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## **NONPROFIT WESTCHESTER NAMES WINNERS OF THE 2022 KEEP WESTCHESTER THRIVING AWARDS**

*This honor recognizes active professionals and organizations in the county's nonprofit sector.*

**White Plains, New York – October 20, 2022** – [Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) is proud to announce the 2022 Keep Westchester Thriving Awards winners in both the individual and organizational changemaker categories. Karin Anderson Ponzer, Esq., Ph.D., [Director of Neighbors Link Community Law Practice](#); Steve Myrthil, Vice President of IT at [Westhab](#); The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester; and The STEM Alliance have all been chosen for their engagement in deliberate actions to further needed change.

“We are pleased to announce this year’s changemakers who have done extraordinary work to change systems and meet complex needs in our community innovatively and collaboratively. ,” says Jan Fisher, Executive Director of NPW. “We look forward to honoring all of them at t the Keep Westchester Thriving Awards ceremony and to recognize the work done by the nonprofit sector to support the emotional and economical vibrancy of Westchester County.”

### **Individual Changemakers**

Karin Anderson Ponzer, Esq., Ph.D., [Director of Neighbors Link Community Law Practice](#), is being 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](#), is being 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.

### **Organization Changemakers**

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 is being 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.

These change-makers will be recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by NPW and lead sponsors [Mutual of America](#) and [Westhab](#) on November 30, 2022, at the Sonesta Hotel in White Plains. This will be a joyous celebration of Westchester's nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit workforce. There is a \$75 registration fee for NPW members and a \$125 fee for nonmembers.

All members of the Westchester community members are invited to Information on purchasing a journal ad or registering for the event can be found [here](#).

### **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 300 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](http://www.npwestchester.org).

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