WE ARE ANDRUS

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2022 EDITION

A Message From Our President & CEO

Heath Bloch

This fall has been an exciting time for Andrus as we kicked off a new school year, hosted legislators on campus, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for new POP tennis courts, and held town hall meetings to launch our three-year strategic plan. We continue, with this issue of the newsletter, to present one of the five pillars of the plan:

Second Pillar: Implement an Innovative Practice Model
Thanks to the hard work of our staff, we are making significant progress toward our goal to create an innovative practice model that ensures every client has access to the full range of services they need, regardless of where in the Andrus system those services are initiated. The One System of Care practice model ensures uniformity of services across the spectrum of our programs, ensuring that we fully align our services on campus with those in the community.

We are also working on innovations at our Sanctuary Institute®, partnering with academics at Columbia University's World Behavioral Health Organization and with Westchester Medical Center for a post-doc, psychiatric fellowship on campus and within the community-based health and wellness centers.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

PAGE 2
POP Tennis Courts Ribbon Cutting
Legislative Day
Strategic Plan Town Hall Meetings

PAGE 3
Community Baby Shower
Camp Week
Halloween Festivities
New Swim Team

PAGE 4
Thank You's
Employee Appreciation BBQ
Business Council of Westchester Event

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Children's Annual Turkey Bowl
November 16th | Yonkers Campus

Thanksgiving Celebration
November 24th

Tree Lighting Ceremony
December 7th | Yonkers Campus

Community Holiday Celebration
Date TBD

Residential Holiday Dinner
December 21st

Sanctuary Network Days Conference
April 19-21, 2023 | White Plains

POP Tennis Courts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Racquet sports celebrities Lindsay Davenport, Todd Paul, Wally Green, and Katrina Adams came to the Andrus campus in Yonkers/Hastings for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate two new POP tennis courts.

With POP tennis, Andrus will be providing children a great way to get familiar with the sport of tennis in a fun, more relaxed, easier-to-master version. The new courts further enhance the many therapeutic program offerings at Andrus that are designed to empower children who have experienced trauma, providing coping skills and a pathway to healing.

Andrus Hosts Legislative Day

This September, Andrus welcomed New York State legislative leaders and senior staff for a tour of our campus and an introduction into our important work.

Thank you to:
Assemblyman, Gary Pretlow
County Legislator, MaryJane Shimsky
County Legislator, Jewel Williams Johnson
Maryanne Joyce, Office of NY State Senator Shelley Mayer
Melissa Kagan, Office of Assemblywoman Amy Pailin
Lisa Urban, Office of Assemblyman Steven Otis
Amy Rivera, Office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick

Special thanks go to the Business Council of Westchester for partnering with us on this event.

Strategic Plan Town Hall Meetings

As we launched the new strategic plan, our leadership team hosted a series of town hall meetings to inform staff of the new and exciting initiatives that will benefit our children, families, staff, and community.

Town halls were held on campus and at our community locations.

Westchester County Healthy Families
Community Baby Shower

The Healthy Families program at Andrus hosts baby showers in our local Westchester communities, providing an opportunity for new and expectant parents to come together to learn from staff and each other, share insights, and find emotional support. These events include new parent workshops, information on community supports, raffles, games, giveaways, and tips and tricks for parenthood.

The event this month was held at the Mount Vernon Public Library where we welcomed over 45 parents seeking services.

Camp Week

Our annual Camp Week is a crowd favorite here on campus. Our staff prepared a full schedule of activities from sports, lawn games, and ropes course climbs to crafts, treats, ice-cream-making, and even a trip to Rye Playland! Each residential cottage and staff office had its own, color-coded tee shirt to build team spirit.

The week ended with a campus-wide BBQ.

Halloween Festivities

This Halloween week we celebrated on campus with a costume parade, trick-or-treating, a spooky Halloween party, and a haunted hike! Our children and animals had a great time dressing up as their favorite characters and taste-testing all of their treats.

New Swim Team

The swim program here at Andrus has continued to grow to meet the needs of our children, at all skill levels. This year our recreation therapy team launched an official swim team! The children had the opportunity to learn various strokes such as backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and free-style. Their practices include swim drills, using tools such as kick boards, flippers, and pull-buoys to help gain strength in their arms and legs.

The swim team is not only an opportunity to build technique and physical endurance, but also an opportunity to build on therapeutic goals such as perseverance, team building, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

This fall our campus was fortunate to host three amazing groups of volunteers.

A group from Morgan Stanley spent a day of service restoring barns, sheds, chicken coops, and tables in our Hope Space Therapeutic Farm.

Eighteen volunteers from Regeneron dedicated their time to helping us bottle this year's harvest of honey from our honey bee hives. This fresh, local honey, harvested on our farm, is known to have healing properties and can help with seasonal allergies. The Regeneron volunteers were able to bottle almost 1,200 bottles of honey!

The Ardsley PTA hosted their annual "Ardsley Cares Day" on the Andrus campus on Saturday, October 29th. The day included games, activities, treats, and prizes for our children!

Thank you to our Donors!

We are grateful to all who donated to our annual back-to-school drive! A special thank you goes to Children's HopeChest and Mercer for their donations of backpacks and school supplies.

The school supplies we receive each year from this drive go to the children in all of our programs, on campus and as well as in the Westchester community.

Thank you to the Kothari Family and Friends as well as the Halloween Helpers for their donations of Halloween costumes for our children!

Business Council of Westchester Event

Our team was honored to attend the "40 under 40 Rising Stars" award dinner this year to celebrate our very own Victoria Baldini. The 40 recipients, all under the age of 40, were chosen because of their “exemplary leadership, foresight, and vision for the future of Westchester County."

Congratulations to all of the recipients and to the BCW for another successful event.

Employee Appreciation BBQ

Each quarter Andrus hosts a staff appreciation event to show gratitude for our dedicated employees. This summer our annual BBQ included food trucks, lawn games, raffles, networking, and more!

Thank you to the staff at Andrus for the work they do every day to improve the lives of the children and families in our care.