WE ARE ANDRUS

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2022 EDITION

New Hope, New Beginnings

A Message From Our President & CEO

Our main campus, which straddles both Yonkers and Hasting-on-Hudson, is now in full bloom, with cherry blossoms lining the campus circle.

In the spirit of this season, we reflect on and acknowledge the risks our children and families take in trusting Andrus to guide their recovery. In this time of renewal, we encourage reflection by both our staff and clients in understanding their past experiences while charting a path for healing and inspiring hope for the next chapter in their lives.

As we consider the future for Andrus, we are forging new connections and relationships with the community, local governments and leaders who can help us position our main campus, Downtown Yonkers, White Plains and Peekskill locations, to take on the ever-increasing mental health challenges our families are facing.

In addition, we are beginning to explore cost-neutral options to bring self-sustaining, clean, and renewable energy solutions to Andrus. Our goal is not only to be energy independent, but also to contribute renewable energy to the local power grid. As we are using the healing power of nature to help the children on our campus, we want to return the favor and be part of healing and supporting our planet.

We invite you to come to visit us, to see the campus, and learn about our families, our children, our history and our mission.

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HAPPENING AT ANDRUS!

Legislative Day
May 10th

Westchester County Day
May 15th

Pop & Paddle Tennis Ribbon Cutting
Date TBA

Flag Day Ceremony
June 14th

Federal Day
Date TBA

Andrus Advocacy

Successful negotiations with the State of New York have resulted in a more appropriate and sustainable rate structure that will allow us to better support our children and families.

Staff from Andrus attended Governor Hochul's press conference which was held at the Enrico Fermi School, one of the schools for which Andrus provides behavioral health services. The press conference was held to announce historic levels of state funding for Yonkers Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. The announcement directly aligns with our school-based mental health efforts as we manage 38 school behavioral health satellite clinics in Westchester County, and are New York State's largest behavioral health satellite provider. The plan includes a record $31.5 billion in school aid for New York State for the 2023 school year, the highest level of state aid ever. And one million in state aid will go to Yonkers city schools in 2022-2023.

35 Dock Street Capital Plan

Andrus has plans to upgrade its Health & Wellness Center located in downtown Yonkers at 35 Dock Street. The location, which generally serves those experiencing financial hardships, loss of employment, or other economic disadvantage, is surrounded by new and newly-renovated construction.

Our plan is to provide our clients with a brighter, more inviting pride of place that will match its surroundings and communicate the value we place on the clients we serve.

Thank You to our Funding Partners!

Andrus is grateful for new grants so far this year from the following partners:

Virginia McGuire Foundation

HONDA The Power of Dreams

United Way of Westchester & Putnam

Westchester County Board of Legislators

A special thanks to New York State's Office of Mental Health for grants totaling approximately $500,000 in support of our transformational vision to expand equitable access to mental health services throughout Westchester.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Office of Mental Health

Celebrating Neurodiversity!

Above; Resident & Staff dressed as Autism Heroes for our campus Autism Walk

Right: Collaborative Artwork by Andrus Residents

April is Autism Awareness Month! Andrus is broadening the scope, and increasing awareness and acceptance of, neurodiversity, which recognizes that people think, learn, experience, process, and interact with the world around them in many different ways and those differences are not viewed as deficits.

This year our children and staff held an Autism Awareness Walk on our main campus in Yonkers. Each cottage set up a creativity station with activities, facts and posters celebrating neurodiversity.

Recreation Therapy at Andrus

The Recreation Therapy program at Andrus provides our children access to a broad range of activities that offer a therapeutic benefit and that are, at the same time, engaging and fun. Every spring our Rec Therapy team begins prepping for our warm-weather activities that include the ropes course, motorbikes, camp week, softball, bike riding, hiking, and more.

Our recreation therapists spend time getting to know each child's needs and interests in order to design a customized recreational plan that will build confidence and self-esteem, and provide a foundation of valuable social and life skills.

Above: Andrus student preparing for a NYPUM Motorbike ride.

We Are Sanctuary Recertified!

The Sanctuary Institute® at Andrus trains organizations to operationalize trauma-informed practices. And Andrus is, itself, a Sanctuary-certified organization. Just this past month we held ourselves accountable to the recertification process and are excited to report that an outside group of Sanctuary-trained leaders has determined that we meet the highest, most rigorous standards of the Sanctuary Model℠.

Congratulations to all Andrus employees for receiving the highest rating for implementing Sanctuary practices!

Notes from the Greenhouse

This month we had our May Plant Give Away. All students on the campus received two potted plants from the greenhouse, their choice of flowers or vegetables, that had been tended by the students since March. The potted plants that remained in the greenhouse were planted in the garden outside where the students had prepared the soil for four beds of peas, beans and flowers. Upcoming plantings will include blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, broccoli, onions, cabbage, carrots and more.

We started a new kitchen renovation after receiving a second generous grant from the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Our first grant provided the funds to build the desert biome solarium. With the second grant award, we will be creating a seed to plate experience for our students that will provide them with knowledge of planting, weeding, pest control, fertilization, harvesting, preservation, food preparation techniques, hygiene, and social skills. Eventually we will be creating our very own Andrus cookbook!