready**, Mamaroneck, New York University, Silver School of Social Work
- **Christina M. Stephens**, Yonkers, Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work
- **Shamillian Christine Tomlinson**, Mount Vernon, Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

In closing, Ms. Walker noted that the By Laws subcommittee continues to review the organization's bylaws, in light of the New York State Non Profit Revitalization Act. Our objective, in light of that law, is to look for opportunities to update our bylaws for compliance, but more importantly, to use our bylaws as an even more effective roadmap for governance decision-making, and corporate governance in general.

Ms. Walker thanked everyone for attending this special annual meeting and for all their support over the past year - in so many different ways....from volunteering to financial support of our United Way, all have truly helped make Westchester and Putnam a better place to live or work in.

Ms. Walker noted that since the Best Chef was about to begin upstairs, she invited ticket-holders to join her at the event, where the Annual Meeting would continue after a brief break.

At 6:45pm, the meeting resumed. Before presenting the "Putnam Community Stars awards", Ms. Walker and Ms. Sweeny asked for a motion to close the meeting. Angela Brock-Kyle moved the motion and Ingrid Richards seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Alana Sweeny, President and CEO  
for  
Ingrid Richards, Secretary.