

Be a Hero Award

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The Perez Family— Recipients of the 2015 Gabby Rosenfeld Be A Hero Award

With hope and hard work, Bertha and Israel Perez have shown heroism in their efforts to create a brighter future for their family. Bertha and Israel met and married in 2002 in Guatemala, where they faced very stressful family situations



Bertha and Israel Perez are the first recipients of the Gabby Rosenfeld Be A Hero Award

and struggled to earn a living. In August of 2003, Israel left for the U.S. seeking a better life for his family. He arrived in Mount Kisco where his father was living, but only found a clear path when he starting taking English classes and obtaining work through Neighbors Link. Bertha stayed in Guatemala for two and a half years more. When she finally reunited with Israel she was surprised to see how different he looked and spoke. A year later, Bertha and Israel were thrilled to be expecting their first child, Jason, who is now eight years old. Cindy, their youngest, is now three years old.

Today, Bertha

actively participates in English classes and parent-child together groups at Neighbors Link. Because Bertha wants her children to experience a childhood full of love and compassion, she has also undertaken a 12-week "Parenting Journey" program which helps parents understand how their own childhood impacts their parenting.

Israel completed the highest level of ESL, and has been employed at an oil recycling company for five years. Bertha devotes most of her time to raising their children and also works in cleaning and childcare for extra income. Bertha and Israel are shining examples of what is possible, and they are very proud to be part of Neighbors Link.

"We have made it so far with our strength and their help."



The Perez Family



FAMILY CENTER ACTIVITIES



DID YOU KNOW?

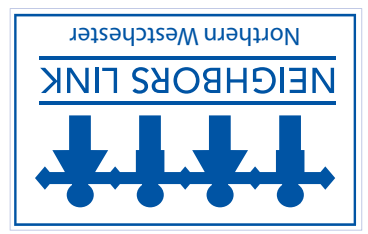
There's always something good happening at Neighbors Link. In 2014...

- 
 Neighbors Link served almost 2,600 people
- 
 Over 700 parents and children participated in Family Center programs
- 
 Over 750 learners took English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- 
 Our Worker Center facilitated employment for over 800 workers
- 
 Jobs obtained through the Worker Center provided over 8,000 days of work
- 
 Almost 300 volunteers made our programming possible
- 
 About half of our volunteers are high school students



WORKERS AVAILABLE
 For help around your home or yard call Nicole Zurawin at 914-666-3410 x 17

Current Resident or:



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 Mount Kisco, NY 10549
 Tel: 914-666-3410
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Spring/Summer 2015

Neighbors Link



VOLUME 23

OUR MISSION: To strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of immigrants OUR STRATEGY: Educate, Empower, Employ

Real Health for Real Life

In partnership with Northern Westchester Hospital, Neighbors Link has introduced a dynamic new wellness program that embraces rich Latino cultural heritage and traditions to help



families successfully adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles. Program offerings include sessions on cooking, eating well on a budget, food safety, stretching and strength building. Selected participants are learning to lead the program as Peer Educators. The Real Health activities have been extremely popular and filled to capacity.



THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS to our 2015 Neighbors Link Volunteer Award Winners

OUTSTANDING YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD
 Margot Putnam, *Horace Greeley High School*

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD
 Poppy Cummings, *Bedford*
 Nancy Strong, *Armonk*

THE MARY WEISS VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD
Established in honor of Mary Weiss, Board Member, volunteer and Friend of Neighbors Link, for her many years of service.

The volunteer chosen for this award demonstrates leadership, compassion and dedication while impacting multiple programs.
 Elvia Becerra, *Bedford Hills*
 Hector Lemus, *Mount Kisco*
 Noe Payes, *Mount Kisco*
 Marina Ruiz, *Mount Kisco*

THE AGNES HASSELL YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD
Established in honor of Agnes Hassell, founding Board member, volunteer and Friend of Neighbors Link.

The volunteer chosen for this award demonstrates exceptional leadership in multiple programs and is an active ambassador to the community for the mission of Neighbors Link.
 Dana Bergenfeld, *Mount Kisco*





MOMENTS FROM OUR ANNUAL
BENEFIT GALA

An Evening at the
Kentucky Derby



(Above) Triple Crown Sponsor
Agnes Hassell

(Below) Crown of Roses Sponsors
David Passerman, Louise Rosenfeld
and Eric Rosenfeld



Neighbors Link Honors Heroes Past and Present

What makes a hero? It can be one's strength, achievements, courage or character. The inaugural Gabby Rosenfeld *Be a Hero Award* honors people who have demonstrated those qualities right here in our local

Commemorating the Life of Gabby Rosenfeld

Known to all as Gabby, Gabriel I. Rosenfeld had a long history of service to his country and community. A WWI veteran in General Patton's Third Army, recipient of the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and inductee to the French Legion of Honor, Gabby's heroism overseas was extraordinary.



Closer to home, he served his community just as faithfully on countless committees and boards, always focused on giving back and helping others.

Gabby lived a full and eventful life until he passed away in August of 2014. He and his wife Louise had a loving family and many, many life-long friends. He enjoyed nothing more than meeting people of all ages and from all walks of life. As Board Member, advisor and philanthropist, he helped and inspired many in our Neighbors Link family to make a new home in America. It is in his name that we honor everyday heroes in our community who make a difference in the lives of others.

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community. Whether going above and beyond to serve and motivate others, or beating the odds and creating healthy role models for their peers, these everyday heroes have shown us the true meaning of success.

Neighbors Link Recognized for Expertise in Training

Cultural Training Addresses Changing Face of Westchester

Reflecting the need to make positive connections with Westchester County's increasingly diverse population,



Neighbors Link Network was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Westchester County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) to implement cultural proficiency training to their 1,100 member staff. The program, called The Changing Face of Westchester, began earlier this year and will continue through 2017.

By deconstructing stereotypes and providing training on immigration issues, the program aims to improve outcomes for WCDSS customers from diverse racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds. Just a few months into the program, trainers report that very engaged groups of employees are gaining knowledge, skills and awareness that will lead to concrete changes

in how they deliver services on all levels.

"The Department of Social Services is committed to providing culturally relevant services to all our customers regardless of their ethnic or linguistic backgrounds," said Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner of DSS. "We are confident that Neighbors Link has the experience and expertise to raise our awareness and effectiveness in this area."

Northern Westchester Hospital, Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont and Mamaroneck (HRC) and Understanding Immigration are also partnering with Neighbors Link on this program.

Neighbors Link & WCC Selected to Fill Growing Healthcare Need

With healthcare emerging as one of the largest economic sectors in Westchester County, there is a growing need for healthcare employees, especially those who work with the elderly. Recognizing this trend, the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) is investing in Neighbors Link and its well-established ESL partnership with Westchester Community College (WCC) to develop a plan to offer a new, contextualized



The demand for home health aides in Westchester is expected to climb 30% in the coming 25 years.

ESL/Home Health Aide program on site at Neighbors Link Northern Westchester.

Although the demand for Home Health Aides in Westchester is expected to climb 30% in the coming 25 years, there are currently few opportunities for immigrants with limited English proficiency to enter healthcare programs while simultaneously developing English language skills. To start opening those doors, Neighbors Link and WCC have been selected as one of eight teams in the country to develop education and training opportunities to help immigrant workers achieve family-wage careers.

The program will offer healthcare training with in-context language instruction, starting them on pathway to earning college credit and attaining healthcare workforce credentials such as Certified Nurse Assistant, Patient Care Technician, and Mental Health Technician. With further education, participants can increase their earning potential in careers such as Medical Billing and Coding, Nursing, or Radiologic Technology.

Portrait of a Neighbor

You may know Beverliz as the friendly Administrative Assistant who greets you when you enter Neighbors Link. Beverliz also has an immigration story of her own to share.

When Beverliz was a toddler in Paraguay, her father traveled to the United States to try give his family a better life. Although



they stayed in touch via phone calls and letters, she would not see him again until she was 12

years old. Her father was one of the lucky few who was able to qualify and become a legal permanent resident. He was then able to petition for his daughters to come visit him. After finishing high school in Paraguay, Beverliz moved to New York and quickly enrolled in English classes at Westchester Community College

(WCC). She completed all levels of English classes and then enrolled in an Associates program for Business Administration at WCC.

Last year, Beverliz decided to volunteer at Neighbors Link. In no time, she became an important member of the Neighbors Link team and joined



the staff. About her work, Beverliz says, "I feel good knowing that I am part of something meaningful to the community."

Recently, Beverliz accomplished her goal of passing her citizenship exam and becoming a United States citizen. For her, it was important to become a citizen so that she could vote and more fully participate in her community.

Celebration of Life as a Novela

Does life sometimes feel like a TV drama?

In this collaborative project with the Jacob Burns Film Center, Neighbors Link families worked to develop an original television script based on their own lives, hopes, and fears. At the celebration event, participants did a reading of the script, facilitated by film writer Angel Luis Lara, and were recognized for their years of hard work and dedication.



"We are confident that Neighbors Link has the experience and expertise to raise our awareness and effectiveness..."
—Kevin M. McGuire,
Westchester Social Services
Commissioner