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# Outside Agencies Annual Reports

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# 2024

**KEVIN BYRNE**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



# Putnam County

## 2024 Annual Report

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Mahopac, New York 10541  
845.803.8622 845.216.0636 cell  
[joyce@putnamartscouncil.com](mailto:joyce@putnamartscouncil.com)

### **I. Description of Agency:**

The Putnam Arts Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) cultural organization chartered in 1963 by the NYS Department of Education for educational and museum purposes. We believe art is for everyone.

PAC provides leadership in the cultural development of the arts countywide through and connects artists and the arts to the public. PAC is a voice for the arts in community planning and has ongoing interactions with artists, arts organizations, and community presenters throughout Putnam County. PAC advocates for the arts county-wide, provides leadership in the cultural development of Putnam County while funding and presenting quality arts programs for the enrichment of Putnam County residents. The Council is housed in the Belle Levine Art Center in Mahopac, a hub of cultural activity which has been a destination for artists and the public for over 60 years.

The Executive Director is the Chief Operating Officer and reports directly to the Board Chairperson,. In 2023 the Board was comprised of 10 individuals from a variety of municipalities reflecting the county community in interest, location, and background. Governance requires vision and oversight which are primary Board responsibilities. Monthly Board meetings focus on organizational capacity, financial position, and growth as well as program development.. New board members are nominated by the Board and voted on by the organization's membership at an annual meeting. In early spring tragedy struck as one of our most valued board members lost his battle with cancer. It was a significant loss to our organization and the arts community at large. We honored him with a memorial exhibition for friends and family.

PAC's re-grant, planning, scholarship and fundraising volunteer panels and a variety of committees enable PAC to extend its reach and broaden its vision PAC offers volunteer opportunities as well as internships and has worked with Putnam ARC, as well as area high schools in our goal to be inclusive.

### **II. Services Provided**

As a Putnam County Outside Agency, PAC is contracted with Putnam County to "provide cultural and educational services which promote, foster and perpetuate the visual, performing and literary arts". In this capacity PAC publishes a county-wide cultural arts calendar, and offers onsite arts education classes, concerts, and similar activities or projects for the benefit of the residents of Putnam County. Exhibitions such as the Art in Public Places program; workshops in the visual and performing arts; a summer arts program; theater performances; advocacy and outreach to surrounding arts groups; technical assistance workshops; studio tours and special events are characteristic of the work accomplished by PAC. PAC administers a regrant program comprised of funds from Putnam County and New York State. 100% of those County funds were dispersed to support quality arts programs throughout Putnam County. PAC will also continue to work with Tourism to curate, provide, and install artwork at Tilly's Table located at Tilly Foster Farm and looks forward to offering art classes there soon.

### **III. Mission:**

The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) is dedicated to fostering the arts in all forms in Putnam County and its environs and providing the public with access to innovative and quality cultural arts programming, events, and activities.

#### **IV. Population Served:**

The Council supports projects and arts organizations county wide and serves cultural non-profits, community service organizations, artists of all interests and abilities in all Putnam County communities.

#### **V. Significant Events & Accomplishments & Points of Pride:**

- Increase in public art programs – two outdoor sculpture shows at public parks including Tilly Foster Farm.
- CoveCare – PAC partnered with CoveCare to facilitate a free parent teen art night at – an art series promoting drug free communities – PAC provided (free) space for workshop taught by a PAC instructor.
- Partnership with Putnam County tourism to promote programs that enrich county residents
- Increase in applications to our Arts Link Regrant grant program reflecting that public funds are essential to facilitate quality arts programs throughout the County. New applicants included Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Town of Carmel Recreation and Parks.
- (new) Collaboration with Guardian Revival Veterans Group to help create a weekly meeting space to connect and play music. We provide the gallery space which has great acoustics, to them Monday nights free of charge.
- (new) Collaboration with Southeast Museum in Brewster to help facilitate their re-opening with an exhibition held in both spaces.
- Installation of a lift/elevator at premises and new climate control system in pottery studio.
- (new) Establishment of a scholarship for art programs for children in need.
- (new) Senior discounts made possible through a bequest from a longtime friend and instructor.
- (new) Representation of the arts on the leadership council of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation.
- (new) Partnership with Assemblyman Slater to judge Earth Day Art Contest and meet with young artist participants.
- (new) Partnership with Putnam County Youth Bureau to present art exhibition “Building Bridges”

**Notable savings:** The installation of new HVAC unit should provide significant savings to climate control in very active pottery studio.

## **VI. Staffing:**

Recently a social media director was hired as well as a website coordinator.

No other significant staffing changes have been made

## **VII. Sources of Revenue/Current trends**

Expenses continue to climb for social media (coordinator), print media (postage, printing), and technology (software and hardware and repairs), .

State support appears to be trending away from decentralized (local) funding while requiring more unfunded administration.

Year-end accounting expenses have tripled.

Foundation and Corporate for the arts appears to be on the decline post Pandemic.

No unfunded mandates.

## **Goals for 2024**

Continue to design and offer quality arts programs providing access to the arts for people of all ages and abilities.

Create a quarterly roundtable of cultural stakeholders in an effort to network, share audiences and develop partnerships.

Provide opportunities for artists to create their work and connect with the community

Increase awareness of the power of the arts to address critical social concerns in Putnam County:

- Isolation, Mental Health, Education
  - By helping our children learn,
  - By providing a forum for self-expression
  - Connecting us to our history and bridging us to our future

Emphasize the importance of the arts and its impact on economic development in Putnam County:

- By drawing people to Putnam County through cultural tourism
- Providing job opportunities
- Promoting and indirectly supporting local business (raising \$7-\$8 for every dollar spent)

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**Christina "Tina" Cornish-Lauria**  
*Executive Director*

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February 9, 2024

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne  
40 Gleneida Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Carmel, NY 10512

Dear County Executive Byrne,

As per communications with Chief of Staff Matt Covucci, I am providing you with a 2023 Annual Report for our funding from Putnam County.

I have included everything Matt has requested in his memorandum and hope you and your staff find all in order.

**This year, we need to fundraise approximately \$33,000 to meet our extremely lean budget and we are hoping to receive \$30,000 from Putnam County so that we may be able to continue providing our vital services to individuals with disabilities residing in Putnam County.**

If you require anything else, please let me know as we are grateful for the funding we received last year.

Sincerely,

Tina Cornish-Lauria  
Executive Director



ny.give.org



# **The County of Putnam 2023 Funding Annual Report**

**Agency Name/Address: CAREERS Support Solutions, Inc.**

**Carmel office: 102 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512 (845) 225-8007**

**Main: 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, NY 10595 (914) 741-8500**

**Main Email Address: careersforpeople@aol.com**

**Contract #: C2023017**

**Executive Director: Christina Cornish-Lauria**

**Date: February 9, 2024**

## **I. Description of Agency**

CAREERS Support Solutions is a private, non-profit established in 1987 that empowers students and adults with intellectual, learning, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities throughout Putnam, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties, NY to achieve the dignity, financial independence and sense of community they deserve through meaningful employment. Our newest program include us providing services to seniors – with, and without, disabilities. All of our services are provided at no cost to the individual, their families or employer.

For 37 years, our mission has been to empower people with disabilities achieve the dignity, financial independence and sense of community they deserve through meaningful employment. We achieve our mission through a robust combination of soft skills training, hands-on job search assistance, thorough on-the-job training and ongoing support throughout the duration of every client's relationship with CAREERS. We also teach life skills and social skills to individuals with disabilities not quite ready for a supported work program. All of our services are free to clients and employers, and we provide our services to residents of Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester Counties, NY.

## **II. Services Provided**

We offer targeted programs tailored for specific populations, including our High School Transition Program, Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program, Seniors Program, Ambition In Motion day hab without walls program and On Course for College for students moving on to college.

Putnam funding helped support the following programs and services in 2023, which target our different client populations:

- **Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program:** Our main program for adults with disabilities provides the job readiness, financial literacy and soft skills training needed for long-term job success. We develop resumes, practice interviewing, and set up and attend interviews. Once a client begins working, our Employment Specialists accompany them to work and stay with them throughout the training period until all required job skills are mastered. Once initial training is completed to the employer's satisfaction, we continue to provide long-term support while maintaining regular contact with the client, their family, employer and co-workers. Our staff trains each client until they can successfully function autonomously or with minimal assistance.

The classroom training is taught in groups, which helps our clients learn from each other on a variety of levels. They are able to observe, practice and develop appropriate workplace behaviors needed to obtain and keep a job. The interactive format helps participants make friends, gain confidence from one another, and facilitates successful interactions with managers, co-workers and customers, and in their personal lives. Developing social skills helps alleviate the isolation experienced by many individuals with disabilities.

- **High School Transition Program:** This program helps students with disabilities create a plan for their future and adjust to moving from a classroom to the workplace. We teach Workforce Readiness classes in high schools and our offices, helping students assess their skills and interests, prepare resumes and cover letters, and understand what is expected of them in the workplace. We place students in internships in the community, which can lead to paid jobs after graduation. Students receive on-the-job training, job coaching and ongoing support in areas such as communication, conflict resolution and transportation. Research shows that people with autism and other disabilities who participate in vocational training and/or job-related activities in high school are more likely to be gainfully employed as adults.
- **On Course for College:** Our Employment Specialists are paired with students who have a documented disability and meet college admission requirements for a degree or certificate program. Students receive help with admission procedures, registration and course selection. Our staff helps each student evaluate the resources campuses offer, including tutoring, student advocacy and available accommodations. We also provide one-on-one social support and services tailored to the changing needs of each participant, including problem solving, coping skills and stress management. This program helps students with disabilities navigate the complexities of college life while also preparing them for the working world.
- **Ambition In Motion (AIM):** This unique day habilitation without walls program teaches life skills to developmentally disabled adults who are not ready for traditional supported work. Small groups volunteer in the community to learn job and social skills, go on field trips, play sports, shop, cook, and do other tasks to learn independent living skills while also preparing for internships or even a paid job.
- **Jobs for Seniors:** Our Employment Specialists help seniors age 55 and older, with and without disabilities, find employment with an individualized program that includes resume preparation, teaching workforce readiness skills and stress management, finding appropriate job openings, and arranging and preparing for interviews.

### **III. Mission Statement**

CAREERS Support Solutions, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to find productive employment for individuals with learning, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities; provide extensive on-the-job training and ongoing support services; educate employers and the community about the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities; and form effective partnerships with employees, employers and families. Founded in 1987 by parents concerned with the shortage of employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, CAREERS' fundamental goal is to assist its clients in achieving the satisfaction of sustained, gainful employment within their communities.

### **IV. Population Served**

Our target population is low-income adults and students with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities. CAREERS clients are of working age (ages 16 - 70) and are

of any sex, race, sexual orientation or income – though the majority are low-income. Most are diagnosed with multiple disabilities, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, hearing, visual, and/or physical impairments.

## **V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

Please see the attached newsletter and recent newspaper articles about our programs/highlights.

During 2023, we worked with 105 Putnam residents with disabilities, including seniors, that would not have otherwise been able to learn skills needed, and/or be placed in jobs or programs that help them lead better lives. We received 25 new referrals, placed 35 in new jobs and 14 in paid internships and provided long-term ongoing job coaching support to 48. Our programs provided the help and support that Putnam families needed for their family members. If we did not provide our services to them, the clients we worked with would have been stuck at home and been a burden for family members to try and deal with.

## **VI. Staffing**

Like most businesses these days, we have had difficulty hiring staff but we will also wait to hire the right person for each opening. We currently have one opening that we are trying to fill so we currently have 6 Employment Specialist's working in our Carmel office who provide services to all of Putnam County.

## **VII. Sources of Revenue**

We have many sources of revenue, and have 5 year contracts every five years with the following: the NYS Education Department (via ACCES-VR), the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the Office of Mental Health (OMH), and Medicaid. We also have annual contracts with local school districts. We have a fundraising thrift boutique just north of Shoprite on Rt. 52 in Carmel run by volunteers that generates some income as we have to fundraise an average over \$350,000 to meet our extremely lean budget. We write grants continuously all through each year to assure that we meet our budget – and we always do. We have an annual fundraising event where we give award to our clients that have excelled and to thank our supporters. Our Board of Directors do an annual appeal and we have a Monthly Sustainer Program for family members. This year we are having a Comedy Show fundraiser in April to help us meet our fundraising goal. During 2023 – 2024, besides this grant, we received several grants that Senator Harkham helped us get and we are hoping that we will continue to receive funding from Putnam County going forward as we are providing extremely important services to the disabled population in Putnam County.

## **VIII. Goals for 2024**

**Goal # 1:** To provide needed services to a minimum of 100 Putnam residents with disabilities.

**Goal # 2:** To continue all our programs for Putnam residents in need, including our High School Transition Program, Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program, Seniors program, Ambition In Motion day hab without walls program and On Course for College.

**Goal # 3:** To continue to collaborate with other Putnam-based organizations to provide ancillary services like case management, psychiatry, social work, recreation, medical, transportation and other services that we do not provide to assure that all of our clients receive ALL the help they need to live better and healthier lives.

## **Just one of many Putnam success stories:**

Kelly Galvin, a Putnam resident, is just one of many recent success stories.... Kelly suffers with depression, anxiety and other health issues that often kept her housebound. She came to CAREERS in 2010 for workforce readiness training and placement and completed our training program at Goodwill Industries, where she learned to hang and tag clothing.

We then placed her in internships at Edible Arrangements and CVS but she struggled with poor attendance and tardiness due to overwhelming anxiety and panic attacks. Kelly also had low motivation and lost interest in completing our pre-vocational program to gain the soft skills and job training that would prepare her for the workforce.

Kelly's outlook changed drastically when she started to work at the CAREERS Thrift Boutique in Carmel which is run by volunteers. Kelly's duties include sorting and hanging clothing, tagging items, dusting, vacuuming and dressing the mannequins. Kelly has even overcome her anxiety enough to give customers fashion advice! Her mom says she now looks forward all week to her shift at the Thrift Boutique. Other volunteers enjoy working with Kelly and are impressed with the great job she does. Kelly really loves lending a hand and hopes to have a paid retail job once her workforce readiness training is complete.

She loves to follow fashion and beauty trends and hopes to someday sponsor a prom for students and young adults with disabilities – and make sure attendees look their best for the big night. “Kelly is very generous and sincere when customers at the Thrift Boutique ask for help,” said her CAREERS Employment Specialist Sandra Lauth. “It is her dream to work in retail and help the community one day understand that a disability does not define who you are.”

*Kelly learning skills in our prevocational program at our fundraising thrift boutique located in Carmel.*





# INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

*Charging Lives One Job At A Time*

Number 48

Job placements are up 25% and internships up 20% over last year!

Winter 2022 - 2023

## CAREERS provides workforce training & long-term support to people with disabilities Our programs are always FREE to clients, families and employers.

People with disabilities face unique hurdles when seeking employment. CAREERS helps individuals overcome these barriers and become gainfully employed. We provide comprehensive programs that are tailored to the needs of each person we serve. Our programs help individuals with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities every step of the way – with training in life and job skills, resume and interview preparation, job search and placement, on-the job training and long-term support.



Our **Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training program** prepares individuals with disabilities for the workplace by teaching soft skills like good communication and financial skills like budgeting. We help clients identify their abilities and interests to find a suitable job. Once hired, we provide on-the-job training and the long-term support they need to remain successfully employed.

High school students are taught life and job skills in our **School-to-Work Transition Program**, which helps students with disabilities bridge the gap from the classroom to the workplace. Students are placed in internships and receive the training and feedback necessary to help them reach their full potential. Students who plan to continue their education after high school can also receive assistance with college exploration and admission, registration, course selection and ongoing support through our **On Course for College** program. We help students access resources offered by their college, such as tutoring, etc.

Our **Ambition In Motion (AIM)** day habilitation without walls program helps adults with disabilities who are not yet ready for a supported work program develop the social, life and job skills needed for independent living. They plan outings and menus, shop and cook meals. Our AIM groups contribute to the community by volunteering and enjoying various recreational activities and social get-togethers.

Improving the lives of **seniors** (with and without disabilities) age 55 and older is one of our newest programs which helps them achieve, and maintain, successful employment. The program includes workforce readiness training, resume preparation, job placement and ongoing support.

We also have other programs to help our developmentally disabled clients achieve more independence via our Pathway to Employment and Community Prevocational programs which focus on person-centered planning and assessments to help individuals discover their strengths and interests by volunteering at local job sites. Personalized training activities focus on building strengths and developing confidence and self-esteem.

Interested in our services? Contact **CAREERS Support Solutions**

400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, New York 10595 – residents of mid to lower Westchester County

102 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York 10512 – residents of upper Westchester, Putnam or Dutchess Counties

(914) 741-8500 or [CAREERSforPeople@aol.com](mailto:CAREERSforPeople@aol.com)

[www.CAREERSSupportSolutions.org](http://www.CAREERSSupportSolutions.org)



### **Into the World of Work**

Published by  
CAREERS Support  
Solutions, Inc.

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Tina Cornish-Lauria

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Nancy Coveney

#### **Production Design**

Tina Cornish-Lauria

**CAREERS is a private non-profit that finds productive employment for individuals with disabilities. We provide on-the-job training and ongoing support services at no cost to our clients, their families or employers.**

## CAREERS SUCCESS STORIES

### **CAREERS 2022 Employee of the Year - Noah Feld**

Each year at our Annual Anniversary Celebration we recognize an exemplary client for their hard work and dedication. We were happy to name Noah Feld, a CAREERS client for 27 years, as the 2022 Employee of the Year. Noah helps create delicious cakes, pies, cookies and other treats in the bakery department – first at Pathmark and now at ShopRite in New Rochelle, where he has worked for the past 7 years. He is preparing for his dream of becoming a cake decorator one day. Over the years, Noah has kept this goal in mind as he mixes, stirs, bakes and decorates goodies for customers to enjoy. We are very proud of all that Noah has achieved and for his persistence and dedication to his jobs.



### **Angela Sforza - 2022 Shining Star Award**

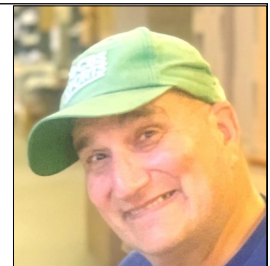
Angela Sforza (left) is a shining success story! She first came to CAREERS when she was in high school and after completing our Workforce Readiness classes, we placed her in a paid internship at S & H Uniform in White Plains. Angela worked on the sales floor and then took charge of displays. Her supervisors were so impressed with her superb work ethic and cheerful attitude that she was offered a paid job at the end of her internship! Angela worked at S & H for 6 years while we continued to provide on-the-job coaching.



While accepting her award at our 2022 Anniversary Celebration, Angela shared the following with all of us: *“Having a job taught me a lot about teamwork, learning how to communicate, being responsible, and being more social with other individuals as well as my fellow co-workers. Being a part of CAREERS has changed my life for the better. Thank you CAREERS for providing a positive message to individuals of all ages with special needs like myself that they can succeed in the corporate job world. My advice to others -- do not EVER let your disability define YOU because you are worth far more than that.”*

### **CAREERS 2022 Retiree Award - Lyle Davidson**

Lyle Davidson, a CAREERS client for 26 years, worked at S & H Uniform in White Plains for 19 years. As an essential worker, Lyle worked through the entire pandemic without hesitation and never missed a day. For Lyle, work was not just a job, he truly loved the people he worked with and his supervisors said that he showed true dedication, had a good attitude, and was never ever late for work! We are both happy and sad when one of our clients retires or graduates and we will all miss Lyle's wonderfully happy personality.



## CAREERS OPENS A FUNDRAISING THRIFT SHOP TO BENEFIT OUR PROGRAMS

CAREERS Thrift Shop located just north of ShopRite at 208 Route 52 in Carmel has been a great success since it opened in April 2022. The shop is entirely staffed by volunteers and sells new and gently used clothing for men and women, jewelry, shoes, boots, handbags, housewares, and other items. It also gives some of our clients the opportunity to learn work skills by volunteering in the shop weekly.

All thrift shop sales and donations fund CAREERS supported work programs for people with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities and we were proud to honor our thrift shop volunteers at our Annual Anniversary Celebration.

Pictured on page 4 are some of our great volunteers. We are extremely grateful for our volunteers and the many community members who have been donating and/or buying thrift shop merchandise.



**HOURS:**  
M, T, Th & Sat  
11 - 3

W & F 11 - 4

**Questions?**  
**(845) 249-5390**

### SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Longtime CAREERS board member Howard Forbes passed away in July 2022. He was a dentist in Yorktown Heights, served on CAREERS Board of Directors since 2005, and was our Treasurer from 2010 to 2013. He was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed by all. Many thanks to Howard's family and friends who made donations to our programs in Howard's memory:

*Mona Aronstam  
Edward Colker & Elaine Galen  
Nancy Delahunt  
Judith Ellison  
Carol Feldman  
Mona Finkelberg  
Eric Forbes  
Stephen Gerstman, DDS  
Jeanne Gold  
Carole Greenberg  
Pam and Barker Harrison  
Miriam Klein*

*Louise Kleinbaum  
Babette Kronstadt  
Rachel Lachs  
Joan Elkin Madison  
Sherril Owens  
Deborah Pomeranz  
Lee Reichman  
Lucy Rosen  
Ann Scolnick  
Sherry and Steven Swier  
Marilyn and Vincent Tropiano*



**It's simple to make a donation and designate it as a gift for a memorial, anniversary, birthday, or any other occasion. Simply mail in a donation or go to our website and make a secure donation using PayPal.** *Thank You!*

© 2023 CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Annual Report, Outside Agencies



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HONOREES



**Employee of the Year**  
Noah Feld  
Job Coach Allegra Palevich



**Employer of the Year**  
Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace  
Yorktown  
(left to right) Yaselyn Lavanda  
Job Coach Violetta Bertuzzi  
Client/Employee William Paget



**Supervisor of the Year**  
Claudia Pavone  
ShopRite Bedford



**Outstanding Program Support Award**  
Afya Foundation  
Asia Matatov (right)  
Program Coordinator Jen Retacco  
Client/Intern Madison Higgs



**Forever In Our Hearts Award**  
Howard Forbes  
CAREERS Executive Director  
Tina Cornish-Lauria



**Outstanding Community Support Award**  
Martha Elder (left)  
Second Chance Foods  
Job Coach Violetta Bertuzzi  
Client/Volunteer Victoria Faley



**Shining Star Award**  
Angela Sforza (left)  
Job Coach Allison Scorca

**Outstanding Volunteer Awards** CAREERS Thrift Shop Volunteers  
Jayne Dwyer, Regina Spain, Pat Gallagher, Sarah Hawkins, Olivia Pompei, Sherrill Doar, Thel Simon, Alex McManus, Eva Donnadio, Toni Von Elm, Helen DelGrosso, Mindy Conciatori, Kathleen Koran, Donna Donato and Janice Burton



**Volunteers**  
(left to right):  
Jayne Dwyer,  
Regina Spain,  
Pat Gallagher,  
Olivia Pompei  
Sarah Hawkins

**Retirement Honoree**  
Lyle Davidson



**Award of Appreciation**  
Senator Peter Harckham  
CAREERS Executive Director  
Tina Cornish-Lauria



**Rock Star Award**  
Harpal Arora (left)  
Community Instructor  
Dan Ramirez



**Personal Achievement Awards**  
Stephen Barker, Ben Rodell and Debra Ann Schnepf



Stephen with his  
Job Coach Allison Scorca



Ben (right) with PepsiCo  
sponsor Paul Sheridan



Debra Ann (left) with her  
Job Coach Sandra Lauth



# CAREERS 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Many thanks to the generous and loyal sponsors of our October 2022 event:

## Premier Sponsor



## Supreme Sponsor



## Supporting Sponsors



## Contributing Sponsors



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

We were delighted to hold our Annual Anniversary Celebration in person for the first time in two years! We welcomed loyal sponsors and new ones. We are especially grateful to PepsiCo EnAble for being our Premier Sponsor for the 18<sup>th</sup> year! If you weren't able to attend our celebration, you can see our slideshows highlighting our clients at work and award recipients on our website at:

[www.careerssupportolutions.org/news-events/2022-anniversary-celebration/](http://www.careerssupportolutions.org/news-events/2022-anniversary-celebration/)

## AMBITION IN MOTION (AIM) COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAM

Our Ambition In Motion (AIM) program participants were out and about in 2022, returning to a full schedule of volunteering, outdoor activities and social get-togethers. **AIM is our program for adults with intellectual, emotional and developmental disabilities who are not yet ready for a supported work program.** It is tailored to the needs, interests and abilities of each client, and focuses on developing life and job skills in a small group setting. AIM participants learn skills needed for independent living while taking part in fun activities and socializing with their peers.



Our AIM groups pitched in to help feed hungry neighbors throughout Putnam County by volunteering for Second Chance Foods where they sorted and labeled food donations, helped prepare meals and packaged them for delivery. We were proud to present Martha Elder and Second Chance Foods with our Outstanding Community Support Award at our Annual Anniversary Celebration. It wasn't all work and no play for our women's group. They enjoyed lots of fun activities, including bowling, long walks in the park, trips to the mall and many other fun and educational activities.

Our men's group had many memorable outings too. They hiked, played outdoor checkers, visited the Chuang Yen Monastery in Carmel, the Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard in North Salem, among many other venues and adventures they enjoyed.

Both groups got together for summer barbeques, Hudson Valley Renegades baseball games, dressing up for Halloween fun and decking the halls for Christmas. On one beautiful summer day, the group explored the charming shops in Cold Spring before the guys treated everyone to ice cream with money they saved from bottle refunds. The AIM groups also go to grocery stores and malls to practice life skills like budgeting and food shopping that are needed for independent living.

Like all CAREERS programs, AIM is offered at no cost to clients and their families. Regular, flexible week-day schedules and transportation are available.

For more information on the Ambition In Motion (AIM) program, contact Rebecca Appleyard at (845) 225-8007 x101 or email [rappleyard@careersfp.org](mailto:rappleyard@careersfp.org).



## MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS



**Bulova Stetson Fund**  
**John & Dorothy Caples Fund**  
**Alice & Cortland Knipe Foundation**

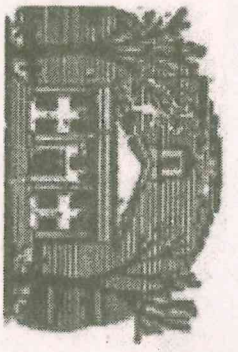
Our corporate and foundation supporters help us provide job training and placement services to individuals with disabilities who want to work, always at no cost to them, their families or employers.

**All contributions truly improve the lives of people with disabilities.**

Going to work each day helps individuals with disabilities avoid isolation and depression, but they often need training and ongoing support to achieve sustained employment. All donations help us provide the personalized programs our clients need to become productive, successful members of their community.

All donations to CAREERS are tax-deductible by law. Please make checks out, and mail to: CAREERS Support Solutions - 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, NY 10595 or make a secure donation on our website at: [www.careersupportsolutions.org/giving-funding/donate-today/](http://www.careersupportsolutions.org/giving-funding/donate-today/)





The Putnam County

# TIMES

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PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
This paper publishes official notices for Putnam County, Carmel, Kent, Southeast, Brewster, Patterson

VOL. 165 NO. 29

P.O. BOX 608, MAHOPAC, NEW YORK 10541

845-628-8400

EDITORIAL@PUTNAMPRESSTIMES.COM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023

## People with Disabilities Making a Difference in Putnam

The parks in Putnam County have less litter these days thanks to the volunteer clean-up efforts of participants in CAREERS Support Solutions' Ambition In Motion – an innovative program for adults with developmental disabilities.

CAREERS is a private, non-profit organization located in Carmel and its AIM program teaches the interpersonal and social skills needed for independent living. The AIM group thrives by volunteering in the community and taking part in recreational and social outings.

“The guys in AIM love to go to the skate park in the Jimmy McDonough Memorial Park in Carmel to pick up litter, and we go at least once a week,” said Dan Ramirez, CAREERS community instructor. “We also pick

up litter in other Putnam County parks. The guys enjoy giving back to the community and it gives them a sense of purpose.”

In addition to tidying Carmel's parks, the men in AIM package recyclables at the Kent Recycling Center and tend crops and harvest produce at Hilltop Hanover Farm in Yorktown Heights.

The women in the AIM program are also active volunteers, for the Putnam Humane Society and local food pantries. They sort donations and package food for distribution for Hillside Food Outreach in Mount Kisco and Second Chance Foods in Brewster.

“Volunteering brings tremendous benefits to people in the community and also to those who donate their time to

help others,” said Tina Cornish-Lauria, executive director of CAREERS. “People with disabilities need to feel they are a part of their community, and volunteering is the ideal way to give them a sense of purpose and learn skills.”

CAREERS Support Solutions provides services to hundreds of individuals annually throughout Westchester, Putnam and lower Dutchess counties. Its mission is to empower people with disabilities by teaching workforce readiness skills and providing job placement, on-the-job training and ongoing support to assure long-term success – at no cost to the individual or employer.

For more information, visit [www.careersupportsolutions.org](http://www.careersupportsolutions.org).



Clients from CAREERS Support Solutions' Ambition In Motion Jennifer, left, and Victoria package flour for clients of Second Chance Foods in Brewster.



## People with Disabilities Make a Difference Cleaning Up Putnam

The parks in Putnam County have less litter these days thanks to the volunteer clean-up efforts of the men in CAREERS Support Solutions Ambition In Motion (AIM) program -- an innovative program for adults with developmental disabilities. CAREERS is a private non-profit located in Carmel and their AIM program teaches the interpersonal and social skills needed for independent living. The AIM group truly enjoys volunteering in the community and taking part in recreational and social outings.

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Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS, said that "volunteering brings tremendous benefits to people in the



AIM clients (from left to right) Michael, Ahmed and Anthony work hard and have fun while cleaning up the skatepark in Carmel's Jimmy McDonough Memorial Park.

community and also to those who donate their time to help others. People with disabilities need to feel they are a part of their community, and volunteering is the ideal way to give them a sense of purpose and learn skills."

CAREERS Support Solutions provides support services to hundreds of individuals annually throughout Westchester, Putnam and lower Dutchess Counties.



## Gaining Real Life Experience at CAREERS Support Solutions

By ERIC GROSS

CAREERS Support Solutions Thrift Boutique is more than a business located on Route 52 at the Carmel-Kent line where everything from clothing to bric-a-brac along with a variety of 'treasures' is for sale at extremely reasonable prices.

The boutique is also a place where CAREERS' clients are taught skills by earning internships, learning to operate a cash register, setting up displays and stocking shelves in addition to developing customer service, allowing clients to achieve permanent employment.

During a visit to the shop last week, CAREERS Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria talked about her agency's pre-vocational program where "employment specialists work with clients not quite ready for supportive employment. They are taught skills allowing for entry to such businesses as CVS Drug Stores, TOPS Supermarkets and Marshal's Department Stores."

Sandra Lauth, a CAREERS employment specialist, is currently assisting Kelly Galvin, a young woman from Mahopac, improve her communication skills: "Kelly is learning how to communicate with customers in addition to time on task, sorting, stacking and organizing the outfits worn by our store mannequin."

During 2023, CAREERS assisted 50 interns achieve their goals.

Cornish-Lauria added many of her agency's pre vocational interns are still in high school: "We get them prepared so when they reach 21 and graduate from high school, they move onto CAREERS' Supportive Work program."

Cornish-Lauria, who has been at CAREERS for the past 34 years, has dedicated her life to assisting the developmentally disabled for four decades.

"I truly believe in what we are doing. We have a tremendous staff with practically no turn over. Our clients keep me going every day—so many wonderful men and women—who we have been able to keep working for decades," she said.

Lauth agreed: "I give Tina all the credit in the world because she started at a time when people feared having people with disabilities in the work place. Like Tina, I am thrilled to help people and get them out into the community by either volunteering or getting them a job. CAREERS has given me purpose."

Galvin, 35, truly enjoys her assignment at the thrift boutique: "I like coming here and helping



Kelly Galvin dresses a mannequin.

people."

Cornish-Lauria spoke with Kelly's mother recently: "She told me how training has really changed Kelly's life as well as her mother's life. Now Kelly dresses up each day while using make-up. She is a beautiful person."

CAREERS has been providing services to the disabled in Putnam in addition to northern Westchester and southern Dutchess by helping them, as Cornish-Lauria noted: "Find and keep jobs they love."

The thrift shop allows individuals to not only shop but donate merchandise: "We are not a consignment shop but we provide donors with a tax receipt."

The shop contains a wide variety of gently used clothing in addition to jewelry, bric-a-brac, knick knacks, pet supplies, books, video games, stuffed animals, sporting goods, small appliances, computers, musical instruments and even lamps and small items of furniture.

Volunteers are needed to man the boutique. Interested persons are asked to call 845-249-5390 or email: [careersforpeople@aol.com](mailto:careersforpeople@aol.com)

CAREERS Thrift Shop is open Monday from 10 am to 4 pm; Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 3 pm.

With additional volunteers, it is anticipated the shop will be open on the weekend as well.



**Annual Report 2023**  
**Constitution Island Association**

**I. Description of Agency**

Constitution Island Association was established in 1915 and is one of the oldest non-for-profit organizations in the Hudson River Valley chartered through the New York State Department of Education.

**II. Service Provided**

- Provide support to West Point Cadets and their families.
- Bible Studies/social gathering for the West Point and surrounding community.
- Provide Island Tours to regional schools.
- Support signature Events and Reenactments.
- Maintain the Warner House a newly restored and originally furnished museum.
- Support Education Center funded through George and Libby Pataki.
- Provide support to scholars of history on archived documents.
- Develop Educational and Virtual Programing

**III. Mission Statement**

CIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and is managed by a voluntary board of trustees comprised of representatives committed to its mission which is to partner with the United States Military Academy at West Point to provide visitors and the West Point community with a rewarding educational and recreational experience based on both the legacy of the Warner Sisters and the Island's history, ecology, and unique location on the Hudson River.

**IV. Population Served**

West Point and Cold Spring, the Hudson River Valley

**V. Year in Summary – Significant Events & Accomplishments**

2023/2024 are banner years as we welcome the public back to the Island and stand on the horizon of the Semi-quincentennial celebration of the United States of America. The 250th anniversary (REV250) of the United States in 2026 offers a vital opportunity to help American society progress towards justice through an inclusive approach to history and to strengthen the history field by attracting interest, investment, and stewardship. We have docents and volunteer gardeners dedicated for many years and are more ready than ever to tell the story of Americana as interest around “REV250” continues to build.

Through support from Putnam County, we can continue to develop education programs and welcome people to join us for a tour at a critical time as we approach a national

milestone in 2025 and celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our nation's Independence. The story of the Warner Sisters went virtual in 2023, as we know, and we can give virtual tours through our website. In 2024, we are reinstating Little America's Program for regional schools. Of course, the Island has many opportunities to expand educational programming, improve hiking trails, and restore our redoubts that offer stunning Hudson River and Highlands vistas.

In 2023 we prepared our docent corps, set the house as it was in 1900, launched a new website and have developed an amazing virtual tour that we offer. Please visit <https://www.constitutionisland.org/virtual-tour-1>. We will continue to build on the great work as we continue to deliver the spirit of the Warner Sisters through our not-for-profit and share their stories and values. We also have an impactful history that includes General Washington. As restoration work was being completed in 2019/20, we discovered that the Island itself, chronicled in the logs of Henry Hudson, are also one of the most significant archeological finds of our indigenous people in the nation. Our mission is to continue developing the history lessons, telling these stories, and sharing this important place in Putnam County and the Hudson River Valley with all.

## **VI. Staffing**

Office Manager/Events and Tour Coordinator

## **VII. Sources of Revenue**

Fundraising and community support. West Point also supports maintenance. Educational programming is provided through our annual events contributions, grants, and fundraising. We are supported through (DUSA) Daughters of the United States Army and Putnam County Grants and our continued fundraising.

## **VIII. Goals for 2024**

- Continue to develop plans for REV 250.
- Outreach to local schools for Little Americas Program.
- Assist in restoration efforts for the redoubts on the Island.
- Develop the narrative for the indigenous peoples exhibit and education.
- Develop plan/map for hiking trails.
- Train and support Docents.
- Support Gardeners.
- Host annual Gala and Island Tour
- Coordinate Reenactment
- Coordinate Constitution Island Family Day
- Further Develop virtual programming

## **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUTNAM COUNTY**

Agency Address – 1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509

Phone Number – 845-278-6738

Main email address – putnam@cornell.edu

- I. Description of Agency - Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County (CCEPC) is a dynamic education system connecting Cornell's world-class research with regional and county-based educators and partners. CCEPC is uniquely positioned to tailor opportunities and resources to match the diverse and evolving needs of individual communities.

CCEPC partners with local, state, and federal government agencies, and is supported by the national Land-Grant system and Cornell University. In fulfillment of Cornell's Land-Grant mission, faculty and staff collaborate with extension associates, agriculture specialists, CCE educators and staff, local partners and volunteers to engage citizens and empower communities to transform and grow from the ground up. CCEPC educators develop programming that collects information and experience from their own communities to inform Cornell research and program development.

- II. Services Provided - From food and nutrition to economic vitality to environmental and social resilience, CCEPC is dedicated to improving lives across Putnam County. CCEPC connects communities with Cornell University research from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) and the College of Human Ecology (CHE) to enrich and empower neighbors, local businesses, towns, and villages. CCEPC works hard to improve:

- Farming and food production
- Parenting, family life and family dynamics
- Child health and nutrition
- Veteran and military family opportunities
- Water, land and energy conservation and management
- Community resilience and economic vitality
- Nutrition education and health
- Positive Youth Development

- III. Mission Statement - Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

IV. Population Served – Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County serves all Putnam County residents regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, political beliefs and/or income.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023

Accomplishments Overview:

- Provided 9,899 volunteers community service hours in Putnam County valued at \$353,000 (Independent Sector 2023).
- Reached 3,659 Putnam residents with in-person programming.
- Served 1,291 Putnam youth through 24 4-H youth development programs and clubs.
- Provided 7,546 free meals to Putnam seniors.
- Purchased 4,460 pounds of locally grown produce from Putnam farmers for those in need.

a. **Recently completed projects/programs**

Family and Youth Development

- Educated 51 Putnam youth through a partnership with Mahopac High School, on the interconnection of our local food system with visits to Long Haul Farm, Second Chance Foods, and WinWaste Recycling. (Funding: Towards Sustainability Foundation.)
- Hosted 130 high-school aged youth at the Putnam County Youth Forum, in partnership with the Putnam County Youth Bureau, preparing them for their future in our communities and our world (Funder NYS Office of Children and Family Services).
- Read to more than 800 second-grade students at all six Putnam School Districts during NYS 4-H Ag Literacy Week during March 2023.

Agriculture & Food Systems

- Expanded Bountiful Meals (free, nutrient dense meals) pilot program with additional grants from Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley (\$45,000 for three years), New York State Agriculture and Markets (\$37,458), and United Way of Westchester and Putnam County (\$8,500) in partnership with Office for Senior Resources to provide 7,546 free, nutrient-dense meals to seniors with more than 40 reporting improved food security and spent \$13,500 on produce from local Putnam County farmers.
- Collaborated with Town of Philipstown to provide Philipstown Community Health Needs Assessment through ARPA funding to send 9,600 mailings, connecting more than one hundred individuals with Philipstown Food Pantry, Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, and Philipstown Aging at Home.
- Reintroduced Food Preservation Classes for the first time since 2017, educating close to 50 individuals and volunteers on safe, at-home canning techniques.

### Natural Resources

- Reached more than 400 viewers with [six professionally filmed videos](#) highlighting Putnam County's natural resources, history, and hiking. (Funding: HRV Greenway Council, and Dyson Foundation discretionary funds.) Partners included Hudson Highland Land Trust, Friends of the Great Swamp, Putnam County Parks, Office of the Putnam County Historian, and Manitoga.
- Led 130 hikers on curated local history and natural resource hikes that highlighted Putnam County's natural beauty and rich history.
- Educated 108 Putnam residents on [lakeshore buffers](#) and water quality in two events with NYS Federation on Lake Associations, Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District (PC SWCD), and Kent Lakes Association, and the Lake Oscawana Management Advisory Committee.
- The [Putnam Pollinator Pathway](#) reached the goal of 200 residents, businesses, and non-profits who have taken the pathway promise to plant native plants, refrain from using pesticides, and rethink their lawns. In 2024, the Pathway is working to expand to 350 properties where pollinator support is a priority.
- Distributed more than 6,400 native trees, shrubs, and perennials to support pollinators through the Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale partnering with PC SWCD, and Master Gardener May Plant Sale.

### Community Horticulture

- Advised more than 300 clients through our horticulture hotline on integrated pest management and pesticide use to protect our water and health.
- Introduced 22 new gardeners in the Village of Brewster to low-cost vegetable gardening through the "Seed to Supper" program and provided [growing resources](#) in conjunction with Cornell Garden Based Learning and the Oregon Food Bank.
- Reached 127 residents with messages on backyard composting and sustainable landscape practices in conjunction with Putnam County Department of Health.

### Smart Energy Choices- Mid-Hudson Region

- CCEPC is one of nine organizations serving the seven-county Mid-Hudson region.
- Energy Advisors located in each county are available to help renters, homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofits navigate the programs and resources available to them to reduce their energy burden, with the goal of helping utility customers make informed energy decisions based on their unique needs.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension assisted with 186 virtual and in-person events, conducted 1,836+ hours of personalized energy advising to area residents, small-businesses, and non-profits.
- At least 1 in 3 people acted on a project after talking with an Energy Advisor. There were 206 Mid-Hudson participants in programs recommended by Energy Advisors, of which 36% were low-income and provided wrap-around services.

## Nutrition

- Provided nutrition resources and tools to attendees at the Putnam County Senior Health Fair at the William Koehler Memorial Senior Center in Mahopac.
- Provided virtual nutrition education to English and Spanish speaking attendees participating in SNAP Ed's Fruit and Vegetable Prescription (FVRx) program. FVRx is a program that partners with healthcare providers to screen for food insecurity and provide vouchers for fresh fruit and vegetables for redemption at local participating vendors. The goal for 2024 is to expand FVRx in Putnam County.

### b. **New projects/programs**

- Secured \$2 Million from New York State Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) (USDA-NIFA funded) through New York Food for New York Families Program (Track 1) to purchase \$1.3 Million worth of produce, meat, and dairy and distribute for free to Putnam and nearby counties through mobile truck stop and direct to food pantries.
- Expansion of Bountiful Meals from Farm Fresh Food Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and NYSDAM Track 2 totaling \$82,458 to cover all four Putnam County senior centers in partnership with Office for Senior Resources as well as two additional distribution sites including Putnam Valley Free Library to distribute free, farm fresh meals prepared by Second Chance Foods.
- Received \$400,000 for "Addressing Food Systems Needs in Putnam County" through the Community Food Project USDA-NIFA to increase fresh produce on food pantry shelves by 10%, serve 600 new participants through free food delivery services, increase culturally relevant food by 25% served by emergency food providers, and offer more than 100 food delivery trips for food insecure individuals.
- Expansion of Community Seed Libraries: following a successful pilot program in which we distributed 332 vegetable and herb seed packets to ninety-two patrons of Brewster and Patterson libraries, we will expand this effort to include a total of five Putnam County seed libraries in 2024. (Funding: Master Gardener Volunteers May Plant Sale.)
- Introducing our Shiitake Laying Yard. This year marked the beginning of our effort to establish an [agroforestry](#) demonstration plot at the Tilly Foster Farm, part of a growing trend in non-timber forest products and community food forests. In 2024, we will offer a hands-on [log grown shiitake workshop](#) for forest landowners with the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and Women Owning Woodlands (WOW). With funding, we will continue to expand the agroforestry demonstration plot to include additional forest-grown food crops.
- The 4-H Puppeteer Players, a new youth development initiative that infuses youth theater with community service, kicked off in July. To date, we have

performed for more than 250 youth at Putnam libraries and community events. This program is a partnership with Pied Piper Youth Theater funded by the Putnam Arts Council.

**c. Points of pride (noteworthy departmental accomplishments/successes)**

- The Phase I Capital Campaign for the Cornell Barn raised \$429,000 which surpassed the target of \$384,000 by \$44,100.00.
- A 99-year property lease was finalized with Putnam County. This one dollar a year lease will rent Cornell Cooperative Extension the footprint at Tilly Foster Farm, Brewster where the Cornell Barn will be constructed.
- The Putnam County Country Fest and 4-H Showcase, a collaboration between Putnam County and Cornell Cooperative Extension, welcomed over 10,000 guests.
- The [Putnam Pollinator Pathway](#) reached the goal of 200 residents, businesses, and non-profits who have taken the pathway promise.
- We secured approximately \$3 million towards food security initiatives in Putnam County.
- The Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale and May Plant Sale distributed more than 6,400 native trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Bountiful Meals program distributed 7,546 free meals to Putnam seniors, made from over 4000 lbs. of Putnam-grown produce.

**d. Notable savings realized**

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County's highly trained cadre of volunteers provided 9899 hours of community education valued at \$353,000 (Independent Sector 2023). These hours are the total value of five employees working full time, thus allowing our staff to dedicate their time focusing on other notable Putnam County issues.
- November 30, 2023's Statement of Operations calculates CCEPC's average budget percentage at 92%. This snapshot shows income at 87% and expenses at 69%. Additionally, Cornell's cash to debt ratio is 6.30 and our current ratio is 7.12.

**e. Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office**

- Addressing Food Insecurity: Bountiful Meals program in senior centers, significant funding towards future food security initiatives.
- Protecting Water Quality, especially Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS), protecting waterfront property/lakeside communities from erosion, and stormwater management.
- Productive relationship with multiple County Departments.

VI. Staffing

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County employs eight staff members and hosts one staff member from Dutchess County and one from Orange County Cooperative Extension offices.

a. **Changes in current staffing and/or new staff**

We are pleased to welcome Josephine Quiocho, Nutrition Educator. Jo started her nutrition career in the garden. Growing food and being in nature are some of her absolute joys, however, she began to realize that food - growing, cooking, or eating – is a struggle for many. This led her to pursue a master’s degree in food studies from New York University and join Cornell Cooperative Extension’s SNAP-Ed Hudson Valley team. She is excited to use her education and experience to help enhance food literacy and security in Putnam and Westchester Counties.

VII. Sources of Revenue

Capacity funding from federal, state and county appropriations is the critical foundation of Cornell Cooperative Extension, while grants, contracts, fees, and gifts provide some support. Over the past several decades, the purchasing power of federal capacity funding, distributed via formula has been steadily reduced. Capacity funds are often leveraged three- to four-fold with other funding sources. The ‘cooperative’ in Cornell Cooperative Extension is the joint funding provided by federal, state and county partners. For further information see Attachment A.

SOURCE	%
Federal	3
NY State	37
County	30
Other Contracts	6
Programs	2
Contrib. Unrestricted	1
Contrib. Temp Restricted	15

- a. Current trends in the cost of service – CCEPC has seen an increase in operational costs by 10-15% while providing similar services as in previous years. Items seeing the most significant increase in cost include, but are not limited to insurance, staffing, supplies, and utilities.
- b. New, unfunded mandates – n/a

VIII. Goals for 2024

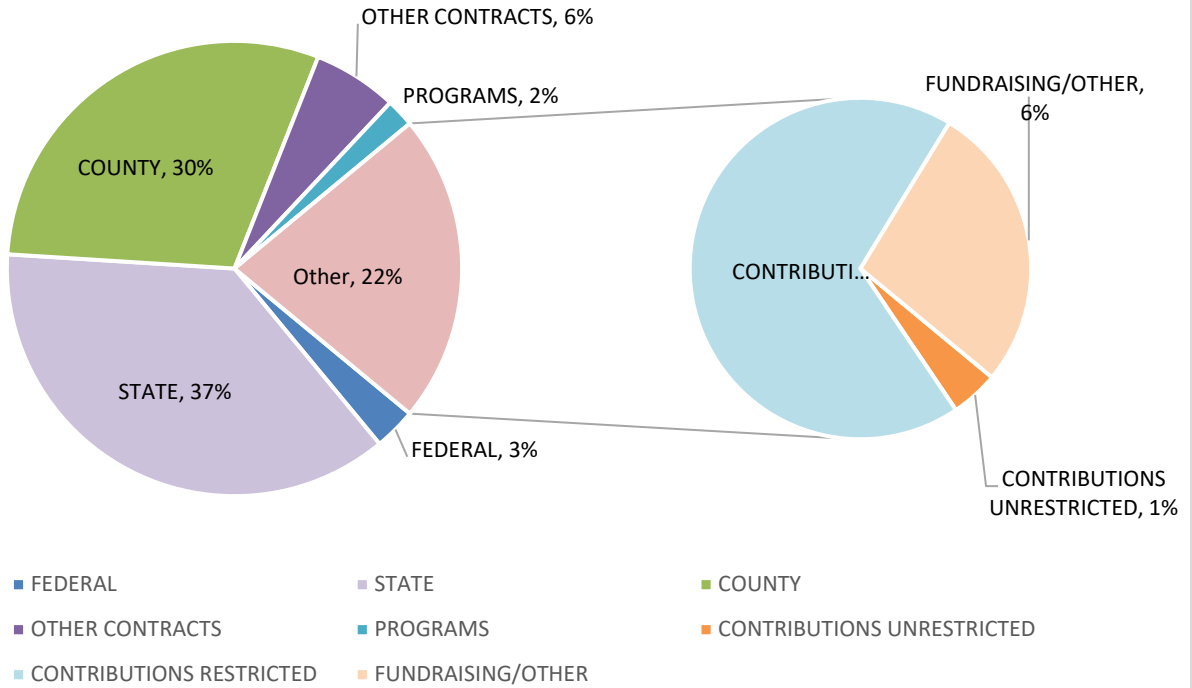
- a. Upcoming projects/programs and initiatives for the next fiscal year:
  - Expansion of Bountiful Meals to serve more than 4,000 additional free meals to Putnam County residents in need.
  - Launch a mobile food pantry delivering locally sourced produce, meat, and dairy to Putnam communities facing food insecurity.



- Community Food Project USDA-NIFA goals will increase fresh produce on food pantry shelves, serve six hundred new participants, and increase culturally relevant food by 25% served by emergency food providers.
  - Started on our path to a community food forest by creating a Log-grown Shiitake mushroom demonstration at Tilly Foster Farm, with supporting educational programs planned in 2024.
  - Smart Energy Choices Putnam will host public forums to engage HEAP-eligible individuals through a needs assessment that will help direct energy program advisors.
  - With \$500,000 in NYSERDA funding, CCEPC will participate in developing and implementing an Equitable Engagement Plan, supporting Home Energy priorities identified in partnership with underserved communities.
  - Kick off Phase II of the Capital Campaign for the Cornell Barn. The fundraising goal for this phase is to raise \$350,000 to complete the build-out of Cornell's new administrative offices and community room/lecture hall.
  - Complete construction of the Zero-Energy Greenhouse, a collaboration between Columbia University, Pleasant View Farm and Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- b. Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office
- Addressing Food Insecurity: Bountiful Meals program offering free meals for seniors will expand to all four senior centers, new mobile food pantry program, and will increase fresh, local, and culturally relevant produce for Putnam food pantries.
  - Protecting Water Quality, especially Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS), protecting waterfront property/ lakeside communities from erosion, and stormwater management.

**Attachment A**

Revenue Source for 2023

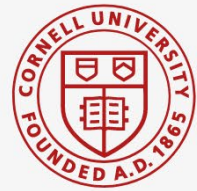


FEDERAL	3%	\$38,984.23
STATE	37%	\$456,885.66
COUNTY	30%	\$372,554.97
OTHER CONTRACTS	6%	\$69,306.32
PROGRAMS	2%	\$26,165.70
CONTRIBUTIONS UNRESTRICTED	1%	\$12,606.38
CONTRIBUTIONS RESTRICTED	15%	\$189,871.50
FUNDRAISING/OTHER	6%	\$72,613.00
<b>Total Revenue 2023</b>		<b>\$1,238,987.76</b>





**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County**



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**2023 Outside Agency Annual Report  
February 21, 2024**

**Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC)**

Kathleen Abels, President  
40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 310  
Carmel, NY 10512  
Office: (845) 808-1021  
Cellular: (845) 242-2212  
kathleen.abels@putnamcountyny.gov  
[www.putnamedc.org](http://www.putnamedc.org)

**Description**

The PCEDC is a 501(c)6 not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York since 1996 to act as the external marketing organization for the economic and employment development of Putnam County. The PCEDC performs as a team with Putnam County Department of Tourism and the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency.

**Services Provided**

- Advocate for infrastructure improvements county-wide.
- Foster the reoccupation and repurposing of vacant buildings in concert with historic preservation, encouraging Main Street revitalization and Transit Oriented Development.
- Act as a facilitator, bringing together businesses, government agencies and other stakeholders.
- Represent Putnam County on the Mid-Hudson Region Economic Development Council, Hudson Valley Economic Development Regional Council, the New York Economic Development Council, the NYS Empire State Development Corporation and the Annual Main Street Conference.
- Direct individuals and organizations to opportunities and incentives, such as Consolidated Funding Applications, Main Street Grants, Workforce Development Initiatives, Preservation Programs, New York State Affordable Housing grants, etc.
- Perform Site Searches for NYS Empire State Development Corporation.
- Provide Letters of Support to people and projects applying for Grants and/or loans.
- Serve on Red Carpet Team of the Putnam Workforce Partnership along with representatives from Westchester Community College, Dutchess Community College, the IDA, NYSDOL, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES and SCORE.
- Hold semi-annual leadership meetings for Chambers of Commerce, Business Council, Department of Tourism and the IDA to help define roles and goals and to foster a regional approach to projects such as hotels and EV Charging stations.

- Prepare annual list of Majors Employers in Putnam County for Planning Department.
- Active member of Commercial Brokers' Associations including HGAR and Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) is to promote the economic vitality of Putnam County, to retain and grow existing businesses, attract new businesses, broaden the County's tax base, and increase employment opportunities for County residents. The PCEDC acts as a facilitator, bringing together businesses, government agencies and other stakeholders.

### **Populations Served**

The PCEDC provides services to current and prospective businesses, municipal leaders, and collaborative agencies in economic development, including realtors, developers, planners, attorneys, business attraction agents and workforce development specialists.

Indirectly, the PCEDC works to create economic opportunity for all Putnam County residents by attracting and retaining desirable employers and jobs, expanding the tax base, and enriching the overall quality of life in Putnam County with smart and balanced development.

### **Significant Events & Accomplishments**

- Planned and hosted two Leadership Meetings for the four Chambers of Commerce, Putnam Business Council, Putnam Arts Council, IDA, and Tourism.
- On October 3 at the Putnam County Golf Course, the PCEDC hosted a well-received and well-attended (attendance up 16% as compared with the prior year) Breakfast Symposium. Keynote presentation "The Economy, Where We Were, Where We Are and Where We Are Going" by Gus Scacco, CEO & CIO at Hudson Valley Investment Advisors, Inc. Panel Discussion moderated by Alana Daly, VP of Communications and Public Policy at Northeast Gas Association, with panelists Adam Bosch; President & CEO of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, Tom LaPerch, immediate former Director of Commercial Growth at Houlihan Lawrence; Heather Mulligan, President and CEO of The Business Council of NY; and James E. Hanley, Sr., Policy Analyst at Empire Center for Public Policy
- Served as a panelist on Hudson Valley Gateway Realtor's Association Economic Round Table for the Lower Hudson Valley.
- Hosted meeting for elected officials, potential vendors, business and utility company representatives on strategic planning or EV Charging in Putnam County
- *FilmPutnam* - Films and productions partially shot in Putnam County include *The White House Plumbers*, *Severance*, *Pokerface*, *Every Other Weekend*, *Life and Beth*
- Oversaw refresh of PCEDC's website

- Worked with Empire State Development on Consolidated Funding Application training held at Tops Building in Carmel.
- Participated in CFA grant writing for Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition (TOSCAC), on whose Board of Directors I serve. Awarded \$500,000 through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

### **Staffing/Shared Services**

- One salaried employee with no benefits (“President”)
- One part-time (6 hours per week) hourly employee (“Administrative Assistant”)

### **2023 Officers & Directors**

Chairman – Alana Daly Mikhalevsky, VP of Communications and Public Policy, Northeast Gas Association

Vice Chairperson – John Kraus – Senior Vice President, Tompkins Community Bank

Treasurer – Richard Weiss, CPA, Founder of Weiss Financial Advisory

Secretary – Walter Recher, Founder & President, Smallball Marketing

Kimball Gell, Owner, Fresh Company and Dolly’s Landing Restaurant, Garrison, NY

Dr. Mark Hirko, President, Putnam Hospital Center

Marjorie Nichols Keith, retired Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County

Don Minichino, Licensed Salesperson, Houlihan Lawrence

Dylan Miyoshi, NYSEG, Program Manager – Government & Community Relations, Mid-Hudson Region

Christopher W. Ryder, Executive VP, Putnam County National Bank

Robert Zubrycki, Violinist, Concertmaster, NYC Chamber Orchestra

Kerrie Pratt, District Director, Central Hudson Gas and Electric

### **Sources of Revenue**

The PCEDC is primarily funded by Putnam County. In addition, the PCEDC now hosts an annual Symposium for educational as well as fundraising purposes.

### **Goals for 2024**

- Grow the talent pool necessary to attract and support businesses.
- Continue *Film Putnam* as a joint effort of the PCEDC and the Putnam County Department of Tourism and the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency. NY State’s \$420M film incentive program offers film, television and commercial production and post-production tax credits. Putnam County offers proximity to talent and to unrivaled location sites.
- Continue to be a cheerleader for agriculture and agritourism. The farm brewery legislation has generated employment and economic development for supporting industries, including bottling, construction, freight, printing, and advertising.
- Pursue the designation of a Qualified Production Facility (QPF) to attract filmmaking also known as a soundstage.
- Plan, prepare and execute the third annual business Symposium.

- Attract, retain, and help grow businesses in Putnam County to broaden the County's tax base and to increase quality employment opportunities for County residents.
- Continue to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to our economic ecosystem and to stay on track with growth that enhances the quality of life for our community.

### **Addendum - Business Projects in Progress Putnam County**

#### *Village of Brewster:*

- *Envision Brewster* now *Brewster Crossings* – moving forward under developer Joe Cotter of National Resources. This is a Main Street revitalization/Transit Oriented Development project.

#### *Town of Carmel:*

- Alexandrian/Gleneida Distillery LLC, Seminary Hill Road – Plans revised to include a 200-room destination hotel. New approvals needed.
- East Point Energy - grid-scale battery storage facility proposed for 24 Miller Road. This rechargeable lithium-ion project would store approx. 120 megawatts of energy.

#### *Town of Patterson:*

- Proposed Patterson Crossing Retail Shopping center
- A new hotel is proposed at Route 311 and Fair Street.

#### *Town of Philipstown:*

- Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's (HVSF) has move to a permanent home in Garrison completed. HVSF was awarded generous CFA grant money in 2023.
- Magazzino Italian Art Museum expansion completed.

#### *Town of Putnam Valley:*

- The Megara Project is still pursuing five abutting parcels of property off Bryant Pond Road and the Taconic State Parkway. This for-profit project would include Renaissance Fairgrounds, a campground, a sewer treatment plant, a solar farm, a cell tower, a hotel and potentially a Qualified Production Facility.

#### *Town of Southeast:*

- AceEndico in Terravest Corporate Park – expansion in progress for additional 117,000 sq. ft. of building space. AceEndico now has over 500 employees.
- Lincoln Logistics warehouse and distribution center, Pugsley Road – construction close to complete.
- The Farm at Brewster Yards, formerly ProSwing Baseball & Softball, Pugsley Road – In final stages of approval for a new multi-sports complex.
- Subaru, Danbury Road - new dealership and a 750-car storage facility under construction



- Uncle Cheef Route 6 -122-seat jazz club/performing arts center on top floor now open.
- Volz Cloverleaf (near a Brewster Ford in between 684 Northbound and Southbound) – under construction. This will be an Enterprise parking lot /HQ (not a rental outlet) and a storage area for Brewster Ford vehicles.
- Logistics Center *Alfacor* on Fields Lane (Rt 124/N Salem Rd & Hardscrabble Rd) – completed.

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## **Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc.**

President Ray Merlotto  
P.O. Box 1272  
Carmel, New York 10512  
(845)282-4353  
[Sportingclubs.putnamny@gmail.com](mailto:Sportingclubs.putnamny@gmail.com)

### **I. Description of Agency**

The Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc. was organized on February 10, 1954 is a membership-based organization committed to advocating for the interests of the outdoor sports community in Putnam County, New York.

We collaborate closely with the county's sportsmen's clubs, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, elected representatives, and others dedicated to preserving wildlife and natural resources.

In partnership with Putnam County, our 501c3 supports the sportsmen and sportswomen of Putnam County and New York State, working to ensure that the rich legacy and traditions of outdoor sports endure for generations to come.

### **II. Services Provided**

- Trout and Walleye Stocking

We engage in the stocking of trout and walleye under permit by New York State DEC in lakes and streams throughout the county and actively support the DEC in their efforts to stock streams.

- Ringneck Pheasant Stocking

Additionally, we participate in the propagation of Ringneck Pheasants to the Cranberry Mountain MUA, Cornwall Meadows MUA, and DEP Horsepound Wildlife Management Unit. The Federation's stocking activities commence in November, following the completion of the DEC's stocking efforts in October

- Junior Hunter Pheasant

Each September, we offer chance for Junior Hunter small game license holders to participate in a pheasant hunt alongside trained dogs. This takes place on the Cornwall Meadows Multiple Use area, in the Town of Patterson. The Federation ensures that the land is stocked for the

occasion and provides light refreshments for the day. The day starts with a safety brief, given by one of our local Environmental Conservation Officers, fostering positive relationships between Junior Hunters and New York State DEC law enforcement.

### **III. Mission Statement**

At the heart of our Federation is the belief that 'One Voice Represents Many,' a sentiment embodied in the motto of the Federation Insignias Patch. As a unified amalgamation of diverse Sportsmen's Clubs in Putnam County, our mission is to serve as a centralized hub. We function as a clearing house for addressing challenges encountered by individual member clubs, ensuring a collective voice for the sporting community.

Our commitment extends to representing Putnam County on the state level through the New York State Conservation Council and the New York State DEC Region 3 Fish & Wildlife Management Board. Through elected delegates, we participate in vital discussions at various meetings of the New York State Council and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. With a shared purpose, we strive to advocate, protect, and uphold the interests of our member clubs and the broader sporting community to ensure legacy of responsible conservation and outdoor sportsmanship.

### **IV. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

- In a cooperative effort involving the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Federation Officers, a significant agreement was reached permitting the propagation of Ringneck Pheasants on the Horsepound Wildlife Management Unit owned by New York City's DEP. This marked the inaugural authorization by the DEP for the propagation of this species.
- Over 450 Ringneck Pheasants were released upon public lands in Putnam County open for hunting to residents and visitors to the County.
- Over 4000 Walleye fish were stocked on waters within Putnam County open to Public Fishing Access.
- On September 23rd, 2023, the Federation initiated the NYS DEC Youth Pheasant Hunt Weekend. We facilitated the event by offering proficient bird dogs and experienced bird hunters, aiming to cultivate and uphold

the ethical traditions of bird hunting for junior hunters from Putnam and neighboring counties.

**V. Staffing**

Federation Officers are comprised of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a representative to the New York State Conservation Council. The general membership encompasses individuals from various sportsmen's clubs across Putnam County.

**VI. Sources of Revenue**

Revenues received through Putnam County, NY are utilized to purchase and release fish and ringneck pheasants on public lands. General operating revenue is received through membership dues levied against member clubs.

**VII. Goals for 2024**

In 2024, the Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc will endeavor to increase educational outreach to Putnam County youth interested in hunting and fishing at local community events.

The Federation will also look to increase awareness and participation in the NYS DEC Youth Pheasant Hunt Weekend through leveraging social media and engagement with its member clubs.

In 2024, the Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc will continue to engage with NYC DEP and NYS DEC to open new areas for public access to recreational sporting activities. Additionally, the Federation will engage with these partner agencies to request increased maintenance and enhancement of these habitats.

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## **Putnam History Museum**

**Address:** 63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, New York, 10516

**Phone:** 845-265-4010

**Email:** [director@putnamhistorymuseum.org](mailto:director@putnamhistorymuseum.org)

### **I. Description of Agency**

For over 118 years, the Putnam History Museum (PHM) has served residents, visitors, and historical researchers of Putnam County in a multitude of ways. Putnam County's generous funding, along with the support of our members, friends, and visitors, has enabled the PHM to establish a world-class special collections library and archive, to preserve the West Point Foundry schoolhouse as the museum headquarters, and to create hundreds of public programs, exhibitions, and publications.

### **II. Services Provided**

- **Research**

The PHM offers comprehensive research services, catering to a wide range of inquiries related to Putnam County history and culture. Our research team handles various topics, including genealogy, house histories, local landmarks, historical events, and cultural heritage. In 2023, we responded to over 50 public research queries, dedicating more than 400 hours to research activities.

- **Exhibitions & Collections Management**

At the heart of our institution lies a commitment to preserving and showcasing Putnam County's robust history. We maintain an extensive collection of artifacts and documents, spanning hundreds of years of Putnam County and Hudson Highland's history. Our team focuses on collection care and accessibility, both in physical and digital formats. We consistently plan for the long-term management of our collections.

Additionally, the PHM creates rotating exhibitions, both indoors and outdoors, to provide visitors with an accessible and relevant historical experience. Our permanent Foundry exhibition serves as a gateway to the West Point Foundry and Preserve, a National Historic Landmark. In 2023, we presented a variety of exhibitions, including the award-

winning *Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County* exhibition.

- **Education Outreach**

Our educational programs aim to engage and inspire the community about Putnam County's local history and heritage. We organize an array of programs that evolve and expand annually. Key themes for our educational offerings include Native Americans, Colonial Period, American Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Civil War, BIPOC Histories, Women's History, Environmental History, and local history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- **Lecture Series**

Our long-running lecture series covers a wide range of subjects, including subjects such as art, architecture, maritime history, military history, and genealogy. Since 2020, we have adapted the series into various formats, offering virtual, hybrid, and in-person lectures to accommodate diverse audiences. In 2023, we hosted 12 lectures.

- **Field Trips**

We collaborate with Putnam County schools and homeschool groups to design field trips that align with curricula standards and provide students with engaging experiences. These field trips often involve guided tours of the museum and the West Point Foundry and Foundry Cove. In 2023, we welcomed the entire Haldane 4<sup>th</sup> Grade for an Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County field trip.

- **History Hikes & Group Tours**

We offer tours for groups, which may include curator-led tours of exhibitions or guided tours of historical sites located all throughout Putnam County. These popular hikes started during the pandemic but are now an annual offering at the PHM.

- **Other Services & Activities**

Beyond our core signature services, the PHM actively engages with the community through special events, collaborations, publications, and social media platforms. In 2023, we hosted and participated in various community events, fostering a sense of historical appreciation and connection within Putnam County. In total, we hosted, co-hosted, or collaborated on over 45 public programs in 2023.

Furthermore, we continued to create an array of print publications, many of which are [available digitally](#), to further promote the exploration and discovery of local history. These resources cater to



diverse interests and age groups, making historical information accessible to all.

### III. **Mission Statement**

- The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, the museum uses its collections to engage the community with the vibrant history of our region, and to foster greater understanding of the role it has played in the growth of our nation.

### IV. **Population Served**

- The Putnam History Museum serves a socioeconomically diverse audience of students, adults, and seniors. Our primary audience resides in Putnam County and throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Our secondary audience includes weekend visitors from New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, and beyond. Our weekend visitors represent a large urban population.

### V. **Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

- **To see photographs from all of the activities listed below, please click here: [PHM's 2023 Photo Album](#). Select images have been provided on pages 9 to 13 of this report.**
- **Recently completed projects/programs:**

#### **Lecture Series:**

- "A Struggle for Sovereignty: The French and Indian War" (Virtual – January 2023)
- "The Great Conflagration of New York in 1776" (Virtual – February 2023)
- "Empowering Native Women" (Virtual – March 2023)
- Women's History Trivia Night at PHM (Hybrid – March 2023)
- "The Wappingers of the Hudson Highlands" (Hybrid – April 2023)
- "The Tragedy of the Steamboat Lexington" (Virtual – April 2023)
- "The Battle of Fort Montgomery" (Hybrid – May 2023)
- "Painting With Sunlight: Poughkeepsie's Visual History" by S.L. Walker, Daguerrist (Hybrid-June 2023)

- "Anna Warner and Her Horticultural Legacy" (Hybrid-July 2023)
- "From Founders to Farmers: Archaeology in the Hudson Valley, 17th to early 20th Century" (Hybrid-September 2023)
- "Dutchess & Putnam County in the Hudson Valley Land Wars" by James Merrell (Hybrid-November 2023)
- "Lt. Lemuel Snow: Patriot and Pioneer" (Hybrid-December 2023)

**History Hikes:**

- Cornish Estate Historical Hike (May 2023)
- West Point Foundry Hikes (May & June 2023)
- Benedict Arnold's Flight Historical Hike in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County (July 2023)
- Redoubt Hike (November 2023)
- Guided Stroll: "Julia L. Butterfield's Life and Legacy" (December 2023)

**Annual Community Programs:**

- "Cold Spring in Bloom," a village-wide event (April 2023)
- Annual McKeel's Corner Chapels 4th of July Celebration, organized by PHM
- "Cold Spring Aglow" (December 2023)

• **New projects/programs for 2023:**

- "The Stanton-Anthony Symposium: Influential Women of the Hudson Valley" (March 2023)
- Installation of the *Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County* exhibition in consultation with the Stockbridge Munsee (May 2023).
- Installation of the *Messages from the Hudson Postcard* exhibition (September 2023)
- "Tempestry Workshop," with the nation-wide Tempestry Project (May 2023)
- "Drawing at Northgate": A two-part workshop conducting plein-air drawing classes at the Cornish Estate Ruins (Northgate) (September 2023)
- "Native American Heritage Weekend," featuring history hikes with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, film screenings, live discussions with the sculptor and videographer of "Making the Daniel Nimham Statue," a performance by the Nimham Mountain Singers, and a history hike of Foundry Cove (Grant-funded, October 2023)
- "Julia L. Butterfield Bicentennial Celebration" in collaboration with the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, including a

Commemorative Planting & Ceremony, Cemetery Walk, Outdoor Exhibition, Trivia Night, Birthday Party, and Guided Stroll, (Fall 2023).

- Panel Discussion and Guided Tours: "Stone Chambers of Putnam County" (October 2023)

- **New and updated publications:**

- American Revolutionary War in Putnam County History Crawl (county-wide)
- Black History in Putnam County Pamphlet (county-wide)
- Hudson Valley Corridor of Commerce History Hunt (county-wide), August 2023
- Revolutionary War North and South Redoubt History Hike Self-guided brochure
- Mountain Avenue Cemetery Self-guided Brochure
- Sybil Ludington Take & Go Museum Activity Kit Bags (county-wide)

- **Points of pride:**

- PHM received the Greater Hudson Heritage Network Excellence Award for the "Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County" exhibition.
- Receipt of grant funding to support the creation of the Native American Heritage Weekend.
- PHM Education & Public Programming Manager Kara Mattsen was honored with the Exemplary Work in Public History Award at the Putnam County Day Awards.

- **Notable savings:**

- PHM effectively managed its budget in 2023, resulting in notable savings by avoiding major capital repairs that were initially budgeted for, totaling \$10,000.

- **Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office:**

- The PHM will need to address impending upgrades to its aging furnace and HVAC system in the near future (2024 or 2025).
- The PHM Board recognizes the importance of appointing the PHM Educational Manager as a full-time, permanent staff member, and understands the essential role this position holds within both the

museum and the wider community.

- The PHM seeks to digitize the museum's entire holdings of the *Cold Spring Recorder* and *Putnam County News and Recorder* for the long-term preservation of these historic resources.

## VI. **Staffing**

- In 2023, the PHM Board was able to extend the American Historical Association Grant Funded Education Manager position beyond its May 31st terminus to December 31, 2023. Through additional fundraising initiatives, the PHM Board voted to extend this integral position through December 31, 2024. The PHM does not anticipate any new or additional changes to staff in 2024.

- **Current Staff:**

Executive Director, Cassie Ward (FTE)  
Education & Public Programming Manager, Kara Mattsen (FTE)  
Collections Manager, John Duncan  
Finance Manager, Cristina Bally  
Administrative Assistant, Bernadette Knox  
Research Librarian, Arman Safa  
Front Desk Associate, Josephine Bach

## VII. **Sources of Revenue**

- 2023 Income \$240,510.12
- 2023 Expenses \$293,761.94
- 2023 Investments (end-of-year balance) \$1,080,005.00
- *Income and expense figures are tentative and have not been adjusted by our accountant to reflect depreciation and investments. Final figures will be reported on PHM's 2023 form 990 and are available upon request.*

- **Current Trends in Cost of Service:**

- Utilities costs continue to rise, having increased \$2,000 since 2022.
- Insurance costs have also increased \$4,000 since 2022.
- Costly HVAC and boiler repairs/replacement due to age of system.

- All other operational expenses, including payroll, are stable.
- **Major Funding:**
  - A cornerstone gift from Marion & Pat Dugan provides sustaining annual support.
  - County of Putnam
- **Additional Funding:**
  - Town of Philipstown
- **2023 Grants:**
  - Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
  - Hudson River Valley Greenway
  - Museum Association of New York
  - William G. Pomeroy Foundation
  - American Historical Association
- **New, unfunded mandates,**
  - None currently (2.07.24)

**VIII. Goals for 2024**

- **Upcoming projects/programs and initiatives for the next fiscal year.**
- **Initiatives for the next fiscal year:**
  - **Financial Sustainability**  
Develop a robust multi-year financial plan to ensure the museum's financial stability, including fundraising initiatives, grant applications, and exploring potential revenue streams.
  - **Sustainability and Infrastructure**  
A major goal is to secure funding and resources to address the need to replace the aging furnace and HVAC as ensuring the long-term sustainability of the museum's physical facilities is crucial.

- **Program Expansion**  
Building on the success of recent programs and events, our goal is to expand the museum's educational and public programming further, especially with the addition of the new full-time Education & Public Programming Manager. This will involve introducing new lecture series, hikes, workshops, and community engagement events.
- **Digitization and Online Presence**  
Continuing to digitize our historic collection and expanding the museum's online presence.
- **Strategic Planning**  
The museum's current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2024. Throughout 2024, the PHM Board of Trustees and Staff will work to develop a Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. This plan will provide a roadmap for growth and sustainability.
- **PHM Programming Schedule, as of February 7, 2024.**
  - January 1<sup>st</sup>: Marc Ferris Civil War Songs
  - February 13<sup>th</sup>: Black History Storytime for Young Children with the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library
  - February 23<sup>rd</sup>: American Revolution Trivia Night
  - Inaugural PHM History-A-Thon: Fundraiser & Challenge to raise \$2,500 throughout the month of March
  - March 13<sup>th</sup>: Women's History Storytime for Young Children with the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library
  - March 14<sup>th</sup>: Women's History Lunch & Learn with PHM Executive Director Cassie Ward.
  - April 7<sup>th</sup>: PHM's 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, featuring Putnam County Historian Jennifer Cassidy
  - April 20<sup>th</sup>: West Point Foundry Hike (WPF Hike)
  - April 20<sup>th</sup>: Cold Spring in Bloom, a Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce event featuring activities with the PHM.
  - May 17<sup>th</sup>: Youth Climate Summit at the Garrison Union Free School
  - May 18<sup>th</sup>: Denny Mine History Hike
  - May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>: Carmel Field Trip, entire 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - June 1<sup>st</sup>: Annual Lawn Party
  - June: Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project Quilt Workshop Launch with the Putnam History Museum
  - June 28<sup>th</sup> & July 6<sup>th</sup>: Benedict Arnold's Flight History Hike

- August: Annual county-wide History Hunt Launch
- September: Northgate Ruins (Cornish Estate) Lecture & Art Workshop
- September 20<sup>th</sup>: Mappy Hour
- October 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>: Guided Twilight Cemetery Tours
- October 4<sup>th</sup>: Matthew Weigman Historic Plant Uses Lecture
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Native American Heritage/History Weekend
- November 24<sup>th</sup>: PHM Annual Gala

- **Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office.**

- The PHM will need to address impending upgrades to its aging furnace and HVAC system in the near-future (2024 or 2025).
- The PHM Board recognizes the importance of appointing the PHM Educational Manager as a full-time, permanent staff member, and understands the essential role this position holds within both the museum and the wider community.
- The PHM seeks to digitize the museum's entire holdings of the *Cold Spring Recorder* and *Putnam County News and Recorder* for the long term preservation of these historic resources.



Figure 1: PHM's Award-winning exhibition, "Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County." Opened May 2023.





*Figure 2: County Executive Byrne, Philipstown Garden Club, Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, and the Putnam History Museum came together to celebrate the Julia L. Butterfield Bicentennial in the Fall of 2023.*



*Figure 3: The Nimham Mountain Singers performing in the PHM's Community Room during the Inaugural Native American Heritage Weekend.*



*Figure 4: PHM's Annual Lawn Party and historic presentations at Garrison's Landing, June 2023.*



*Figure 5: PHM Education Manager Kara Mattsen leads a history hike along Benedict Arnold's Flight in Garrison, NY.*



Figure 6: PHM History Hikers explore the Cornish Estate Ruins.



Figure 7: A History Hunter enjoys exploring Putnam County through the PHM's Annual County-wide History Hunt in August.



Figure 8: Part 1 of the PHM's Cornish Estate Outdoor Drawing Class - combing local Putnam County history and art.



Figure 9: PHM History Hikers exploring the Mead Farm during the PHM's Stone Chamber Symposium Weekend.

**Agency: Putnam County Humane Society, Inc.**

**Agency Address:** 68 Old Route 6, PO Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512  
**Phone Number:** 845-225-7777  
**Main Email address:** shelter@puthumane.org

**I. Description of Agency**

The Putnam Humane Society (“PHS”) is a not-for-profit IRC Section 501(c)(3) organization formed to:

- a. Establish, operate and maintain adequate shelter(s) in which lost, stray, homeless, or impounded domesticated dogs and cats can be cared for and adopted to responsible homes;
- b. Further public education in the humane treatment of animals;
- c. Provide contract services pursuant to Article 7 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law relating to the licensing and sheltering of dogs; and
- d. Accept gifts, bequests, donations and other contributions.

**II. Services Provided**

PHS provides safe shelter and care for Putnam County's abandoned, lost and stray animals awaiting adoption or recovery. PHS's goal is to seek responsible, permanent adoptive homes for shelter animals. Another primary goal is to promote an aggressive spay/neuter program including early age and low cost spay/neuter for all community residents, and to implement such program in conjunction with community veterinarians in an effort to reduce the population of unwanted pets in Putnam County. PHS provides humane education and promotes humane awareness for all animals. PHS also actively seeks owners of lost pets. It is through these highlighted services and other services that PHS provides leadership in humane and animal welfare issues throughout Putnam County. Please see 2023 PHS Annual Trends & Highlights Report for additional programs and services.

### **III. Mission Statement**

PHS is here for the animals.

- To be the voice for the animals who cannot speak for themselves.
- To provide protection, a safe haven and compassion through leadership for the homeless, abused and neglected animals of our community.

PHS is dedicated to nurturing and protecting the animals in our care while they await adoption. We are committed to providing these animals with the patience, confidence, discipline, nutrition, medical treatment and socialization they may require until they can be adopted into responsible homes.

- To be the advocates for our unwanted/abandoned pets and promote humane awareness for all animals.
- To maintain a no-kill shelter.

PHS is a NO Kill Shelter – meaning, we do not euthanize for space limitations. We provide euthanasia for terminally ill and seriously injured animals to end their suffering when reasonable courses of treatment have been exhausted. We consider HUMANE euthanasia in the animal’s best interest if an animal is behaviorally or mentally tormented to the degree that they will not allow any human contact or interaction and only after every effort has been exhausted to modify the behavior issues of the animal.

### **IV. Population Served**

PHS serves the entire population of Putnam County.

### **V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

Please see PHS Annual Report Trends & Highlights 2023 attached.

### **VI. Staffing**

No changes of significance to current staffing assignments and/or new staff.

### **VII. Sources of Revenue**

As a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, PHS accepts gifts, bequests, donations and other contributions including grants. PHS generates additional donations through fundraising activities and dog/cat adoptions. PHS also receives funds from

Putnam County and from specific towns within Putnam County to provide contract services to the community.

The cost to PHS of veterinary services, medications, dog/cat food, utilities, etc. have increased each year.

PHS does not have any new, unfunded mandates for 2024 as of this date.

### **VIII. Goals for 2024**

#### **o Upcoming projects/programs and initiatives for the next fiscal year.**

PHS's goals for 2024 (and for every year) include, but are not limited to, our ongoing commitment to:

- provide safe shelter and care for Putnam County's abandoned, lost and stray animals awaiting adoption or recovery;
- seek responsible, permanent adoptive homes for shelter animals;
- promote an aggressive spay/neuter program in conjunction with community veterinarians;
- provide humane education and promote humane awareness;
- actively seek owners of lost pets; and
- fundraising and adoption events and activities to actively promote community outreach and additional donations and adoptions.

Please see the attached 2023 PHS Annual Trends & Highlights Report for detail various events and activities that provide the foundation for PHS's anticipated 2024 events and activities goals.

#### **o Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office**

As of this date, PHS is not aware of any matters that would be of particular interest to the County Chief Executive's Office.



**Annual Report**  
**Trends and Highlights**  
**January 2023-December 2023**



## **SUMMARY**

**[see following pages of this attachment for full detailed ANNUAL REPORT]**

### **Facility Improvements**

- Cool Seal asphalt sealer was completed throughout the shelter. First part of the shelter was completed in 2022. The Cool Seal keeps the asphalt 10-30 degrees cooler than black asphalt preventing the dogs' paws from getting too hot or burned.
- Various equipment and fixture additions/upgrades throughout the animal shelter.

### **2023 PHS Fund Raising**

Donations are also obtained through fundraising and outreach events. In 2023, there was a minimum of 27 fundraising events, not including multiple donation drives throughout the year by volunteers and various schools, organizations and individuals for items on PHS's wish list.

### **Outreach Education & Adoption**

Outreach events throughout our community provide opportunities to educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, microchipping, training, and the humane treatment of animals. Outreach events also provide opportunities to showcase various dogs and cats available for adoption. In 2023, there were approx. 24 outreach, education and adoption events. Adoption events are in addition to actively promoting adoptions every day at PHS's facility on Old Route 6 in Carmel.

### **PHS Gives Back**

PHS gives donated items that it cannot use to other needy not-for-profit organizations within Putnam County. PHS also assists those in need in our community with a pet food pantry.

### **Putnam Humane Society Ongoing Programs and Services for 2023**

- Spaying & Neutering
- FREE Microchipping in partnership with Southeast Animals Hospital
- PHS Food Pantry
- Community Service Opportunities
- Humane Education
- The Trap, Neuter, Return Fund (TNR)
- The Animal Rights Alliance (TARA)– PHS collaborates with TARA in offering low-cost spay/neuter including rabies vaccinations for cats
- Rescue Intake (Incoming Transfers)
- Reuniting Lost Pets
- Re-Homing Database
- Times of Trouble / Sick and Injured Animals Fund
- PHS Advertising and Marketing
- PHS Facebook Page - Social Media Information Resource

## ANNUAL REPORT – TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS 2023

### Facility Improvements

- New lighting in Kennel buildings and back hallway.
- Two new cameras were added to the video surveillance system.
- Cool Seal asphalt sealer was completed throughout the shelter. First part of the shelter was completed in 2022. The Cool Seal keeps the asphalt 10-30 degrees cooler than black asphalt preventing the dogs' paws getting too hot or burned.
- Dishwasher installed in kitchen.
- Two new washers.
- New bathroom vanity, and bathroom painted.
- New Cabinets in lobby/cat area
- Tiled wall in kitchen replaced rotting wood around bathing sink.
- Movable storage racks in hallway.
- New office phones.

The property purchased across from the shelter and fenced in for the dogs to run and play was purchased in September 2021 with the bequest from Myrtle Herbst. The sign pictured below was placed at the entrance to the property this past Spring.



## **2023 PHS Fund Raising**

The Putnam Humane Society (PHS) is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization where all monetary funds go directly for the care of the animals. Donations are received in a variety of ways. People send donations by mail, through PayPal, and bring them directly to our facility. In addition, donations are also obtained through fund raising events and outreach events.

- PHS does not have any paid fundraising staff. All events are staffed by individuals who donate their time. This includes PHS Facebook, PHS website, and PHS Instagram.

## **2023 Fund Raising Events**

- Cash Calendar (June) – mailed to over 4,000 in Putnam/Dutchess/Westchester Counties.
- Donation Boxes- throughout the County.
- Send a Gift of One of our Pups Love to Your Valentine- Carmel.
- Book Sale- Ongoing- Kiosk at Tops- Carmel.
- Celebrate Betty White’s Birthday on Facebook for wish list items.
- Fitness Class by CMS fitness- PHS.
- Clear the Shelters- Facebook.
- PHS Facebook Auctions- 16 auctions- all items were donated.
- Open Houses at PHS- Fundraiser and Adoption.
- PHS St. Patrick’s Day-Shamrocks- In Honor/Memory- PHS.
- PHS Valentine’s Day-Hearts- In Honor/Memory- PHS.
- Murder Mystery Dinner-November- Anthony’s Lake Club.
- Donation drives are done throughout the year by volunteers, various schools, organizations, and individuals for items on our wish list.

## **Grants**

Ann B. Zekauskas Foundation  
Community Foundation  
Charitable Foundation of the Burns Family  
Fidelity Charitable Fund

## **Outreach Education & Adoption**

PHS volunteers also participate in community events throughout the area. These outreach events provide opportunities to help educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, microchipping, training, and humane treatment of animals. Outreach events also provide opportunities to showcase various dogs and cats available for adoption.

## **2023 Outreach, Education & Adoption Events**

- I have a dream- adoption weekend in honor of Martin Luther King Day-PHS
- You can't buy love, but you can adopt it-PHS
- President's Day adoption event-reduced adoption fees by 50%-PHS.
- Find your furry Valentine-adoption- PHS.
- May the Dogs and Cats have the luck of the Irish-Adoption- PHS.
- April showers please bring May adoptions-PHS.
- Blessing of the Pets-MCB Church-Blessing, outreach, adoption-
- Open House and adoption event-Music by the Cadillac Brothers-PHS
- Stack n'Store-Grand opening-adoption, and donation drive-Patterson.
- Indian Motorcycles-Adoption , and outreach-White Plains.
- Shelter dog wash for shelter dogs given by volunteers-PHS.
- Suburban Propane-Adoption and donation drive.
- 4-H Fair-Veterans memorial park-outreach-Carmel
- Happy Labor Day-Adoption-PHS.
- Sibling Saturday-Adoption-Meet with PHS trainer-PHS
- Board of Elections-Early Voting-Adoption-Carmel.
- Annual Maci's Thanksgiving Day Parade--Live Stream on Facebook-PHS.
- Black Friday Special-25% off each adoption-PHS
- Carmel Holiday Parade with dogs, staff and volunteers.
- Christmas Cheer-December-Christmas Caroling-Outreach-Adoption-PHS.
- Ongoing outings with PHS dogs to socialize and promote adoption.
- Videos are both recorded and live streamed throughout the year.
- Adopt-a-pet on the internet.
- PHS fields hundreds of calls per year from the community seeking advice on issues including animal welfare, training, and basic animal care.

PHS is an adoption facility, and "every day is an adoption day." Adopters are able to meet with staff, go over training assessments, interact with the dogs and cats, meet with trainers, and get all the information needed about the dog or cat they are interested in. We like to have special themed adoption events throughout the year, but again "every day is an adoption day." We do outside events when possible. Rescue groups that do not have a facility have no choice but to go to different venues to showcase their animals. That is the difference between a shelter/PHS, and rescues without a facility. It is also much safer for the animals to be on the premises with trained staff. There are many benefits to onsite adoptions.

## **PHS GIVES BACK**

- Vietnam Veterans of America- Donated items that PHS cannot use are donated for their thrift shop. A volunteer arranges pick-up.
- Food Pantry- PHS continues to advertise that we have donated food to give to those having a hard time feeding their pets. Many families have been able to keep their pets with

this help. They come to the shelter to pick what they need, PHS also donates on an ongoing basis to the Brewster Food Bank, Second Chance Rescue, MCB Church, Putnam, and Dutchess CAP, and Forgotten felines.

- Prescription Dog and Cat Food- PHS receives prescription food from people whose pets have passed, or they no longer needed the food. If it is food we cannot use, we offer it to the public, but they must provide their veterinarian's approval.
- Crates- PHS receives donations of dog and cat crates throughout the year. When PHS has more than needed we donate to rescue groups and individuals who can use them.
- Dog Igloos- Igloos that are being replaced at PHS but still in decent shape, are donated to residents taking care of feral cat colonies, to local cat organizations, and to residents who may need them for their own pets.
- Various dog and cat items not needed are put in a bin at the shelter marked "Free." There is always someone who can make good use of these items.

## **PHS Information**

### **Mission Statement**

The Putnam Humane Society is dedicated to nurturing and protecting the animals in our care while they await adoption. We are committed to providing these animals with the patience, confidence, discipline, nutrition, medical treatment, training, enrichment, and socialization they may require until they can be adopted into responsible homes.

### **Maintaining a No Kill Shelter**

As per our mission statement we do not euthanize for space limitations. We provide euthanasia for terminally ill and seriously injured animals to end their suffering when reasonable courses of treatment have been exhausted. We consider humane euthanasia in the animal's best interest if an animal is behaviorally or mentally tormented to the degree that they will not allow any human contact or interaction, and only after every effort has been exhausted to modify the behavior issues of the animal.

### **Quality Animal Care**

All the animals in our care are vaccinated against disease, spayed or neutered, and treated for any injury or illness. All animals are tested for common serious viral and tick-borne illnesses, and heartworm disease. They also all receive monthly flea and tick treatment, and heartworm preventative. Dogs and cats are microchipped to help increase their chances of being returned to their owner should they get lost. PHS is listed as a secondary contact in case the owner cannot be reached, or their contact information was changed and not updated. All the dogs and cats receive the necessary attention, training and nurturing they require to prepare them for adoption. There is

also daily enrichment with various games, agility, play time, and outings to local stores and businesses. Our managers and trainers will take dogs to their home to socialize and train. This helps us to see how they act in a home environment and is great information for adopters.

### **Training and Assessment**

All dogs are assessed prior to intake by one of the qualified trainers at PHS to determine the best possible placement for each individual dog. Training is provided for all dogs to help prepare them for adoption. Training is also provided to adoptees that need further assistance with newly adopted animals from PHS for as long as it is needed. We also offer help to residents who may otherwise not be able keep their dog because of training issues they needed help with.

### **Staff Development**

Staff is provided with training to help care for the animals appropriately and safely. Training is conducted throughout the year during staff meetings and on an individual basis when necessary. A CPR class and pet first aid class was held by CPR Dave in 2023. All staff attended and were certified.

### **Town Contracts**

In 2023, PHS contracted with the towns of Carmel/Mahopac, Southeast, Philipstown (including Nelsonville and Cold Spring) and Patterson (secondary) to hold stray dogs that are picked up in these areas. Upon a dog's arrival, PHS makes every attempt to locate the owner and reunite them with their pet before they are put up for adoption. Any dogs that remain unclaimed after an appropriate waiting period, PHS then prepares for adoption.

### **Dog and Cat Relinquishment**

In addition to stray dogs brought in by the local Dog Control Officers, PHS also takes in dogs and cats from owners who can no longer keep them. Stray dogs and cats are also brought in by good Samaritans who find them wandering in their neighborhoods and/or communities.

## **Putnam Humane Society Ongoing Programs and Services for 2023**

### **Spaying & Neutering**

PHS spays and neuters every animal prior to adoption to help control the pet population problem. PHS refers those who are seeking low cost spay/and neutering services to The Animal Welfare League, The Animal Rights Alliance (T.A.R.A.), Friends of the Animals, HVARs, Compassionate Care of DC, and Putnam Animal Wellness for low cost spay and neutering options.

### **FREE Microchipping**

We are pleased to be partnering with Southeast Animal Hospital to provide FREE microchipping. PHS provides the microchips and Dr. Nowajeiski inserts the microchips at no cost. This began January 7, 2022. As of December 31, 2023, three hundred and thirty-two microchips were inserted. Prior to the partnership, PHS held FREE microchip clinics at the shelter. Having an ongoing partnership with a veterinarian works better than having clinics at the shelter. It avoids the disruption created when other animals enter the shelter and provides more flexibility for owners to make appointments at their convenience instead of a set date.

### **PHS Food Pantry**

PHS has a food pantry with donated cat and dog food for residents in need, for individuals working on reducing the feral cat colonies in our area, and for local food banks and churches with pet sections. During 2023 PHS gave out over 325 bags of dog food, 175 bags of cat food, 100 cases of canned cat food, 70 cases of dog and cat prescription food, and 25 boxes of dog biscuits and treats. All food distributed was donated to PHS and is food PHS did not need or cannot use for the resident dogs and cats. We always make sure everyone who donates the food is aware that the food will be donated to others if PHS cannot use it. Those donating are always happy that the food will be used for others in need.

### **Community Service Opportunities**

PHS maintains a varied list of volunteer opportunities include those in need of acquiring community service hours for graduation requirements, school groups looking to help non-profit groups, Girl and Boy Scouts, civic organizations, persons who receive court ordered community service, as well individuals with free time that are interested in helping our cause and mission. Volunteers assist with basic animal care, walking, playing, and socializing with the animals, participate in fund raising events, as well as outreach programs in the community. Many volunteers use their time to help maintain our facility with ongoing clean-up.

### **Humane Education**

PHS offers opportunities for various civic organizations, schools, scouts, and religious organizations to expand their awareness of responsible pet ownership. PHS provides tours, and discussions with small groups of students to educate them on what a responsible pet owner is and why it is so important to spay/neuter, vaccinate, microchip, and train pets.

### **The Trap, Neuter, Return Fund (TNR)**

The TNR fund was established to help control the feral cat population of our community. PHS loans out traps to individuals who need to capture feral or stray cats so they can be spayed/neutered and vaccinated against disease. PHS provides those who need to trap feral cats the equipment and information on how to do so. The TNR fund pays to have trapped cats spayed or neutered, rabies vaccinated, flea treatment given, and the ear clipped by Dr. Kanouse at Brook

Farm veterinary hospital. Brook Farm offers a discounted rate for the services. The individuals who go through the PHS TNR fund must sign an agreement that they will continue to care for the cats providing shelter and food, and not just release them to fend for themselves. We also help Advocats with their spaying/neutering costs when we have the available TNR funds. In 2023, ten cats were put through the TNR fund for Advocats.

### **T.A.R.A.**

PHS collaborates with The Animal Rights Alliance (T.A.R.A.) and offers low-cost spays and neuters including rabies vaccinations for cats. Putnam County residents are invited to bring their own cats, strays or ferals to be spayed or neutered for a significantly reduced cost.

### **Rescue Intake (Incoming Transfers)**

Since November 2016, PHS has been working with **A Shelter Friend**, a rescue group in N.C. who helps to save dogs from their county kill shelter. We also rescued 4 dogs from Louisiana after the flood and hurricane. PHS only takes in rescues when there is space and there are no Putnam residents who need to surrender their dog. Putnam county residents always come first. A Shelter Friend has sponsors who pay the cost to vet the dogs before they come to PHS. PHS pays the transport fee, microchipping, and 4 DX testing. The adoption fee covers those costs.

### **Reuniting Lost Pets**

PHS maintains a log of lost pets in the community and actively seeks to reunite them with their owners via lost and found flyers, along with information and assistance to help them locate their pets. The PHS Facebook page, and lost pets of the Hudson Valley Facebook page have also evolved and become social media hubs to help share information about lost pets throughout the Hudson Valley Region. If all pets were microchipped, and the chip registered, all lost pets would be reunited with their families. We will continue to educate about microchipping, promote and provide FREE microchip opportunities partnering with local veterinarians.

### **Re-Homing Database**

PHS maintains a database for pet owners who need to re-home their dog or cat, and for those who are looking for a specific type of cat or dog. PHS acts as the liaison in the communication process so those individuals needing to re-home their pet can be put in touch with those who are looking for pets. This allows the pets to be adopted directly from one family to another.

### **Times of Trouble / Sick and Injured Animals Fund**

This fund is designated to help those cats and dogs abandoned with significant health problems caused by long-term neglect and/or health issues that were ignored and that require extensive medical attention. These cats and dogs may include those relinquished by their owner, dogs brought in by dog control officers, and dogs and cats brought in by good Samaritans that have been injured or abandoned by owners. This fund has also helped residents in need who have



reached out to PHS because without help they would not be able to keep their beloved cat or dog. If there is money in the fund, we can help. PHS has helped in so many ways with this fund. The fund was originally created in memory of Trouble, a very special former resident of PHS. Because of the impact he made on staff and volunteers, many dogs and cats have been helped, and many more will be.

### **Putnam Humane Society Advertising and Marketing**

PHS advertises events and animals for adoption through Facebook, Instagram, Pet Finder, Adopt-a-Pet, and YouTube. Social media has become one of the primary ways PHS communicates information about adoptions, fund raising events, donations needed and lost and found animals. Newspapers also offer free ads for promoting adoption.

### **PHS Facebook Page - Social Media Information Resource**

PHS has expanded its use of Facebook to provide information to the public. We post pictures of the cats and dogs for adoption, adoption photos as the dog or cat leaves to go to their new home, event information, recognize donators and more. Facebook has become a wonderful network, and a wealth of information. We also provide and share information about lost pets all over the Hudson Valley. Our Facebook page also serves as a means to answer hundreds of questions related to adoption, events, and pet care related questions 24 hours a day.

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2023 Annual Report to Putnam County Executive  
From  
Putnam County Industrial Development Agency

2 Route 164, Suite 2B

Patterson, NY 12563

[william.nulk@putnamida.com](mailto:william.nulk@putnamida.com) (c) 845 721-9216

- I The Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (PCIDA) is formed under Article 18 B Title 937-F of the NYS General Municipal Law as a public benefit corporation. It can provide financial assistance consistent with the aforementioned law.
  
- II The PCIDA can provide mortgage tax, sales tax, and property tax abatements, and also arrange municipal bond funding, for appropriate new development or expansion of existing businesses with the goal of providing good employment and economic benefit to Putnam County and the Hudson Valley Region.
  
- III The mission of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency is to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Putnam County and to improve its recreation opportunities, prosperity and standard of living, through the promotion, development, encouragement and assistance for industrial operations, manufacturing, warehousing, commercial, research, new businesses and recreation facilities, educational or cultural facilities, health care facilities and continuing care retirement communities, in Putnam County and the State of New York.
  
- IV The PCIDA Serves the people of Putnam County, the Lower Hudson Valley Region, and New York State.
  
- V In 2023, the PCIDA was able to facilitate the following projects:

Ace Endico, a food distribution services company in the Town of Southeast, initiated the third expansion of their facilities with a \$19 million project. It included property adjustments that will enable a much larger expansion in 2025.

Part V (continued):

The Commercial Campus at Fields Corners, also in the Town of Southeast, began the portion of the overall project that includes 2 large distribution-warehouse buildings in a \$190 million project that opens up a significant area of previously difficult-to-access properties.

The PCIDA continued the Braemar Assisted Living and the Gleneida Distillery projects preparation in the Town of Carmel.

Other projects are in the early development stages and are being assisted by the Putnam County Economic Development Team that includes the P.C. Tourism Department, the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation, as well as the PCIDA.

The work and successes of the PCIDA has led up to the fee-paying projects that have allowed the Agency to decline using the budgetary allocation for 2023 and not ask for funding from the County in 2024.

VI The PCIDA has been operating as an independent Board of Volunteers with no staff since its restructuring in May 2016. The Board is made up of seven members, chosen as well as possible, to represent the six towns that make up the County. As of this report, dated February 22, 2024, we are short one member to represent the Town of Philipstown.

The current members are:

William Nulk – Chairman - Kent  
Edward Cook – Vice Chairman - Carmel  
Joseph Downey – Secretary - Patterson  
Abby O'Brien – Recording Secretary – Putnam Valley  
Michael Karlsson – Member – Southeast  
Simon Carey – Member – Kent  
Vacant Seat – Philipstown

The PCIDA is assisted by:

Michael Lewis – CFO – P.C Commissioner of Finance  
Theresa Waivada – Compliance Consultant

The Law Office of Shilling & Smith, P.C. is Agency Counsel  
William A. Shilling, Jr.  
Frank J. Smith III

Part VI (continued):

Project Counsel are engaged to represent the PCIDA for specific projects. Their fees are paid directly by the project client.

Project Counsel in 2023:

For Ace Endico and Commercial Campus at Fields Corners:

Hawkins-Delafield-Wood Law

Dan Birmingham and Arthur Cohen

For Ahana-Comfort Inn-Southeast, Braemar Assisted Living-Carmel and Gleneida Distillery-Carmel:

Hogan-Rossi-Liguori Law

Michael Liguori

The PCIDA is in the process of contracting a part-time Bookkeeper/Office Services person to take on those responsibilities from the Chairman.

The PCIDA is also investigating a proper way to fulfil the duties of a non-board-member Executive Director.

VII A New York State Industrial Development Agency is intended by the legislation to be able to finance its operations with the funds received through fees for its benefit services. This PCIDA has just achieved that ability. Current expectations are good – future expectations are difficult to determine at this time.

VIII The PCIDA's goals are our mission – to bring responsible growth and good paying jobs to Putnam County. Working with our partners in the Putnam County Economic Development Team – Tourism, PCEDC, Putnam Planning Department, and with our friends and colleagues in the business community, there is good confidence for success. Putnam County is an attractive place to live and work in. Our job is to encourage appropriate kinds of businesses for our citizens and for our future.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Nulk

February 22, 2024

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**The Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc.**  
**(PCLAS)**

**12 Fair Street  
Carmel, New York 10512  
845-225-8466  
[info@pclegalaid.com](mailto:info@pclegalaid.com)**

**I. Description of Agency**

The Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc. (PCLAS), incorporated in 1966, is contracted by the County to provide legal representation to financially eligible clients in criminal and Family Court matters throughout Putnam. A non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors (President Bonnie Feinzig, Esq.; Secretary Stamatia Dewbury, Esq.; and Directors Margaret A. Nicholson, Esq.; Thomas Purcell, Esq.; and Peter Reynolds, Esq.), the PCLAS employs nine attorneys (six full time and three part time) as well as four full-time administrative staffpersons in order to fulfill its mandate, as more fully set forth below.

**II. Services Provided**

Pursuant to County Law Article 18-B, Putnam County is required to ensure representation to those legally entitled to counsel but who lack the financial means to obtain that counsel. As the primary agency charged with meeting that responsibility, PCLAS staff conduct intakes and screen applicants for financial eligibility. PCLAS attorneys represent eligible defendants in criminal court from initial appearance through ultimate resolution and also represent qualifying parties in Family Court upon the filing of petitions for family offenses, child custody/visitation matters, child support violation allegations, and abuse or neglect allegations filed by the County Department of Social Services.

In addition, because those persons charged with crimes are entitled to counsel at arraignment, the first formal proceeding against them, PCLAS attorneys appear in all Putnam County criminal court forums for purposes of ensuring the right to counsel at the time of initial arraignment. Such appearances may be required during regular work hours, but also frequently occur on evenings, weekends, and holidays.

While the above constitutes the lion's share of cases handled by PCLAS, its attorneys and staff also regularly assist clients in post-conviction matters such as violations of parole, probation or conditional discharge, applications for

early discharge from probation, sex offender registration assessment hearings, etc.

PCLAS attorneys also maintain a steady, ongoing, and vital presence in Putnam County's "problem-solving courts": The Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court; Judicial Diversion/Treatment Court; and the newly inaugurated Veterans' Court.

Finally, it is crucial to note that the high-quality representation provided by PCLAS includes the engagement of social workers, interpreters, forensic experts, and other professional services essential to the fulfillment of its obligations to its clients.

### **III. Mission Statement<sup>1</sup>**

### **IV. Population Served**

As noted above, PCLAS clients must qualify financially for legal representation. Persons are presumptively eligible for assignment of counsel if, among other things, (i) their net income is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; (ii) they are incarcerated, detained, or confined to a mental health facility; or (iii) they receive, or have recently received, need-based public assistance. (Please see the attached Income Eligibility Presumption Federal Poverty Guidelines Chart from New York State's Office of Indigent Legal Services.)

Upon financial qualification and depending upon the level and nature of the charge, clients are represented by PCLAS attorneys at the County level in Criminal Court, Family Court, and the above-referenced IDV, Judicial Diversion/Treatment, and Veterans' "problem-solving courts". PCLAS attorneys also provide representation in the Justice Courts of the towns of Carmel, Southeast, Kent, Patterson, Philipstown, and Putnam Valley as well as those in the villages of Cold Spring, Brewster, and Nelsonville.

### **V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

As has been the trend in recent years, the number of cases opened and clients served by PCLAS in 2023 increased significantly from 2022:

- Total cases opened: 1,523 in 2023; 1,226 in 2022
- Number of clients served: 1,246 in 2023; 999 in 2022
- Number of evening/weekend/holiday arraignments: 212
- Number of criminal court cases: 1,067 in 2023; 837 in 2022
- Number of family court matters: 401 in 2023; 340 in 2022

<sup>1</sup> The PCLAS Mission Statement is under review and awaiting Board approval.



Notably, most of this substantial growth in caseload was shouldered by existing staff; in late 2023, PCLAS hired three new full-time attorneys, as will be highlighted below in Section VI. Filling those positions on a full-time basis is essential to meeting the quality improvement and caseload reduction goals as required by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS).

In 2023, funding secured through PCLAS's successful competitive proposal for the state-awarded Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction grant, which became available in May, permitted PCLAS to form an internal two-attorney Family Court Unit dedicated solely to Family Court cases. These funds allow PCLAS to implement initiatives to improve representation provided to parents in child protective matters pursuant to Article 10 of the Family Court Act, provide pre-petition representation to financially eligible persons, and integrate non-attorney professionals such as social workers and parent advocates into the process; all of the foregoing intended to, among other goals, reduce unnecessary separation of children from their families, lower foster care expenses and result in reduced long term costs to the County in connection with such matters.

PCLAS also continued to demonstrate its commitment to Putnam County's "problem-solving courts" by providing, at no additional cost to the County, a defense attorney dedicated to Veterans' Court, which meets weekly and began accepting participants in March 2023.

## **VI. Staffing**

In October 2023, Elizabeth Costello, who has been a staff attorney at PCLAS since 2016, was appointed "Acting Chief Attorney and Administrator" by the PCLAS Board of Directors.

In June 2023, Kristin Finan was promoted to "Family Court Supervising Attorney." Ms. Finan has been employed as a PCLAS attorney for nearly ten years and is responsible for managing the "Family Defense" grant and overseeing the Family Court Unit mentioned above, along with carrying her own caseload.

In September 2023, PCLAS hired a full-time Family Court attorney to round out its Family Court Unit. Rachel Barmack is a seasoned matrimonial attorney, formerly in private practice, who brings a great deal of experience and a significant skillset to her work at PCLAS.

In December 2023, PCLAS hired two full-time criminal defense attorneys to fill open lines in ILS grants. Kevin Prue, a United States Navy veteran, is an experienced trial attorney who spent eight years working in the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office; Mr. Prue is primarily assigned to felony matters and to providing guidance and training to less-experienced staff attorneys. Randy Smith is a United States Air Force veteran who was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2020. In addition to his legal background, Mr. Smith brings a much-welcome and highly valued law-enforcement perspective to his work at PCLAS: he is a retired New York State Trooper.

In October 2023, PCLAS hired Karen Blackman, a legal secretary with more than thirty years' experience in Putnam County, to fill an administrative position left open by resignation. Ms. Blackman is primarily responsible for completing prospective client intakes, which includes obtaining relevant financial information.

There were three resignations during 2023.

## **VII. Sources of Revenue**

Through an agreement between the County and PCLAS, the County provides necessary funding for the PCLAS to deliver mandated services pursuant to State law. In addition, since 2012, ILS has been providing supplemental funding to the County by way of quality enhancement (discretionary) distributions and statutory distributions.

Distributions are aimed to maintain the level of funding needed by the County to improve and ensure the level of quality legal representation to financially eligible persons through a variety of mechanisms:

- Quality enhancement (or discretionary) distributions have specific goals, including, but not limited to, providing counsel at every criminal defendant's first court appearance and supporting local initiatives aimed at improvements in upstate legal services providers' representation and programs.
- Statutory distributions are meant to ensure the funds are used to improve the quality of indigent legal services. Moreover, statutory distributions are formula-based and consider (i) net local expenditures and (ii) maintenance of effort, providing a relatively non-discretionary and unchanging level of support from year to year.

All grant award funding provided through ILS is intended to supplement, rather than supplant, County funding.

In 2023, Putnam County allocated \$616,559.00<sup>2</sup> in funding to PCLAS.

State funding through ILS for 2023 was as follows:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Distribution #10 (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023) <sup>3</sup>	\$47,282/year
Distribution #11 (January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023) <sup>4</sup>	\$94,564/year
Distribution #12 (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024)	\$47,282/year
Distribution #13 (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025)	\$47,282/year
Third Upstate Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant (July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2024) <sup>5</sup>	\$100,000/year
Third Counsel at First Appearance (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023) <sup>6</sup>	\$207,204/year
Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025)	\$250,000/year
Hurrell-Harring Statewide Expansion (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2024)	\$817,612 in 2023 <sup>7</sup>

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Funding remains one of PCLAS’s significant challenges. As noted above, barring unforeseen circumstances, PCLAS expects that ILS funding will remain roughly at current levels. Expenses, however, are guaranteed to rise. In addition to an ever-increasing caseload, PCLAS reasonably expects significant and ongoing increases in the costs of the personnel, services, equipment, and infrastructure that are absolutely essential to fulfilling its mandate to provide high-quality legal representation.

<sup>2</sup> This figure includes \$11,000.00 specifically authorized for forensic services.

<sup>3</sup> No-cost extension request was granted through 2023; this distribution is now closed out.

<sup>4</sup> No-cost extension request is currently pending.

<sup>5</sup> This grant was originally set to close on June 30, 2023; a no-cost extension through 2024 was granted by ILS.

<sup>6</sup> This grant was extended through 2023; a proposal for Fourth Counsel at First Appearance has been submitted to ILS.

<sup>7</sup> The Hurrell-Harring Statewide Expansion was originally a 5-year grant (extended for a sixth year) that is the result of a legal settlement aimed at improving legal representation statewide. Awards were gradually increased each year through a “roll-out” plan. This figure reflects what was awarded to PCLAS during 2023; PCLAS awaits notification from ILS as to the amount of the award upon the expiration of the current grant.

## **VIII. Goals for 2024**

PCLAS's focus does not—and cannot—alter from year to year. Its overarching goal is to continue to provide vigorous, dedicated, high-quality legal representation to those persons financially eligible for its services.

Continuing to meet that goal requires hiring, training, and retaining a roster of stellar attorneys and staff by offering competitive salaries and benefits and providing the environment, equipment, and continuing education that support them in what is, by its nature, a uniquely challenging segment of an already challenging profession. As noted in Section VI regarding staffing, PCLAS has made notable and important strides in that arena.

Now that PCLAS is well and (nearly) fully staffed, one area of focus is streamlining internal processes. To that end, PCLAS has engaged the services of an independent contractor accountant on a temporary basis to help improve internal controls and simplify the manner in which funds are claimed against ILS grants. As of this writing, a proposal for redesigning the currently convoluted system of “claiming” ILS funds for various positions and other expenses has been submitted to ILS and is awaiting approval. It is anticipated that this proposal, if granted, will enhance the accuracy and timeliness of the required quarterly claims, decrease the burden on ILS claim auditors, and ultimately result in a noticeable benefit to both PCLAS and Putnam County.



**Income Eligibility Presumption  
Federal Poverty Guidelines Chart**

An Applicant for assignment of counsel is presumptively eligible if the Applicant’s net income is at or below 250% of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

“Net Income” means an individual’s wages, interest, dividends, or other earnings after deductions for state, federal and local taxes, social security taxes, Medicare taxes, any union dues, retirement contributions, or other withholdings - in other words, “take home pay.”

**2023 Income Eligibility Chart**

This chart reflects a 250% multiple of the most current Federal Poverty Guidelines (effective January 12, 2023).

# of Dependents (including Applicant)	Annually	Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$36,450	\$3,038	\$1,402	\$701
2	\$49,300	\$4,108	\$1,896	\$948
3	\$62,150	\$5,179	\$2,390	\$1,195
4	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$2,885	\$1,442
5	\$87,850	\$7,321	\$3,379	\$1,689
6	\$100,700	\$8,392	\$3,873	\$1,937
7	\$113,550	\$9,463	\$4,367	\$2,184
8	\$126,400	\$10,533	\$4,862	\$2,431
Additional person, add:	\$12,850	\$1,071	\$494	\$247

For reference only:

2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines (100% multiple, for the 48 contiguous states and Washington, DC)

Persons In Household	Poverty Guideline
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
For households with more than 8 persons, add:	\$5,140 (each additional person)

January 20, 2023

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## **Putnam County Libraries Association**

668 Route 6  
Mahopac, NY 10541  
845-279-6421  
director@brewsterlibrary.org

### **I. Description of Agency**

The [Putnam County Libraries Association \(PCLA\)](#) consists of the eight libraries in the county:

[Brewster Public Library](#)

[Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library](#) (Cold Spring)

[Alice Curtis Desmond & Hamilton Fish Library](#) (Garrison)

[Kent Public Library](#)

[Mahopac Public Library](#)

[Patterson Library](#)

[Putnam Valley Free Library](#)

[Reed Memorial Library](#) (Carmel)

### **II. Services Provided**

Each of these libraries provides quality programs and services to the residents of Putnam County. We provide cool spaces in the summer and warm spaces in the winter. As part of a consortium consisting of 66 member libraries spanning 5 counties, we are able to provide access to millions of physical items through interlibrary loan, as well as countless e-resources, such as ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and searchable databases.

In addition, library patrons can:

- attend online courses through Universal Class
- learn a language with Transparent Language
- use a computer to access the Internet
- access free wifi onsite or borrow a hotspot device
- borrow unique and practical items such as tools, toys, etc.
- get assistance with technology
- obtain homework help
- borrow museum passes
- apply for a passport
- have documents notarized
- participate in support groups, both online and in person
- attend programs for all ages
- ...and much more!

### **III. Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Putnam County Libraries Association is to encourage cooperation among all libraries serving the public in Putnam County, and to promote public interest in and support for appropriate library service in Putnam County.

### **IV. Population Served**

The eight libraries in Putnam County serve **all** residents, from newborn babies to senior citizens. Our goal is to ensure equal access to information, programs, and services, regardless of age, socio-economic status, race, religion, gender identity, national origin, or disability. With county funds, we have made information on our websites more accessible by adding the “Recite Me” tool, which offers a range of on-demand accessibility solutions that make each of the eight Putnam County websites user-friendly for individuals with disabilities, situational challenges, and language barriers, through customizable options.

### **V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023**

- The libraries collaborated to bring county residents a Summer Concert Series.
- County funds were used to provide a very popular series of Local History lectures/tours.
- Every library took part in “[The Great Give Back](#),” a state-wide program where libraries participate in meaningful service-oriented experiences.
- County funds enabled us to purchase a reduced-cost County-wide subscription to Ryan Dowd’s Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness training series to guide front-line library professionals in better helping patrons who may require a more thoughtful and delicate approach. The combination of live and virtual training:
  - Gives library staff more confidence working with patrons struggling with homelessness, mental illness and/or substance abuse.
  - Helps our libraries remain inclusive, able to serve everyone.
  - Provides tools to create an atmosphere with fewer problems and less conflict in our libraries.

Some other highlights from 2023:

- Library visits – 410,014
- Checked out physical items – 334,786
- Checked out electronic materials – 148,911
- Website visits – 332,737
- Wifi sessions – 69,395
- Database use – 24,605
- Reference questions answered – 142,502
- Programs offered – 6,987
- Program attendance – 55,051
- Number of public computer uses – 25,455



## **VI. Staffing**

New staff in 2023:

- Amina Chaudhri became the Director of the Putnam Valley Library.
- Donna Perolli became the Director of the Reed Library in Carmel.

## **VII. Sources of Revenue**

Each library is funded through town taxpayer dollars. As of 2023, all eight libraries' tax levies are decided through a public vote. Each library strives to keep the taxpayers' burden as low as possible; county funding is crucial to assist in purchasing materials, paying staff, maintaining buildings, and providing programs which are open to all Putnam County residents. Challenges include keeping up with the continuing rise in cost and usage of e-resources, as well as mandated wage increases.

## **VIII. Goals for 2024**

In 2024, PCLA plans to:

- Schedule a series of Genealogy workshops throughout the county.
- Expand outreach efforts to further engage with our communities.
- Take an active role in building more sustainable practices, both within our buildings, and reaching out into the community.
- Meet the evolving needs of our communities through expanded programs, services, and materials offered.

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## The Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.

Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**PLEASE REPORT  
ANIMAL CRUELTY  
845-520-6915  
OR  
MAKE A DONATION  
PO BOX 850, BREWSTER, NY 10509**



24 Hour Hotline: 845-520-6915 [www.spcaputnam.org](http://www.spcaputnam.org)

Website: [www.spcaputnam.org](http://www.spcaputnam.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/PutnamCountySPCA](https://facebook.com/PutnamCountySPCA)

Instagram: [@putnamcountyspca\\_ny](https://instagram.com/putnamcountyspca_ny)

Putnam County Annual Report, Outside Agencies

Telephone: 845-520-6915

47 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512



# ANNUAL REPORT

## I. DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY

The Putnam County SPCA serves Putnam County as a law enforcement agency given its statutory authority by the NYS Special Corporations Law, NYS Agriculture and Markets Law and the NYS Criminal Procedure Law. There can only be one SPCA in each county. No SPCA in New York State is part of the ASPCA, and none receive funding from them. By law, the ASPCA has its authority based solely in New York City. The Putnam County SPCA has different divisions working together to provide comprehensive coverage of animal issues throughout the county.

## II. SERVICES PROVIDED

### a. LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

**- PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY STATUTES AND ALL LAWS OF NY WHEN APPLICABLE**

PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division Officers receive the same training that all law enforcement receives but our course structure varies with a focus towards animals. Our 24-hour animal cruelty hotline is answered 24/7, 365 days a year. The PC SPCA is also dispatched to calls of cruelty by Putnam 911. All police agencies within Putnam County, including Putnam County Sheriff's Dept., Carmel Police, Kent Police, Brewster Police, Cold Spring Police, NYS Police, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation Police, NYC Department of Environmental Protection Police, NYS Park Police, and MTA Police, refer all animal cruelty cases to the Putnam County SPCA to handle. We also work closely with Putnam County Social Services,

including Child Protection Services and Adult Protection Services. Town and Village code enforcement departments and dog control officers also utilize the services of the Putnam County SPCA.

Putnam County SPCA officers are listed on a roster kept by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, who oversees all required training for Law Enforcement within the state. PC SPCA officers receive annual refresher courses in Deadly Physical Force and any non-lethal weapons carried as mandated by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. PC SPCA officers are NYS Peace Officers with statutory authority that exceeds most other peace officer categories.

Because of our countywide statutory jurisdiction, our officers travel the roads of Putnam County and often encounter traffic accidents, local, county and state Police car stops, and other requests for help. Our officers are trained in First Aid and are also trained in the use of Naloxone (Narcan) which is kept in each PC SPCA vehicle's First Aid kit. Officers of the PCSPCA come across incidents/accidents where they ensure the safety of the injured, contact 911 and local police, and direct traffic until local units arrive. Officers will assist until they are no longer needed.

Daily during the warm months of the year, the PC SPCA patrols parking areas and shopping centers proactively searching for companion animals left in vehicles. Approximately 25 dogs were removed from vehicles. This number is down 28% from the year before, showing that the patrols and signage work. The PCSPCA will continue its countywide patrol and response to vehicles with pets left inside. In the colder months, the PC SPCA has instituted a patrol of previous offenders that have a history of leaving their dogs out in inclement winter weather to speed up our response time.

**(SEE ADDENDUM A FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)**

## **b. PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA DOG CONTROL DIVISION**

The Putnam County SPCA currently contracts with the Town of Putnam Valley to provide Dog Control services. This service includes the enforcement of Article 7 of the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law, seizing loose dogs, filing Dangerous Dog Complaints, and Putnam Valley Town Code. We also provide services to other animals that are not dogs, by making different agencies aware of whatever is needed and following through to the resolution. This partnership alleviates the liability from the town, which is covered under the PCSPCA's liability insurance, vehicle insurance and Workmen's Compensation. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the County and any town in the development of a similar relationship and growing this Division.

The PC Dog Control Division will also assist when necessary, in the transport of animals seized by the Law Enforcement Division. The Dog Control Division will also render assistance when dispatched by the Law Enforcement Division throughout Putnam County as part of the SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION.

**(SEE ADDENDUM B FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)**

## **c. LEADER IN ANIMAL ISSUES**

Our phones are answered 24X7 and we also provide information and direction to the public as to all animal issues that are encountered. We often receive calls and direct the caller to the proper agency for loose dogs, barking complaints, feral cats, adoptions, animal turn-ins, lost pets, low-cost veterinary care, injured wildlife, and any other type of call. We answer animal cruelty issues and field a variety of calls which would otherwise go unanswered. If you combine all of our division's calls, we received approximately 2500+ calls this year.

## **d. HUMANE EDUCATION**

The Putnam County SPCA also provides Humane Education, available to all schools and any other interested agencies. This course meets the required instruction mandated by:

***NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION LAW, ARTICLE 17 § 809. Instruction in the humane treatment of animals. 1. The officer, board or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instruction shall cause instruction to be given in every elementary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state, in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty. Such instruction shall be for such period of time during each school year as the board of regents may prescribe and may be joined with work in literature, reading, language, nature study or ethnology. Such weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods. A school district shall not be entitled to participate in the public school money on account of any school or the attendance at any school subject to the provisions of this section, if the instruction required hereby is not given therein.***

## **IN 2023, OVER 1000 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED HUMANE EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA**

**(SEE ADDENDUM C FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)**

## **e. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

### **i. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Many times, we receive calls from people and stores wanting to donate food and other goods (blankets, beds, crates, etc.). Since we are not a shelter, we have developed, with our volunteer Irene Weiss of Mahopac, a network of groups that we deliver these donations to, at no cost to them, so we can help care for the animals of Putnam County in an additional manner. Also, in the course of our investigations, if we encounter a

situation where the issue is monetary where the pet owner is having difficulty in providing food for the pet, we place that individual on a list where a volunteer will drop food off to help through the difficulty time.

The groups we currently provide food, blankets and towels to are:

- "A New Chance Animal Rescue"
- "Forgotten Felines"
- "Mount Carmel Baptist Church Food Pantry"
- "My Hopes in You Small Animal Rescue"
- "Philipstown Food Pantry"
- "Putnam Advocats"
- "Rescue Right"
- "Saint John's Food Pantry of Mahopac"

**(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)**

## **ii. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT**

- The PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION also provides support for the Law Enforcement Division by providing transportation of seized animals to veterinarians, staffing the office when necessary, fundraising, IT support, and any other necessary function that is necessary. It also provides for animal care when necessary.



As in the past, with Spring approaching, volunteers of the PC SPCA will again distribute to stores within Putnam County, the familiar stop sign poster reminding people not to leave their pets in their vehicles as the weather gets warmer. (SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)



### iii. EMERGENCY ON-SITE SUPPORT

When the SPCA encounters situations where large groups of animals are seized, or in the event of a death, SPCA SUPPORT SERVICES mobilize and care for the animals “in place”, providing food, shelter and medical care. The ultimate goal is to keep the animals safe and fed while finding suitable new homes for the animals. Such was the case of “ALMOST HOME KENNELS” in Putnam Valley, this past year, where the owner was found deceased by the Sheriff’s Office. On-site were dogs housed as part of the business, dogs owned by the deceased, and an additional 65 farm animals. Our DOG CONTROL DIVISION and SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION mobilized and cleaned the location to make it habitable from years of neglect, provided twice daily feedings to all the animals, and ultimately found new homes for the farm animals. Most of the dogs on location were returned to the families of those boarding them. The remaining dogs were adopted to loving homes by the PC SPCA, turned over to other animal organizations who specialize with specific breeds, or taken by the family of the deceased.

(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

**iv. FUNDRAISING**

- During the year, our SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION and our PC SPCA Officers will staff tables in front of stores throughout Putnam County soliciting donations from the public. This serves as a great way to fund the PC SPCA, meet and educate the public, and provide answers as to the role the PC SPCA has countywide.
- Our SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION will also solicit raffle items and advertising for our Annual Fundraising Dinner which is held at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac. PC SPCA volunteers will put baskets together to be raffled, check guests into the event, or assist in any way needed. The PC SPCA Volunteers truly make the night a success.

**(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)**

### **III. MISSION STATEMENT**

The MISSION of the Putnam County SPCA is to proactively enforce NYS and Federal Animal Cruelty statutes, and all laws of NYS when applicable, to ensure shelter and medical care to any animals seized pursuant to arrests resulting from cruelty, to provide Humane Education to other law enforcement agencies, schools and all other interested groups and to be a leader in animal matters throughout Putnam County.

### **IV. POPULATION SERVED**

The Putnam County SPCA serves the entire population of Putnam County. The SPCA responds to calls of animal cruelty countywide. Under NYS law, all animals, including wildlife, are protected. The PCSPCA works with all law enforcement agencies, including the Putnam County District Attorney's Office, Putnam County Sheriff's Dept., Brewster Police, Carmel Police, Cold Spring Police, Kent Police, NYS Police, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Police, NYC DEP Police, MTA Police and NYS Park Police. The Putnam County SPCA also works closely with Putnam County Social Services, Adult Protective Services, Child Protection Services, and Putnam County Probation Dept.

Our phones are answered 24X7 and we also provide direction to the public as to all animal issues that are encountered. We direct the caller to the proper agency for loose dogs, barking complaints, feral cats, adoptions, animal turn-ins and lost pets. We answer animal cruelty issues and field a variety of calls which would otherwise go unanswered if the PC SPCA did not exist. We have also worked with Putnam 911 and the Sheriff's Dispatch to establish a protocol where all animal related calls are sent directly to the Putnam County SPCA officers.

Because of our countywide statutory jurisdiction, our officers travel the roads of Putnam County and often encounter traffic accidents and other requests for help. Our officers are trained in First Aid and are also trained in the use of Naloxone (Narcan) which is kept in the vehicle First Aid kit. Officers of the PCSPCA come across incidents/accidents where they ensure the safety of the injured, contact 911 and local police, and direct traffic until local units arrive. Officers will assist until they are no longer needed.

## **V. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2023**

### **a. POINTS OF PRIDE**

- As stated earlier in the Support Services section, the Putnam County SPCA stepped up and took charge of dozens and dozens of animals living in poor conditions at Almost Home Kennels in Putnam Valley. The owner was found deceased by the Sheriff's Department and the PCSPCA was called. Support Services volunteers, and the PC SPCA Dog Control Division, entered Almost Home Kennels, cleaned and sanitized dog runs housing AKC dogs owned by the deceased and dogs being boarded. SPCA officers found the owner's family and contacted them within 12 hours. The family, living in Connecticut, asked the PCPSCA to handle the situation until they could put their brother's affairs in order. The PCSPCA was tasked with the care of the animals daily (including all farm animals as well). The county of Putnam has no protocols set up for situations like this, but the PCSPCA stepped up and handled the situation seamlessly and with no cost to the family of the deceased or county.
- Another example of the PCSPCA stepping up and handling a bad situation was when a Putnam Valley woman was suffering from a "psychotic crisis" while living in an unfit, deplorable conditions residence. The PC SPCA was dispatched from Putnam 911

after a call was received from the Taconic Veterinary Center in Cortlandt. The veterinary office was reporting there was a Putnam Valley resident, covered in blood and body fluids stating that she needed someone to remove her deceased dog from her home. The woman also told the vet office that there was another live Great Dane in her residence. Officers from the Putnam County SPCA responded to the Taconic Veterinary Center in Cortlandt and met with the woman, saw to it that she received medical care, and when EMS released her, followed her home. SPCA officers observed the house in filthy disarray, where it was unlivable for a human and her live Great Dane. Working with the woman, the living dog was removed from the filthy hoarder-like home by the PC SPCA DOG CONTROL DIVISION and adopted to a caring family. The PCSPCA also contacted a representative from the Hartsdale Pet Cemetery and officers removed the body of the deceased dog from the living room floor (which was estimated to be deceased for approximately a month). Officers of the PCSPCA contacted the Putnam County Adult Protection Services and with their help, ensured that the woman was given the appropriate mental health treatment that she needed.

**b. Matters of Known Interest to the County Exec’s Office**

- The County needs to address the lack of laws regarding farm animals. Local and County Codes do not address farm animals at large, the seizure of these animals while at large, housing for these animals as the owners, if possible are found, and penalties to address at large and abandoned farm animals. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.
- The County needs to address the absence of a facility to house animals seized pursuant to cruelty arrests, hoarders, abandonment, and part of arrests/deaths of

other non- cruelty arrests. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.

- The County needs to address the absence of a facility to hold dogs during their Health Department mandated bite hold and during the Dangerous Dog process. The County should also revisit the Dangerous Dog proposal submitted by the PCSPCA to the County Legislature. The PC SPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.

## **VI. STAFFING**

- The Putnam County SPCA currently has four (4) paid employees. The PC SPCA has two (2) paid, sworn law enforcement officers, on call 24X7, to handle calls of animal cruelty. The PC SPCA has one (1) paid Dog Control Officer on contract with the Town of Putnam Valley. The two (2) sworn law enforcement officers have a combined 37 years of experience in handling animal cruelty investigations. These two (2) officers are also Bureau of Municipal Police Instructors through the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. The Putnam County SPCA also employs one (1) office person part time during the week.

Pastor Columbia, of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Carmel, and the Rev. Bruce Fern, nondenominational, both volunteer as PC SPCA Chaplains.

The PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division also has several sworn volunteer officers who are current or retired police/law enforcement officers.

- Doug MacCrae, retired PCSO Sergeant, retired Lewisboro Police Lieutenant
- Frank Long, retired New York State Court Officer
- John Bennett, former Town of Carmel Police, retired City of Peekskill Detective

- Jaime Caban, former NYPD and Fishkill Police Officer, current PC DA investigator
- Chris Perrotta, retired City of Yonkers Police Sergeant
- Jason Driscoll, retired NYPD officer, former Village of Brewster Police
- Edward Pollick, retired City of Yonkers Police Detective

**VII. SOURCES OF REVENUE**

**a. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

COUNTY OF PUTNAM OFFICE FUNDS	\$64,170 \$37,440
TOWN OF CARMEL	\$10,000
SPCA INTERNATIONAL	\$36,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$126,500</b>

**b. CONTRACTED SERVICES**

The PCSPCA provides the following contracted services:

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY SHELTER & DOG CONTROL	\$39,000
--	----------

### **c. ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER**

In 2023 the Putnam County SPCA held its annual dinner. In attendance was approximately 170 people. The PCSPCA raised approximately \$12,000.

### **d. TRENDS IN THE COST OF SERVICES**

- Fuel – the increase in gas prices has had a tremendous effect on the services provided by the PCSPCA. Responding to calls to investigate animal cruelty continues to be extremely costly.
- Insurance continues to be costly.
- Equipment – Because we are not “municipal, federal or tribal” law enforcement, we are not eligible for 99% of law enforcement grants. Because we are not a shelter, we are not eligible for 99% of animal grants. We recently faced the need for additional equipment:
  - Less than lethal weapons. To provide another additional alternative to O/C spray and baton, the PC SPCA investigated the use of TASERS. In 2022, we entered into a 3-year lease agreement with AXON/TASER to provide this added option. The funding for two (2) units had to come from already depleted revenues.
  - Body Worn Cameras. NYS is steadily moving towards mandatory BWCs for all law enforcement. Wearing BWCs protects the PC SPCA and people we encounter. In 2022, the PC SPCA entered into a 5-year lease agreement with Motorola to provide two (2) BWCs. The funding for two (2) units had to come from already depleted revenues. Putting more officers on the road, especially during the warm summer months has necessitated adding two (2) additional BWCs.
- Radios – Putnam County is in the process of upgrading their radio/911 system, moving towards radio interoperability. This move to digital and different



frequencies will mean the PC SPCA will be unable to communicate with other first responders with the current Radio's the PC SPCA has.

## **VIII. GOALS FOR 2024**

### **a. Fundraising**

- The Putnam County SPCA plans on multiple Coffee with the PC SPCA events which will also have fundraising components. Weekends at local Supermarkets with fundraising tables are also scheduled.
- The PC PSCA has already set a date, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for the next annual fundraising dinner.

### **b. Humane Education**

- In 2023, Putnam County set an all-time high number of individuals receiving animal cruelty instruction – over 1000+ individuals. Studies show that the majority of school shooters all started by abusing animals without any intervention. We have already contacted and scheduled additional schools, organizations, and libraries to conduct additional classes in 2024.
- In speaking with representatives with the FBI, we have found that they are aware of online groups targeting children to commit acts of animal cruelty and self-abuse and film these acts. We are increasing all our efforts to present our “Recognizing Animal Cruelty” seminar to try and increase reporting and early intervention. We have already set dates for a seminar to be given to Putnam County Social Services workers in April.

### **c. Law Enforcement Division**

- The PC SPCA is attempting to put an additional SPCA police vehicle on the road during the warm weather.
- The PC SPCA is developing a group of Support Service Staff to handle SPCA phones and serve as a dispatch.

- The PC SPCA will continue its proactive enforcement of the animal cruelty laws. As always, we will offer aid when possible and arrest when no other option is available. During the hot months, we will distribute, with our Support Services Division, our STOP SIGNS to County businesses in a continual effort to raise awareness of the danger of leaving one's pet in a vehicle. The PC SPCA will continue to provide patrols of all the parking lots in the county, during these warm months, looking for pets, children and the elderly left in vehicles. We will also respond to calls of suspected animal cruelty and when necessary, provide aid and assistance at accidents or other incidents when encountered.
- The coming year, 2024, is filled with challenges – fundraising and financial. We greatly appreciate the help that Putnam County provides us and we will continually explore additional means of funding the necessary services we provide.

**Our mission is an important one - helping both animal and human.**

**We are committed to fulfilling it.**

*"The oppression of animals is the gateway drug to oppressing humans."*

*(Dr. Alex Hershaf)*



- **Kenneth D Ross ,  
Chairman**

## **ADDENDUM A**

### **HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The Putnam County SPCA continued its proactive enforcement of the animal cruelty statutes of New York State and all applicable Federal and State laws.

In addition to responding to calls of suspected animal cruelty, the PCSPCA conducted targeted patrols during the warmer months. The PCSPCA continually patrolled the following locations throughout Putnam County:

- Putnam Plaza (Carmel)
- Shoprite Plaza (Carmel)
- Eveready Diner Parking Lot (Southeast)
- DeCicco's / Kohls Parking Area (Southeast)
- Home Depot Lot (Southeast)
- Marshal's/PetKraze/Michael's Parking Area (Southeast)
- Optum Parking Area (Southeast)
- Lakeview Shopping Center (Southeast)
- Acme Patterson/Dollar General Parking Area (Patterson)
- Tractor Supply Parking Area (Patterson)
- Lake Plaza Shopping Center (Southeast)
- Mahopac Village Shopping Center
- Putnam Hospital Center (Carmel)

- CVS Pharmacy Parking Area 1905 US-6, Carmel
- CVS Pharmacy Parking Area 100 E Lake Blvd, Mahopac
- 4 Brothers Parking (Mahopac)
- Boscobel House and Gardens (Garrison)
- Foodtown Shopping Parking Area (Cold Spring)
- Main Street, Cold Spring

Total number of patrols conducted during warm weather in 2023 was:

**550 + separate patrols**

In addition to above patrols the PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division responded to calls from the public, dispatched by Putnam 911, and local police agencies to handle animals left in vehicles.

In addition, the PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division had:

***1935 Blotter entries***

# SOME NOTEWORTHY CASES

- On July 30, Officers of the Putnam County SPCA responded to a 911 call to a local veterinary office where a woman, had shown up covered in blood and bodily fluids. The woman was having a mental crisis and the PCSPCA alerted EMS on their way to the office. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the woman who stated her 150 lb. Great Dane had died and she needed someone to remove the body. The



woman was examined by EMS and released. PCSPCA officers followed her to her home in Putnam Valley, where they observed sub-human living conditions. Arraignments were made with the Hartsdale Pet Cemetery to remove the dog. The woman was approached by SPCA officers and received permission to remove the second live Great Dane and have it adopted. The situation was so deplorable in the house, SPCA officers were forced to wear Tyvec suits to enter and remove both dogs. The PCSPCA involved the Putnam County Adult Protective Services, and the woman was voluntarily committed for long term treatment.



- The Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division was dispatched to a call of a severely neglected mini poodle on Saturday, August 5th. SPCA Detectives responded to the Lake Shore Drive, Putnam Lake (Town of Patterson) residence and observed an extremely matted, 9-year old male mini poodle. The dog was unable to see or walk properly due to the extreme matting in front of its eyes and around its extremities. The dog had a heavy odor of feces and urine. The dog was transported by the Putnam County SPCA Dog Control Division to Guardian Veterinary Specialists in Brewster for Emergency Care.



The 13.8 lb. mini-poodle, named “Pierre”, had over 8 lbs. of feces and urine-soaked matting removed from its body. It took three (3) Guardian Veterinary Specialist staff members, over 2 hours, to remove all the matting on the mini poodle. The dog is currently still receiving care at the animal hospital and is doing well.

The dog owner, Brian Edwards, was charged with animal cruelty by Putnam County SPCA Detectives



On Friday, August 18th, the Putnam County SPCA responded to a call from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Police. The DEC Police had just received a complaint, and were already enroute to the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac, regarding a report

of a golfer beating a Canada Goose to death.

Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division Detectives quickly responded and met with DEC Police at the golf course and interviewed staff and witnesses. Witnesses claimed a Canada Goose was struck by a golf ball and dazed.



A golfer on the 14th hole then proceeded to allegedly strike the goose several times with his club, walk away, then notice the goose was still moving, come back and strike the goose again. Upon identification of the suspect from witnesses, the Putnam County SPCA charged Enrico Sarli of Carmel with allegedly committing one count of Animal Cruelty. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Police issued Sarli a summons for his alleged violation under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Law.

On November 9th, at approximately 3:12PM, the Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division was dispatched by Putnam 911 to the Town of Patterson "Park and Ride" Lot on Route 311. The initial call was in regard to a possible skinned adult sized dog found dumped a couple feet away



from the handicapped parking spots, in the grass. While en-route to the location, PC

SPCA detectives contacted New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police and requested they meet at the location as well. Upon arrival, PC SPCA detectives, NYS DEC Police, and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office did observe one skinned carcass of what was determined by a forensic veterinarian and a wildlife veterinarian, as a coyote.



**ADDENDUM B  
Putnam SPCA Dog Control Division**

**Call Log 2023**

Dogs Abandoned, Housed in Place, or Sheltered in PV / Dogs cleaned/Fed/walked minimally 3x per day / Transported to local Veterinarian when care is needed (Vax, spay/neuter, injured) Nuisance complaints (Barking dog, Dog at Large etc.) / Dangerous Dog Complaints / House & Adopt all animals / Assist Police Department with various dog/animal complaints / Assist Public with Animal related issues/Questions / Dog Licenses Issues / Report Dog bites to Putnam County Health Department / Assist Health department with Rabies Quarantine complaints/follow up

**2023 STATISTICS**

Dogs Abandoned, Housed in Place, or Sheltered in PV	<b>42</b>
Total Days a Dog was Sheltered under our care	<b>204</b>
Total Animals (incl. dogs) adopted, rehomed, transferred to rescue or reunited with owner	<b>134</b>
- Dogs	
- Cats	
- Chickens	
- Rooster	
- Donkeys	
- Goats	
- Ducks	
Written Warnings:	<b>142</b>
Summons issued:	<b>6</b>

**Total calls: 487**

## ADDENDUM C

- May 5th, 2023, the Putnam County SPCA joined Westchester County District Attorney's Office Assistant District Attorney Mary Ann Liebowitz, in presenting the NYS Animal Cruelty Module for new police recruits.



- On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Putnam County SPCA once again joined Westchester County District Attorney's Office Assistant District Attorney Mary Ann Liebowitz, in presenting the NYS Animal Cruelty Module for new police recruits.



- On April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the PCPSCA presented two seminars at the Putnam County Bureau Of Emergency Services Building in Carmel. The seminars were targeted to Social Service Personnel, Mental Health Personnel, Probation Officers, and Parole Officers.



Agents, officers, and workers of these backgrounds often deal with individuals who are in crisis, have many types of issues, and may have criminal backgrounds. It is not out of the question for these agents, officers, and workers to visit people in their residence or have in depth



conversations with them at their offices. Through this training seminar we hoped to give the means to recognize animal cruelty in its many forms. This training was opened to all the public. NYS Assemblyman Matt Slater and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg were in attendance. Putnam County ADA McKenzie Ferguson also participated as a speaker at each seminar.


**PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA  
ANIMAL CRUELTY  
SEMINARS**


**PUTNAM COUNTY BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICE  
BUILDING  
112 OLD ROUTE 6, CARMEL, NY 10512**

**SATURDAY - APRIL 22 - 1:00PM - 2:30PM  
OR  
SUNDAY - APRIL 23 - 1:00PM - 2:30PM**

- Fire Departments
- EMS
- Dispatchers
- Social Service Personnel
- Mental Health Personnel
- Probation Officers
- Parole Officers
- Code Enforcement Officers
- Building Department Personnel
- Animal Control/Dog Control Officers
- Veterinary Hospital Personnel
- Health Department Personnel
- All Interested Parties/Groups

**Attendance Is Free!**  
**Plenty Of Space Still Available**

**Please RSVP Your Attendance!**  
**kross3@spcaputnam.org**  
**OR**  
**845-520-6915**

- 04/27/2023, the Putnam County SPCA was at Lakeview Elementary School in Mahopac.

A Humane Education presentation was shown to approximately 80-90 4th graders. The students learned what animal cruelty is, how to identify it, why it's important to learn about animal cruelty, and other aspects of animal welfare. This presentation was a great success, with all of the students interacting.



- 05/16/2023, the Putnam County SPCA had the opportunity to give a Humane Education presentation to all of the Kindergarten students at JFK Elementary School in Southeast approximately 90-100 students.



- 05/16/2023, Putnam County SPCA, was invited to give a Humane Education presentation to Constructive Partnerships Unlimited (CP Unlimited, formerly the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State) in the town of Southeast.



**MAY 16, 2023**

- 05/17/2023, the Putnam County SPCA had the opportunity to give a Humane Education presentation to the First-Grade students at JFK Elementary School in Southeast, approximately 90 – 100 students.



- 05/18/2023, the Putnam County SPCA had the opportunity to give a Humane Education presentation to all of the Second-Grade students at JFK Elementary School in Southeast, approximately 90 – 100 students.



- 05/24/2023, the Putnam County SPCA presented an Animal Cruelty Seminar at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. The PC SPCA was invited by the Rockland County Probation Department to give this presentation to their members and other interested parties.



- 05/31/2023, the Putnam County SPCA and Putnam County Assistant District Attorney Mackenzie Ferguson had the opportunity to speak at Guardian Veterinary Specialists' staff meeting. The PCSPCA often works with GVS on cruelty cases and it is important to go over procedure, protocols and new state laws that affect veterinarians.



- 06/02/2023, the PC SPCA had the opportunity to meet some current campers at Camp Herlich and teach them about animal cruelty. (ages ranged from 10-14)



- 07/10/2023, the Putnam County SPCA, had the opportunity to speak to Putnam County Sheriff's Cadets at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services Building in Carmel.



- 07/15/2023, the Putnam Valley Library invited us to present a "Recognizing Animal Cruelty" Seminar to the public.



- On 9/13/2023, the Putnam County SPCA had the opportunity to present animal cruelty training to new Westchester and Putnam Probation Officer recruits at the Westchester County Police Academy.



- On 10/13/2023, the Putnam County SPCA partnered with Camp Herrlich once again and provided after-school Humane Education presentations. Students from Matthew Patterson Elementary School, George Fischer Middle School, Kent Elementary School, and Kent



Primary School were in attendance. The ages ranged from 5 years old to 13 years old.

11/16/2023, the Putnam County SPCA joined Westchester County District Attorney's Office Assistant District Attorney Mary Ann Liebowitz, in presenting the NYS Animal Cruelty Module for new police recruits. Also in attendance was Westchester SPCA Law Enforcement Director



Lungaro. The Module was presented to Recruits from Police Departments throughout Westchester County and Putnam County, including: Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Harrison NY Police Department, White Plains Public Safety, Bedford Police Department, New York, Town of Greenburgh Police Department NY, New Rochelle Police Department, Village of Dobbs Ferry Police Dept, Larchmont Police Department.

- 11/20/2023, The Putnam County SPCA joined Westchester County District Attorney's Office Assistant District Attorney Mary Ann Liebowitz, in presenting the NYS Animal Cruelty Module for new police recruits at the Westchester County Police Academy. The Module was presented to Recruits from several Police Departments including: Village of Mamaroneck Police Department, SUNY Purchase, Ossining Police Department, Westchester County Police Department, Yonkers Police Department, Mount Vernon Police Department, NY, and the Port Chester Police Department



- On 11/21/2023, throughout the morning and early afternoon, the Putnam County SPCA had the opportunity to provide Recognizing Animal Cruelty presentations at Putnam Northern Westchester Boces.



The presentations were given to three separate classes of Mr. Tom Houlahan's (Retired Town of Mamaroneck Police Sergeant) Law Enforcement Program. This program is comprised



of Junior and Senior year High School Students who are interested in a career as first responders/law enforcement.

Also in attendance at each class were students of Mrs. Urbanski's Veterinary Science Program. These students are also

Junior/Senior year High School Students and are interested in a career in the veterinary field.

- On 12/14/2023, throughout the morning and early afternoon, the Putnam County SPCA



had the opportunity to provide Humane Education presentations at the Putnam Valley Middle School.

Over 400 children, which included the entire 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, participated in the presentations.



IN 2023, THE PUTNAM COUNTY  
SPCA PRESENTED HUMANE  
EDUCATION TO OVER 1000



INDIVIDUALS, RANGING FROM KINDERGARTEN TO  
MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO POLICE CADETS, POLICE  
ACADEMIES, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, SOCIAL SERVICE  
AGENCIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

- On February 23, PCSPCA Chief Ken Ross spoke about animal cruelty on the

**"Animal Advocates Radio - Voices Carry For Animals" Podcast!**

Debbie Dahmer is with Pasion Flower Monarch and 94 others

.\*\*TUNE IN \*\*LIVE INTERVIEW\*\*Animal Advocates Radio

"Voices Carry For Animals #385" Podcast

Blog Talk Radio on Thursday - Feb 23rd @ 7:00 pm est

[Debbie Dahmer](#)

Thank you so much Chief Ken Ross Jr for such a Outstanding and Informative Interview. Looking forward to having you on again and again. True Inspiration to ALL! Big Shout Out to [Putnam County SPCA \(NY\)](#) for all the inspiring and hard work you are doing

**ADENDUM C**

**END**

## ADDENDUM D

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Support Services Division/Community Outreach:

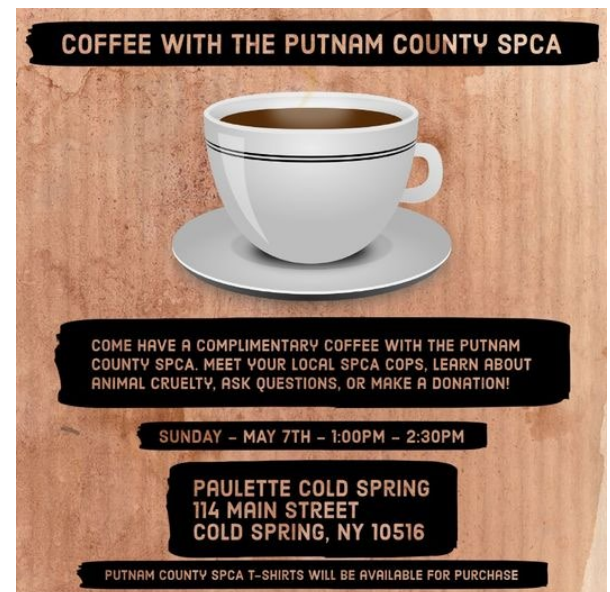
- In 2023, SPCA Support Services Volunteers drove to various pet stores, in addition to pick-ups at donor homes, to pick up donated food to distribute to individuals in need, animal organizations and food pantries.

**11,903+ miles driven**

**Donation Pickups:284**

**Donation Drop offs:345**

- On May 7, the Putnam County SPCA held a “Coffee with the Putnam County SPCA” event in the Village of Cold Spring.



- On May 12, NYS Assemblyman Matt Slater came to the Putnam County SPCA



Headquarters and held a press conference in regard to his new bill. Assemblyman Slater is looking to make Aggravated Animal Cruelty a bail eligible crime in New York.

- Putnam County SPCA Support Services and our Officers attended the following events to reach out to the community and fundraise:

- DeCiccoss
- “Coffee with the SPCA”



- Carmel Spring Fair



- **Moonlight Mobile Kitchen**



- **Putnam County 4H Fair**



- **Night Out Against Crime /Brewster**



- **Mahopac Street Fair**



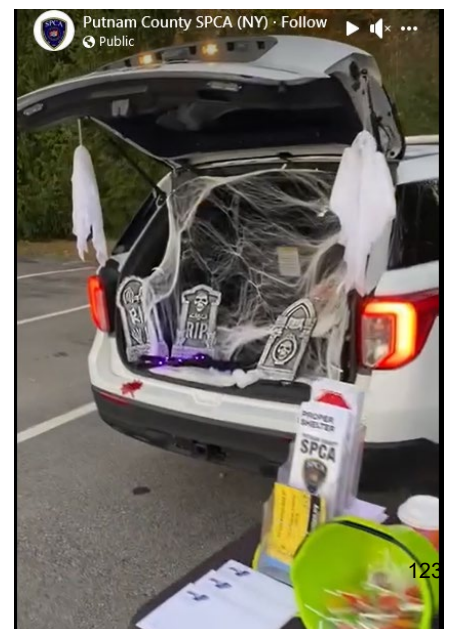
- **Patterson Rotary Events**



- **Halloween Trunk or Treat Events**

- **Matthew Patterson School**

- **Mahopac Falls VFD**



- Our Lady of the Lakes - Council # 6318 -  
Knights of Columbus - Carmel, NY  
Ladies Auxillary Fundraiser

**POCKETBOOK & BUCKS**

**NOVEMBER 18TH**  
\$55 BY EVENTBRITE LINK

**\$60 @ THE DOOR**  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 FIRST GAME 6:00

**DESIGNER BAGS**

Ladies Auxillary  
Knights of Columbus 6318  
10 Fair St. Carmel,  
NY

RAFFLES, SPECIALS, BELL JAR & CONCESSION AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO:  
VON WOLFENFELS K-9 RAISES, TRAINS AND PARTNERS COMPANION DOGS TO BE GIVEN TO VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. ALSO TRAINED FOR POLICE AND FAMILIES.

WE ARE A NYS CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, GIVEN FULL "POLICE POWERS" TO ENFORCE THE LAWS OF NEW YORK STATE, SPECIFICALLY THOSE THAT PERTAIN TO ANIMALS.

Questions: ladieskof@gmail.com  
licenser#KCS7-201-691-85278

## Putnam County SPCA Fundraising Dinner

170 attendees, 4 honorees, and a small army of volunteers.



# Putnam

*Your Local News for Putnam County, New York*

SATURDAY, JAN 27

## Over 65 Farm Animals, Dogs to Be Rehomed After Kennel Proprietor Found Dead In Putnam Valley

*Officials are looking to find new homes for more than 65 farm animals after their owner, the proprietor of a kennel in the Hudson Valley, was found dead.*



*Over 65 farm animals, including dogs, cats, goats, chickens, ducks, and donkeys, will have to be rehomed after their owner was found dead at a Putnam Valley kennel.*

Photo Credit: *Putnam County SPCA*

**Ben Crnic** 08/29/2023 3:30 p.m.



The effort to rehome the animals began when the owner of a local kennel in Putnam County located in Putnam Valley was found dead on Friday, Aug. 25, leaving the dogs, cats, goats, chickens, ducks, and donkeys on the property without care, according to the Putnam County SPCA.

The identity of the owner was not released.

Soon after this discovery, the Putnam County SPCA Support Services Division and Dog Control Division immediately began offering aid and care to the animals and began the process of looking for new homes for them.

In order to do this, the organization began working closely with the owner's family, who live out of state.

SUPPORT SERVICES also places signs in the windows of local stores at the beginning of the summer months alerting people of the dangers of leaving their pets in vehicles in the heat.



THIS PARKING AREA IS PATROLLED BY:  
**THE PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA**



845-520-6915

TEMPERATURES IN A CAR CAN RISE UP TO 40 DEGREES HIGHER THAN THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE

IT ONLY TAKES 10—15 MINUTES FOR AN ANIMAL TO SUFFER IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE DUE TO HEAT STROKE





# **Southeast Museum 2023 Annual Report**

## **Southeast Museum**

**67 Main Street**

**Brewster, NY 10509**

**Telephone: (845) 279-7500**

**Email: [deborahoswald@southeastmuseum.org](mailto:deborahoswald@southeastmuseum.org)**

### **Description of Agency**

The Southeast Museum is a non-profit, educational institution established in 1963. The museum's primary service area is Putnam, Westchester and Dutchess Counties in New York State, as well as Fairfield County, CT. The Southeast Museum is located in a restored Landmark Building, the 1896 Old Town Hall of Southeast, on Main Street in Brewster.

In addition to its ongoing exhibits, the Museum also offers temporary exhibits each year. Other programs presented by the Museum include tours, lectures, family activities, art and music events, as well as programs for school groups and other organizations.

Southeast Museum celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in 2023. The museum provides visitors access to exhibits featuring local artifacts housed in our facility, reference resources, and local history education opportunities both onsite at our Main Street Brewster location and throughout the town of Southeast via collaborative programming with community organizations.

### **Services Provided**

- Through Southeast Museum's partnership with the Brewster Public Library, monthly History Exchange programs are facilitated by the museum's Director of Education and Programming. Recent local history topics included The Brewster Standard newspaper; The Addis Family; Edith Diehl, founder of the library; Lily Deacon Forepaugh, famous circus equestrienne; The Tilly Foster Mine; Enoch Crosby, Revolutionary War Spy; Private Francis Oliver Myers, African American member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, and Majors Darius Couch and Frank Wells of the Union Army.
- Also through the museum's partnership with the library, monthly History Book Clubs are facilitated by the museum's Director of Education and Programming. This group meets monthly to discuss such thought provoking titles such as *Myth*

*America* by Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer, and *The Guarded Gate* by Daniel Okrent.

- Curriculum collaboration with the Brewster Central School District regarding, local history presentations designed to complement New York State K-8 Social Studies Curriculum for grades kindergarten through fifth grade programming
- Continued exhibit development to promote engagement and learning

## **Mission Statement**

### **Mission:**

The Southeast Museum celebrates the history of the town of Southeast and lower Hudson Valley by educating, collecting, preserving, and interpreting significant material artifacts and culture, to serve as a source of community appreciation and inspiration.

### **Vision:**

To be a financially sustainable organization with an increased and diverse audience, expanded education programs, and secure and stable facility, which is supported by a dedicated board, knowledgeable staff and an engaged lower Hudson Valley community.

### **Values:**

Preserving and interpreting accurate history  
Facilitate discussions about heritage

## **Population Served**

Throughout 2023, the following populations were served through Southeast Museum programs and events

- Participants in the Brewster Library History Exchange and History Book Club Programs
- Community members attending the museum's October Open House and Exhibit unveiling
- Brewster School District students attending the JFK Trunk or Treat Celebration in October
- Students at JFK Elementary and C.V. Starr Intermediate School
- Members of the Southeast Seniors during a November local history presentation
- Local artists and supporters of the arts throughout a November art exhibition in collaboration with The Putnam Arts Council
- Children and families through a December Festival of Trees and ornament making workshop in collaboration with the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition
- General public attendance during open museum hours

## **Significant Events and Accomplishments in 2023**

- After joining the Southeast Chamber of Commerce in September, the Southeast Museum hosted the president and representatives of the chamber for a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception to open the *Picturesque Putnam* Art and Historic Image Exhibit that ran throughout the month of November. Southeast Museum worked with the Putnam History Museum, The Putnam County Historian, the Putnam Arts Council and the Putnam County Tourism Department to promote the event and recruit local artists and local history collectors. The ribbon cutting ceremony and exhibit were well attended by members of the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition, The Putnam Historian's office, Master It Media, and The Brewster Fire Department, in addition to members of the Putnam Art Council and the Southeast Museum Board of Trustees. The photography and paintings of more than thirty local artists were represented at this exhibit.
- The Museum Director of Education met with representatives at the new Community Based Services Facility on Route 22 in Patterson to plan local history programming for adults with developmental disabilities in the spring of 2024.
- A Fall Museum newsletter outlining new programs, exhibits, and events has resulted in a steady stream of new museum members and donations.
- Southeast Museum initiated local history presentations, designed to enrich the NYS social studies curriculum, for grades K-5 at the Brewster School District throughout the 2023-24 academic year, covering such topics as *The Stone Chambers of Putnam County*, *Putnam County: Then and Now*, *Heroes of Putnam County*, and The Fourth Grade Colonial Fair. These events have been well received by the students, faculty and Administration, and will continue to evolve in the coming school years.
- Southeast Museum will collaborate with Brewster Public Library to plan a Summer 2024 *Colonial Kids* Craft and History Summer Camp
- Southeast Museum will be collaborating with Southeast Recreation to bring back Culture Camp, a summer program offering week-long courses for children in art, music, theater, cooking, woodworking, and handicrafts.
- Collaboration with the Brewster Chamber of Commerce and the Putnam County Historian on its major exhibit for 2024: *The History of Business in Brewster*, which will debut the week leading up to Memorial Day
- Southeast Museum is giving local history presentations at the meetings of the Southeast Seniors
- Southeast Museum applied for a Putnam Arts Council grant to fund a 2024 Juneteenth Event featuring local artist and performer Joshua Brittingham, who will be performing with his blues band in collaboration with the Southeast

Museum Director of Education, who will narrate a slideshow honoring prominent African American residents of Putnam County throughout history.

- Collaboration with the Putnam County Historian's Office and Brewster Public Library on the cooperative exhibit "Brewster at 175"

## **Staffing**

- Deborah Oswald, Ed.D, joined the Southeast Museum staff as Director of Education and Programming on July 31, 2023, replacing the previous long term director. Deborah is a recently retired teacher with the North Salem School District. Deborah is also a published author of local women's historical fiction books. She is currently working on her sixth book, which takes place in Carmel and Troy, New York during the Civil War. Deborah has used the connections she has made as a long time educator, local author, and thirty three year Brewster resident to launch several new programs at the museum.
- James Nixon III serves as President of the Southeast Museum Board of Trustees
- Current board trustees include Elizabeth Ryder, Michelle Powers, KC Anderson, Verna Bergstrom, Mary Ann Taormina, Stephen Shea and Joan Bradley
- Patricia Frische, retired Brewster School District Educator and member of the Brewster Fire Department, joined the museum as a volunteer in August of 2023. Patricia has created several outstanding exhibits at the museum and has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from her work at The Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut. Mrs. Frische volunteers six hours a week in addition to her work during special events.
- Board trustees Verna Bergstrom, Mary Ann Taormina, and Joan Bradley, as well as volunteer Michelle Carlson, contribute their time and provide coverage on a regular basis at the museum.
- The Southeast Museum is currently accepting applications to fill the position of part time Director of Administration.

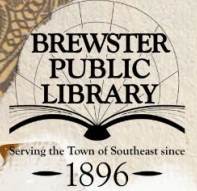
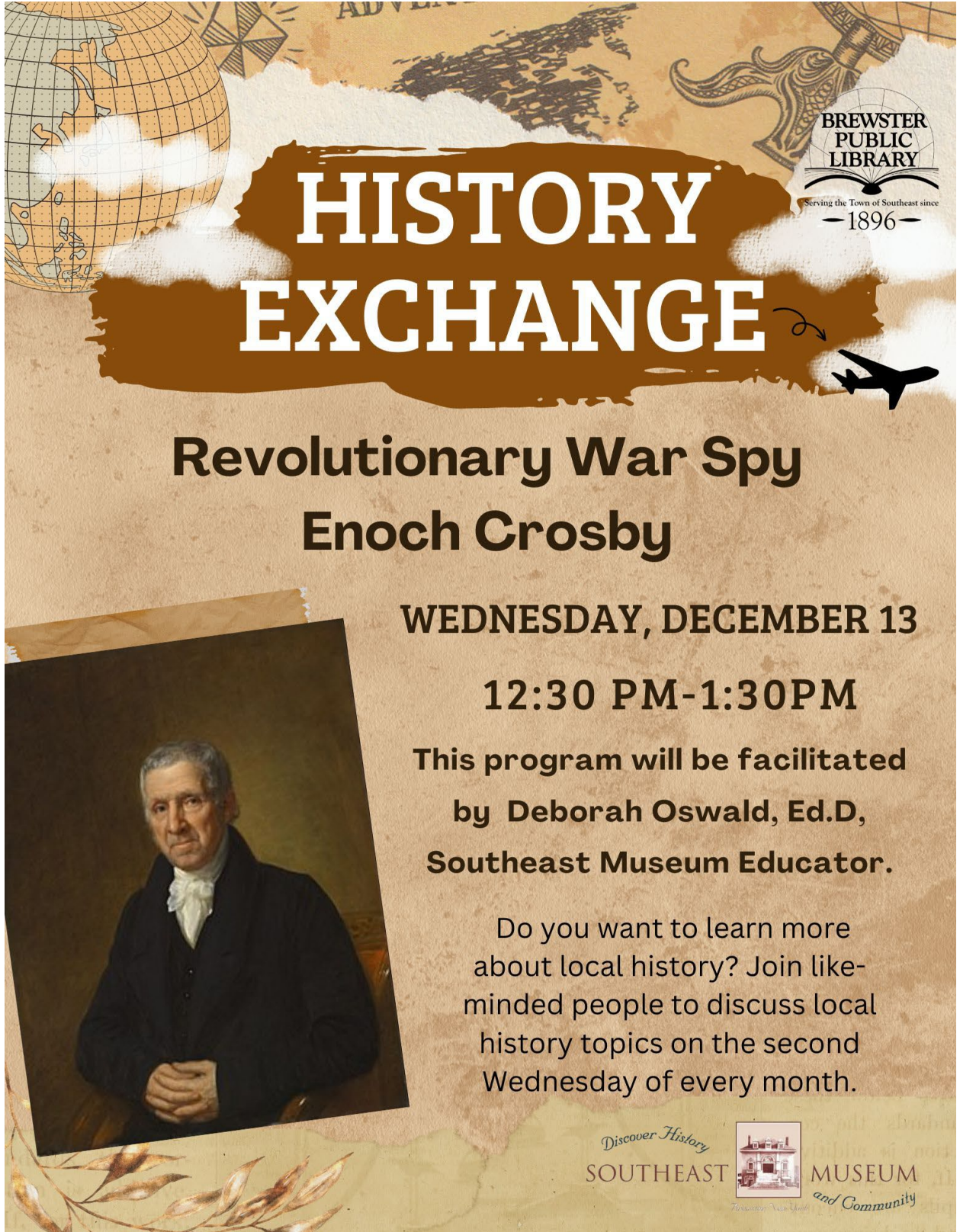
## **Sources of Revenue**

- The Southeast Museum is supported by its membership, Putnam County, the Town of Southeast, New York State Council on the Arts, and other public and private charitable foundations, as well as corporations, local businesses and individuals. A volunteer Board of Trustees governs the museum, while a part-time Director of Education and Programming currently manages the museum alongside community volunteers.
- The Southeast Museum wishes to graciously acknowledge Putnam County and the Town of Southeast for their generous support

## **Goals for 2024**

- Development of an Oral History Project - The Director recently interviewed Joseph Ciccilanti, a 98 year old lifetime resident of Brewster, along with Dan Ledley an 84 year old lifetime resident. With their permission and their family members present, the interview was recorded as the start of an oral history project to accompany *The History of Business in Brewster*. The interview took place at the Brewster Library with the director, Gina Loprinzo, present as well. The Southeast Museum, in collaboration with the County Historian, Jennifer Cassidy, plans to formalize these interviews as well as others into an oral history project available to museum visitors. Funding for this project will be needed to cover the cost of recording devices and headsets for listening.
- Southeast Museum recently visited Morningthorpe on Turk Hill Road to discuss bringing back regularly scheduled guided tours of the castle and the grounds to provide the history of Seth B Howes and the birth of the American Circus in Putnam County
- Southeast Museum has met with Thomas Mullane, a social studies teacher at Brewster High School for the purposes of collaborating on the construction of a three dimensional diorama of the Tilly Foster Mine to be displayed as an exhibit at the museum in the summer of 2024.
- Southeast Museum will be scheduling meetings to discuss a program facilitated by high school teachers to teach students with special needs how to digitize the museum's photograph collection.

In conclusion, Southeast Museum would once again like to thank Putnam County, the Town of Southeast, The Putnam Arts Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts for funding our programs and exhibits.



# HISTORY EXCHANGE



## Revolutionary War Spy Enoch Crosby

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:30 PM-1:30PM

This program will be facilitated  
by **Deborah Oswald, Ed.D,**  
**Southeast Museum Educator.**

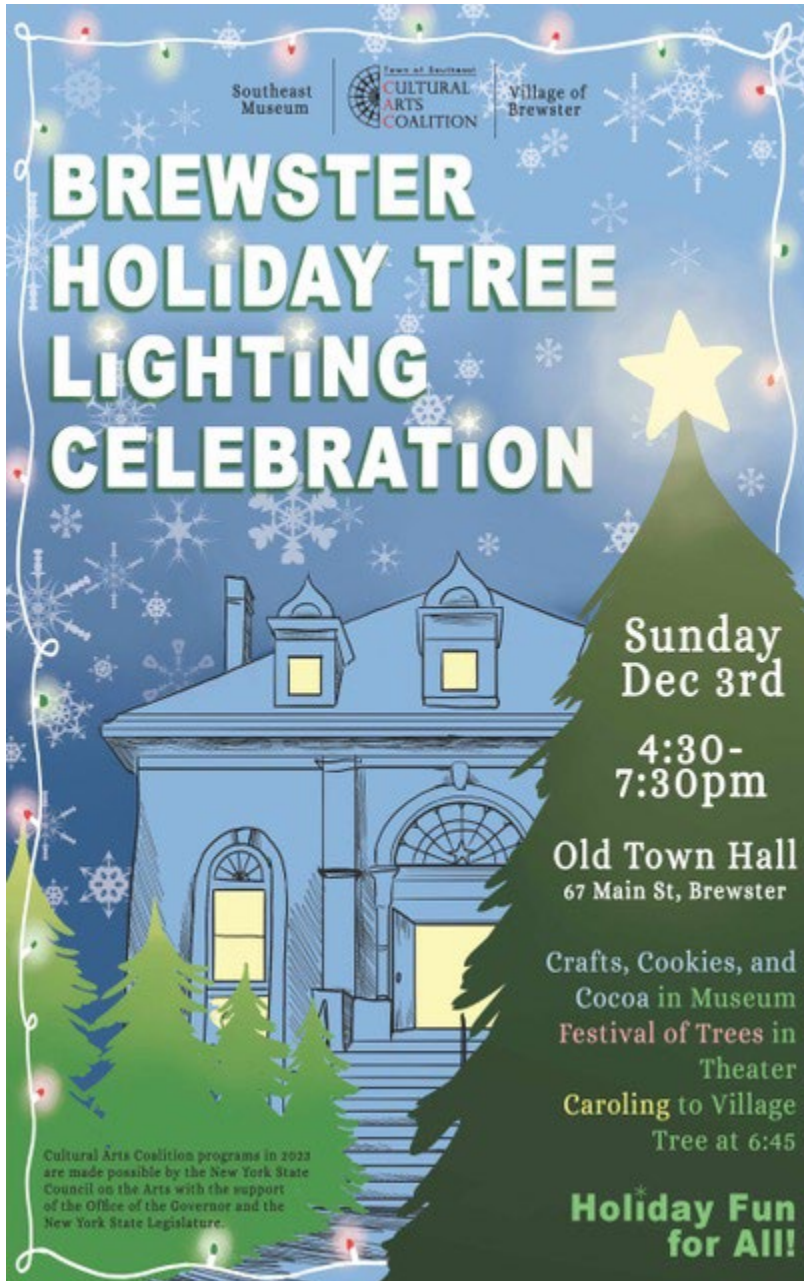


Do you want to learn more about local history? Join like-minded people to discuss local history topics on the second Wednesday of every month.



**Brewster History Exchange Meeting Flyer**





Brewster Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration Flyer



**Putnam Community Action Partnership (CAP)/Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.**

121 Main Street

Brewster, NY 10509

(845) 278-8021

[moleary@westcop.org](mailto:moleary@westcop.org)

**Description of Agency:**

Putnam CAP is a component of WestCOP, Inc. Founded in 1965 under the Economic Opportunity Act, WestCOP is a private not-for-profit multi-service organization serving the lower Hudson Valley. Established in 1986, Putnam CAP provides services to Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Services Provided:**

Putnam CAP provides a myriad of services to Putnam's low-income community members. Those services include:

- **Food Pantry-** registered clients can access twice monthly
- **Soup Kitchen-** prepared hot, nutritious meal is provided 3 times weekly (increased to 4 times per week from December – April) to anyone in need of a meal
- **Emergency Financial Assistance-** assistance with utility or rental/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs, medical bills, camp tuition, etc. All recipients of this form of assistance must agree to meet with an agency Case Manager monthly for 12 consecutive months to assist with budgeting, setting and implementation of both short and long term goals toward self-sufficiency and to provide wrap around support.
- **Emergency Services-** \$100 or less assistance, in the form of a gift card, for needs such as gas for a vehicle, prescription co-pay, food for a dietary restriction, clothing, etc.
- **Miles of Hope-** grant of up to \$1,000 to assist anyone currently undergoing breast cancer treatment. Assistance is not restricted to just medical needs/bills, can also be used toward personal expenses.
- **Barret Lending-** provides up to \$1,200 in financial assistance with business expenses and up to \$900 in financial assistance with personal expenses to low-income business owners (offered in partnership with the Barrett Lending Corporation).
- **Information, Referrals & Advocacy-** Information and referrals are provided to

guide clients toward community resources. Assistance is also offered to connect clients with the appropriate organizations to access the services that meet their needs.

- **Children’s Car Seats-** Offered in collaboration with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, low-income parents are provided with a new child safety seat and instruction on how to properly install the seat.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program-** Contracted through Putnam County, Putnam CAP assist low-income youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to secure entry-level employment during the summer months. Youth are mentored in work ethic, appropriate work behavior, effective communication, and in career exploration activities.
- **Special Programs**
  - **School Supplies-** parents are provided with new backpacks and gift cards to purchase school supplies & clothing for their school-aged children.
  - **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**
  - **December Holiday Toy Program**
  - **Children’s Winter Coats**

**Mission Statement:**

Putnam CAP’s mission is to mobilize and efficiently manage resources, through partnerships and collaborations, to help low-income and at-risk populations in Putnam County achieve greater self-sufficiency.

**Population Served:**

Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2023:**

- 9,888 food insecure individuals received monthly supplemental food
- through the food pantry program. This is a 37.72% increase from 2022. We anticipate a continued increase in the number of individuals accessing this program due to inflation and rising costs of basic living expenses.
- 11,693 individuals received a hot nutritious meal through the soup kitchen program. This is a 9.15% increase from 2022. The number of senior citizens accessing this program increased by 111%.
- Due to its small staff size, Putnam CAP relies greatly on volunteers to assist with the operation of its food pantry and soup kitchen programs. In 2023, 6,092 hours were donated to the agency by our dedicated community volunteers. This was a savings in staff costs of \$182,469.
- Through partnerships with ShopRite, TOPs, Stop & Shop in Mahopac, DeCicco’s and Trader Joe’s, Putnam CAP received a total \$612,114 worth of food donations from their respective stores. These donations not only supplemented

Putnam CAP's food budget, but enabled the agency to expand our offerings of fresh produce, organic meats and whole grain breads. Food donations received from these stores would have otherwise been discarded.

- \$50,929 was provided in client financial assistance with needs such as utility and rent/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs & medical bills. This is a 44% increase in the amount of assistance provided in 2022. This level of assistance was made possible in part by a \$50,000 grant received from the former Putnam Community Foundation.
- 17 low-income youth between the ages of 14 – 20 were provided with summer employment for 9 weeks, financial literacy instruction (offered in partnership with Tompkins Community Bank), mentorship and workforce skill development support.
- Putnam CAP was once again able to hold its Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction fundraiser in April 2023. This is the agency's largest fundraiser, which had been paused for 3 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Staffing:**

In 2022, Putnam CAP was able to hire a second bilingual Case Manager due to availability of CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) CARES funding. Although that funding ended as of September 30, 2022, the position was incorporated into our 2023 CSBG budget. Deborah Lurin, LMSW was hired in July 2023 and has proven to be a tremendous asset to the agency.

**Sources of Revenue:**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Department of State (Community Service Block grant): | \$279,450 |
| • Putnam County:                                       | \$12,917  |
| • Grants/Foundations:                                  | \$75,483  |
| • Private/Fundraising:                                 | \$88,399  |
| Total:   | \$456,249 |

**Goals for 2024:**

- Expand partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam to support increased incorporation of locally sourced meats and produce in food pantry and soup kitchen program offerings.
- Develop additional financial literacy programming for clients which incorporates items such as understanding hidden fees, building credit and strategies for budgeting while living on a fixed income.
- Implementation of Mobile Food Pantry Program.