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Andrus
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Partnership Brings Hurricane Relief to Families

YONKERS, N.Y., September 28, 2021 - The remnants of Hurricane Ida barreled through Westchester County in late August. At least five county residents died in the severe flooding and extensive property damage left in its wake.

The combination of a global pandemic and two tropical storms has devastated families across the county. That's why the Westchester County Board of Legislators, ANDRUS Children's Center, and Yonkers YMCA came together to provide relief to families.

With $15,000 secured by County Legislator Ruth Walter (District 15), ANDRUS and the Yonkers Family YMCA will distribute $750 grants to twenty families impacted by the storm. The funds are part of the Board of Legislators' special one-time allocation for community-based, nonprofit organizations aiding those affected by Hurricane Ida.

Since the pandemic onset, ANDRUS has provided nearly $270,000 in food, technology, and other relief to families.

Board Chairman Ben Boykin said, *"Ida produced so much devastation for so many in Westchester. The Board of Legislators is gratified to use these previously unallocated funds to help local nonprofit organizations provide much-needed aid. While we know that FEMA is working to provide relief, we are glad that we can do what we can to help those facing such tremendous hardship."*

Legislator Ruth Walter said, *"I am so proud to have advocated for Westchester County funding for ANDRUS! After the hurricane, I knew that families would be coming to ANDRUS looking for help. ANDRUS has a strong reputation as an organization that knows the community's needs and how best to meet those needs. This is why I felt that it was imperative that the Board do what it could to assist ANDRUS in helping our community."*

ANDRUS President & CEO Heath I. Bloch said, "*Because of Legislator Ruth Walter, ANDRUS and the Yonkers Family YMCA are making emergency aid available to residents most affected by Hurricane Ida. It is dynamic partnerships like ours that make a real difference for children and their families."*

Yonkers Family YMCA President & CEO Lucria Ortiz said, *"We were devastated at the Y to learn about the terrible impact experienced by so many from Hurricane Ida, and extend our deepest gratitude to the County Legislators and ANDRUS for reaching out to us. Y families will receive relief money so they can purchase necessities and gain a bit of restoration. The Y remains a strong community partner, extending a hand when needed most."*

About ANDRUS

ANDRUS nurtures social and emotional well-being in children, families, and communities by delivering a broad range of vital services and by providing research, training, and innovative program models that promote the standard of excellence for professional performance in and beyond our service community. With programs on campus, in schools and within community-based settings throughout Westchester County, the nonprofit reaches almost 4,500 children and families each year from the New York Metropolitan area. Visit www.andrus1928.org to learn more. Stay up-to-date on what we're doing by following us on social media. Be sure to connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube using our handle @andruschildren.

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