

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**CLUSTER**

20 South Broadway, Suite 501, Yonkers, NY 10701 ♦ 914-963-6440 ♦ [www.clusterinc.org](http://www.clusterinc.org)

*CLUSTER provides services in four major program areas:*

- ♦ Mental Health Residential Services
- ♦ Westchester & Rockland Mediation Centers
- ♦ Youth and Family Programs
- ♦ Housing Resource Center

**Tom Roth**

President,  
CLUSTER Board of Directors

**Toni Volchok**

Executive Director

**Diana M. Campos**

Newsletter Editor



**CLUSTER  
Welcomes  
New Executive  
Director,  
Kristina Yamin**

The Board of Directors of CLUSTER Community Services is pleased to announce that Kristina Yamin has been named Executive Director effective January 1, 2018.

Ms. Yamin has been the Director of CLUSTER's Mental Health Residential Services program since 2009. She has over 20 years' experience working in the field of Mental Health, and previously held administrative positions at Project Renewal and the Youth Adult Institute (YAI) in New York City. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Northeastern University and a Master's Degree from Pepperdine University.

"I am grateful to the Board for extending this opportunity to me, to my predecessor, Toni Volchok, for her dedicated service to this organization, and to the exceptionally talented staff for continuously striving for the highest standards of excellence," said Yamin. "I look forward to serving as CLUSTER's next Executive Director and leading the agency, in the coming years, as we explore new and dynamic ways to engage and serve the community."

Toni Volchok, the current Executive Director, will retire at the end of the year after leading the human service agency for 12 years.

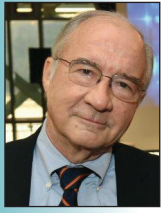
Tom Roth, President of CLUSTER's Board of Directors, noted the Board's recognition of Kristina's accomplishments and leadership as Director of CLUSTER's Mental Health Residential Services and her well-rounded previous experience in mental health and social services. "The current behavioral health environment is complicated and challenging. We are impressed with Kristina's extensive experience, in-depth knowledge, demonstrated leadership and passionate commitment to the clients and communities we serve. We are confident that Kristina will provide CLUSTER with exceptional leadership, now and in the future."



**Axel Lamboy** testified at the Westchester County Board of Legislators Budget Hearing. Axel is a junior at Gorton High School and a CLUSTER Study Buddy. He spoke about how important it has been for him to be involved in the Study Buddy Program, and how he wishes to see younger children in the CLUSTER After School Program, have the same opportunity once they are in high school.

Axel cited information from the Westchester Children's Association as to why afterschool programs are important. Things like keeping children safe, and supporting working families, and helping children and teens reach academic success. As Axel stated, the Study Buddy program has helped him become a high achiever.

## Letter from the Board President



It is hard to believe that we are entering the 2017 holiday season – so soon! As part of your preparations, I hope that

you will take a minute to reflect on CLUSTER's mission to build a better world.

We face a time of challenge and transition: challenge, because of the ever-changing needs of the communities and people we serve; and, transition, because we begin the year with Kristina Yamin as our new Executive Director. I believe CLUSTER will continue to thrive. We have an excellent staff, we have well-designed and targeted programs, and, most important, we really care about our clients. I am confident that Kristina will provide CLUSTER with exceptional leadership, now and in the future.

We wish Toni Volchok all the best in her retirement, and we will miss her greatly. I could write so much about Toni it would be a newsletter in itself. But, that won't do, so let me just repeat what I said to her at our Event last month: Toni, thank you ... thank you for your passionate commitment, thank you for your fortitude ... remarkably displayed, and thank you for your unwavering concern and compassion.

Our other great challenge is to build the community of CLUSTER supporters. Specifically, we want to broaden and deepen this community. If you are not already a CLUSTER supporter, I invite you to join us; our web site, [www.clusterinc.org](http://www.clusterinc.org), explains how you can do this. If you are already a CLUSTER supporter, I sincerely hope you will make an incremental step in your support. And, just as important, please tell a friend about your support for CLUSTER and ask them to join us. Together we accomplish so much.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, and all the best in the coming year!

Tom Roth

President, Board of Directors

# CLUSTER Honors



Honoree Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer with Board Vice President Tony Carrizales



Honoree Executive Director Toni Volchok with Mayor Michael Spano



Honoree Sen. Andrea Stewart Cousins with Peter X. Kelly

*At this year's Harvest Tasting, CLUSTER was honored to recognize three outstanding Yonkers women; Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer, and our very own Toni Volchok, who is retiring as Executive Director at the end of the year.*

The event, which was held at Peter Kelly's X20, was a joyous event with over 200 people in attendance. The evening featured fabulous food, prepared by Chef Peter Kelly, and great silent and live auction items, including jewelry from Landsburg Jewelers, original artwork, in-home cooking lessons and on-field tickets for the NY Yankees. The Wine Pull featured a bottle of Dom Perignon champagne, as well as several other high end bottles, including a collector's bottle of 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon from Signorello Estates.

But the night belonged to Toni Volchok, for her perseverance and leadership as Executive Director of CLUSTER. Both Sen. Stewart-Cousins and Assemblywoman Mayer spoke about her work, her compassion and her tenacity to work through the many obstacles that face non-profit organizations. The Board of Directors and the Advisory Council announced a scholarship which had been set up in her name for children to attend the CLUSTER Summer Day Camp.

It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to honor such exceptional women.

# Three Outstanding Yonkers Women



CLUSTER Board member Rev. Winfield Peacock with his wife and Dan Thaler



Kathy Pandekakes, Executive Director of HDSW and incoming Executive Director Kristina Yamin



Left: CLUSTER Board and Advisory Council with Honoree Executive Director, Toni Volchok



**CLUSTER wishes to thank the many individuals and companies who sponsored the event, donated goods and services for the Live and Silent auction, as well as those who donated wine for the wine pull.**

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema  
 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
 Ardsley Country Club  
 Rinku Bhattacharya  
 Benjamin Steak House  
 Charmassage Waters of Life  
 City Winery  
 Crabtree's Kittle House  
 Crown Products  
 Dan Thaler-Moonlight Marine  
 Dolphin Restaurant Bar & Lounge  
 Empire City Casino  
 The Glass Onion  
 Grand Prix New York Racing & Spins Bowl LLC  
 In2Green  
 Brian Jaccoma  
 Peter X. Kelly

Landsberg Jewelers  
 LeMoulin Eatery Wine Bar  
 Lucy's Driving School Inc.  
 Maisonette  
 Moderne Barn  
 National Artists Management  
 RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen  
 Siwanoy Country Club  
 Vera Bradley  
 Estelle Williams

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## A Special Thanksgiving



Staff enjoyed sharing Thanksgiving lunch with residents of the Mental Health Program. L-R Claudine Williams-Haye, Diana Campos, Kristina Yamin, Toni Volchok and Jasmin McCormack

The staff of CLUSTER's Mental Health Residential Services Program prepared a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings for residents. Everyone feasted on turkey, ham, jerk pork, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, rice and beans, salad, and a wide variety of desserts. Everyone wrote what they were thankful for and hung the note on the beautiful gratitude tree. Staff also opened up a closet of clothes that residents could choose from. Others played games and chatted amongst themselves. It was a lovely afternoon of thankful joy.



**SUMMER CAMP**

In honor of Toni Volchok's enduring love of and passion for the summer day camp, The Board of Directors has established a scholarship fund recognizing her long standing work and commitment as she prepares to retire at the end of the year. Announced at the Harvest Tasting Event, the Scholarship fund will, help children now and into the foreseeable future attend the 6-week summer camp program. If you would like to contribute, you may designate your donation to this fund either online or on the enclosed envelope. [www.clusterinc.org](http://www.clusterinc.org).