

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

**Kristina Yamin**

Executive Director

**Diana M. Campos**

Newsletter Editor

**CLUSTER's Mission** is "to provide services and programs that assist residents in Yonkers and Westchester & Rockland Counties to build a better future for themselves and their communities."

## CLUSTER receives funding from Wells Fargo

CLUSTER recently received notice of funding for a Leadership Development Project from the Wells Fargo Foundation. This funding will afford CLUSTER the opportunity to meaningfully engage in strategic planning at the Board and staff level. We will also focus on augmenting and improving our agency communications, as well as our online and social media presence.

"We are so grateful to Wells Fargo Foundation for supporting us in this effort to grow and improve our services to those we serve and to those who support us," stated Kristina Yamin, Executive Director CLUSTER, Inc.



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## Halloween at Super School



The children in the Super School After School Program held a costume party to celebrate Halloween. The CLUSTER Study Buddies joined in the festivities, as the children held a costume parade, and a "mummy race". Everyone worked together in teams to see who could wrap their team of mummies the quickest. The Study Buddies read "spooky stories" that they had written and everyone enjoyed pizza, and enough candy to take home and share with their siblings and parents.

## Association of Community Living Conference



Members of CLUSTER's Mental Health Residential Services Program attended the annual Association of Community Living Conference at the Sagamore Hotel in November.

Front row: Freda Macon, Deputy Executive Director, Kristina Yamin, Executive Director, Jasmin Mc Cormack, Director, Mental Health Residential Services Program, Darleen Sealey, Coordinator, Goodbody Residence.

Top Row: Claudine Williams-Haye, Special Project Coordinator, Simone Simms, Case Manager, Shelley Mondelli, Case Manager, Tatum Williams, Coordinator, Treatment and Supported Programs, Jalisa Taylor, Case Manager.

## Letter from the Executive Director



During this past year one thing has become clear to me, CLUSTER means different things to different people.

For households facing possible homelessness, receiving financial assistance, advocacy and crisis intervention while continuing to have a place to live, CLUSTER means The Housing Resource Center.

For families divorcing and struggling to successfully co-parent, or a youth involved in the juvenile justice system and in need of restorative services, CLUSTER is our Mediation Center.

For parents that have a safe place for their children to go to after school, where they get homework help and are a part of a supportive environment, CLUSTER is our After School program.

For the group of 14-17 year olds that learn the skills and receive the support they need to graduate high school and move on to college, CLUSTER is our Study Buddy program.

And for those children that attend our 6-week summer camp CLUSTER is our Youth and Family Program.

CLUSTER is a vibrant, strong community organization. We have been in Southwest Yonkers for over 40 years, and have provided services for thousands of people, and for every one of them, there is a common thread. Every single person that comes through our door leaves with one thing, HOPE. Hope for a better future for themselves, hope for their children and the hope that comes from belonging to a community that cares.

However, you are the key ingredient to making all of this work. Without your consistent support, CLUSTER would not be able to provide the diverse services we offer the community. You can make sure that we continue to help individuals and families from falling through the proverbial cracks. Your donation to CLUSTER in whatever amount will help make all the difference.

Thank you  
**Kristina Yamin**



On Thursday evening, October 25th CLUSTER held its annual Harvest Tasting at Peter Kelly's X20. It was a beautiful night to honor three remarkable individuals. This year's Community Spirit Honorees were Yonkers Police Commissioner Charles Gardner; Jeanne Martinelli, Director of Marketing, Yonkers Chamber of Commerce; and Deborah A. Smith, Sr. Vice President, Wells Fargo Foundation.

The evening featured delectable food by Peter Kelly, as well as a Wine Pull, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction conducted by Barry Cherwin of Cherwin Benefit Auctioneers. The live auction featured a multi-course dinner with Peter Kelly, a Yankees stadium experience with on field tickets, a deluxe 7-day Barbados vacation and a Race Car Driving experience.

In addition to our Honorees, Axel Lamboy, a senior at Gorton High School spoke to our guests about the importance of CLUSTER in his life and in his family's life. Kristina Yamin, Executive Director of CLUSTER, stated, "I am so honored to witness the outpouring of support from everyone here this evening. I am proud to be part of an organization that inspires people to help make our programs and the community that we serve better."

**CLUSTER would like to thank its many event sponsors, auction donors, and others who helped make the event an enjoyable and memorable evening.**

Apple Bank	Cross County Shopping Center
Ardsley Country Club	D. Bertoline & Sons
Assured Partners Northeast, LLC	Dolphin Restaurant, Bar & Lounge
Gerald & Beverly Brown Barbour	Elite Island Resorts
Mayo & Judy Bartlett, Esqs.	Fin and Brew Restaurant
Benjamin Steak House	Foley Group
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Christine Bitetti	Stephen & Betsy Hunter
Devra Braun & Peter Smedresman	Brian Jaccoma
Celebrity Motor Car Co.	Jolie Gotique
Central Avenue Nissan	Josi De la Cruz
Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn	KEB Pest Control, LLC



Community Spirit Honorees Jeanne Martinelli, Charles Gardner and Deborah A. Smith with Youth speaker Axel Lamboy



L-R Representatives from Liberty Security Agency with Darleen Sealey, Coordinator Goodbody Residence, and Petrina Sealey, S'Well Bottles



Gerald and Beverly Brown Barbour, CLUSTER Advisory Council and Event Committee member with fellow Event Committee member Jack Martinelli.



Event Committee L-R CLUSTER Board member Rev. Winfield Peacock, Josi De la Cruz, Sterling National Bank, Kristina Yamin, Executive Director, Diana M. Campos, Director of Development, Cluster Board member Eli Glanz, Freda Macon Deputy Executive Director, Christine Bitetti, Yonkers Public Library and Jack Martinelli, Westchester Magazine.



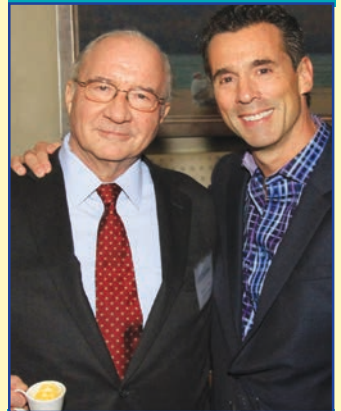
Kristina Yamin, Executive Director and Mayor Michael Spano



James Rainni, Dean Pialtos, President & CEO Pascal Coffee, Diana Campos, and Charles Pialtos



CLUSTER Board Member Kathy Dean, with Jonathan Pokoik and Event Committee member Ilona Pokoik



CLUSTER Board President Tom Roth with Greg Werlinich, Werlinich Asset Management

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A special Thank You to:  
 Chereese Jervis Hill- Events to Remember and her staff  
 Barry Cherwin  
 DMU Music Inc.  
 Jim Toal and the staff of X20



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Come share your ideas in an open discussion forum at the first Coffee with Kristina on **Wednesday January 23, 2019 at 10:00AM.** These bimonthly forums will focus on a variety of topics pertinent to community members, service providers, and others.

## Thanksgiving Luncheon



On Thursday, November 15th CLUSTER held an agency wide Thanksgiving celebration for residents in our Mental Health Residential Services Program. Staff members prepared and served a variety of menu items to share with everyone. The luncheon featured turkey, of course, stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, ham, cornbread, salad and an endless number of desserts.