



Westchester Institute
for Human Development

Building on Excellence

A Capital Campaign to create a
transformational headquarters
for Westchester Institute
for Human Development





People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and vulnerable children are routinely marginalized. Society regularly tells them they are less important, less deserving of high-quality care, and less worthy of achieving their full potential.

At Westchester Institute for Human Development, we are working to change that narrative.

Our passionate and dedicated team—including many with lived experience with disabilities—are working to increase access to critical health services, foster leadership and advocacy skills, and improve the lives of people with disabilities, vulnerable children, and families. Every day, we strive to educate communities and change attitudes in hopes of creating a more inclusive and just world.

After 75 years, we have become a critical and trusted resource in our community and have a reputation as innovators in our field. But our headquarters in Valhalla, New York, is a hindrance to providing the level of care we believe in, to those who need it most.

We have secured a new facility that can meet our needs today, with room to grow and adapt for years to come—but we need your help to transform it into the modern headquarters WIHD needs to provide our full range of services.

BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE is a \$5 million campaign that will allow us to fully live our values and treat every person who enters WIHD with the dignity and respect they deserve.

JOIN US IN MAKING THIS FUTURE A REALITY.

A History of Excellence

In 1950, Westchester Institute for Human Development was founded in New York City as one of the country's first outpatient services focused exclusively on children with disabilities. In the 75 years since, our mission has remained the same: to create better futures for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, for vulnerable children, and for their families and caregivers.

WIHD takes a holistic approach that crosses five intersecting areas of service:

- 1 Fully integrated clinical, dental, behavioral, speech and hearing, and occupational therapy services
- 2 Education for healthcare providers and advocacy training for individuals and families
- 3 Community training and technical assistance
- 4 Conducting and disseminating research that advances best practices
- 5 Advocating for innovative and evidence-based policies and practices

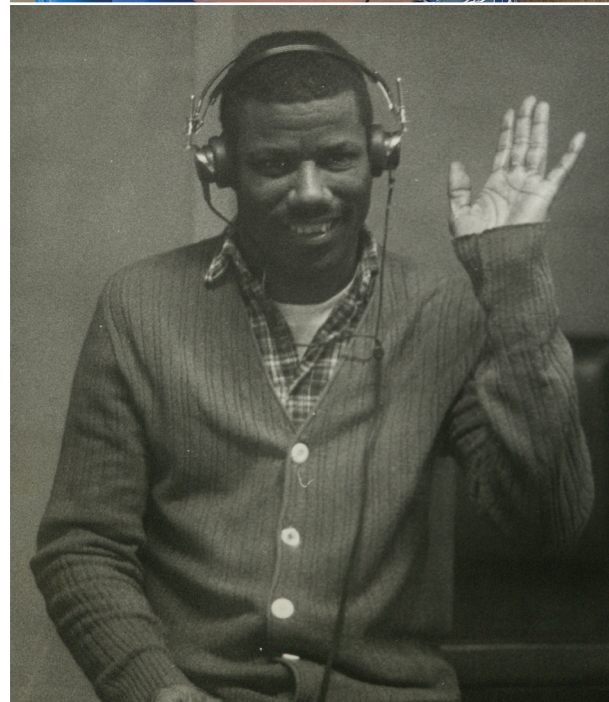
Our approach is guided by people who are directly impacted by the work that we do and can draw on their own lived experiences. We currently serve more than 15,000 clients annually at our headquarters in Valhalla, at our satellite outreach sites and mobile clinics, and through our telehealth program.

In addition, WIHD is a leading educational institute where future pediatricians, psychologists, dentists, public health experts, child welfare advocates, and more can gain hands-on experience in best practices while working directly with our clients.

AMONG OUR 250 STAFF MEMBERS

10+ *have intellectual and developmental disabilities*

more than 1/3 *of employees have family members with disabilities*



A Critical Resource

We are a critical resource for patients, families, and care-givers in Westchester County, the Hudson River Valley, and the surrounding area—often providing services they can't access anywhere else.

WIHD is one of only 68 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) nationwide. This designation by the federal government acknowledges our commitment to working with people with disabilities, their families, government agencies, and community providers to provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing.

IN 2024 WE PROVIDED:

35,350 clinical and medical visits to 4,734 individuals

13,955 primary and specialty medical care visits to 1,954 adults

5,431 behavioral health visits to 1,030 children and adults

9,066 dental visits to 3,014 children and adults

6,898 allied health visits to 1,945 children and adults

300 evaluations of suspected physical and/or sexual abuse of children

302 assistive technology evaluations and 501 assistive technology device loans



Barriers to Access

Our Valhalla headquarters has been our central hub since WIHD relocated to the New York Medical College and Westchester Medical Center in 1972. When the facility was built, WIHD was primarily an inpatient hospital and a school for children with disabilities. Since that time, however, our team of leading researchers and providers has been at the forefront of developing new standards for serving people with disabilities and vulnerable children.

We are known as innovators in our field—but our facilities prevent us from meeting the standards of care we have set for others.

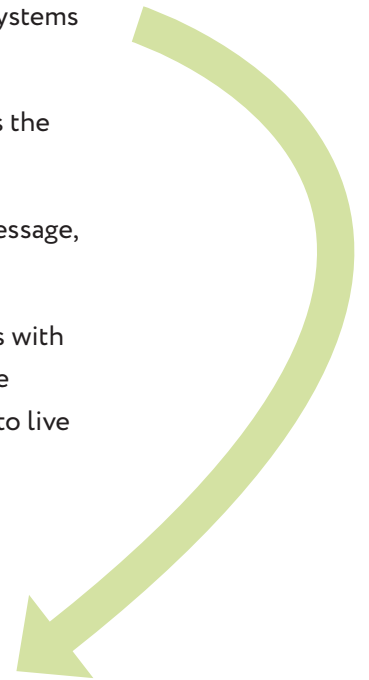
The challenges begin before clients arrive at our doors. Patients and staff alike struggle with insufficient parking, leading to a stressful arrival and, in some cases, missed appointments. Inside, they find an unwelcoming and institutional environment—remnants of the building’s history as a residential hospital. Waiting areas and clinical rooms feel dated and worn, and outdated systems limit our ability to consistently maintain a comfortable temperature.

Staff and researchers are equally impacted. In many workspaces, they are unable to access the technology and resources that support productivity and collaboration across teams.

We work with people who are routinely marginalized—and our building reinforces that message, conveying to clients that they don’t deserve the comfort and privacy of modern facilities.

At WIHD, we know how important it is to treat every person who walks through our doors with dignity and respect. Every aspect of our physical space—from how it looks and feels to the services we provide inside—directly impacts our community’s experience and our ability to live out our values.

On behalf of our clients, we urgently need to transform our space to create an inviting and modern facility that can support the full scope of our services.





Together, we can build the future of care.

After a comprehensive assessment, we have determined that continuing to invest in WIHD's Valhalla headquarters would be an irresponsible use of our resources.

Instead, we have secured a new home in a nearby location that addresses many of our current challenges while providing flexible room to grow. However, we must first renovate the facility to align with universal design principles of modern construction—guidelines that prioritize access for all and promote well-being. We want to ensure WIHD is a warm and inviting environment that reflects the dignity and respect our patients deserve, and the high-quality service WIHD provides.

Our new headquarters will provide a strong foundation from which to grow and bloom. We want to create an environment that says clearly, we see the inherent dignity of every person who enters. We want to provide room and resources that foster the forward-thinking energy of our providers and researchers. And with increased capacity, we can meet the growing demand for our services, reduce our waitlists, attract a wider clientele, and explore new service avenues.

We envision a facility that mirrors the warmth and attention we provide, and are committed to creating a welcoming, uplifting, and inclusive environment for all who enter.

Please join us in supporting **BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE** as we raise \$5 million to realize our vision for a new WIHD headquarters.

A Look Inside

WIHD's new headquarters will promote access for all, with features that include:

- ✓ Sufficient parking with direct access to patient care areas
- ✓ An improved layout with most clinical services on the first floor and deeper integration of patients' full care team
- ✓ Comfortable, private patient rooms that are equally accessible for clients with limited mobility
- ✓ Dedicated space for child welfare services that foster a sense of safety and reassurance
- ✓ Better technology to support expanded telehealth services and staff efficiency
- ✓ Modern workspaces that encourage innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration among staff, students, researchers, and advocates
- ✓ An expansive assistive technology workroom for refurbishing, repairing, and testing equipment, from toys and wheelchairs to sophisticated communication devices



PLANNED OBJECTIVES	ESTIMATED COST
Building improvements, medical, IT infrastructure and other equipment, contingency	\$3,300,000
Operations and programmatic improvements	\$1,000,000
Relocation costs	\$700,000
CAMPAIGN TOTAL	\$5,000,000

WIHD is a leading nonprofit organization creating better futures for people with disabilities, for vulnerable children, and for their families and caregivers for 75 years. We are one of a few University Centers for Excellence in Development Disabilities (UCEDD) in the nation. We serve the complex clinical, dental, behavioral, and social service needs of our clients in Westchester County and the Lower Hudson Valley. Our professional education, advocacy, and research give rise to better programs and policies for people with disabilities and vulnerable children nationwide.

“Everyone deserves to reach their full potential and to be treated with respect, dignity, and compassion.”

MONICA SGANGA,
WIHD BOARD CHAIR



Westchester Institute for Human Development

For more information or to donate:
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