

# 2019 VCS Annual Report

- Mental Health Counseling
- Social Justice
- Advocacy

## Saving Lives in So Many Ways

Every day VCS saves lives in so many ways by providing counseling services and mental health treatment with an anti-racist, social justice mission. Working collaboratively with the community, VCS identifies and fills gaps in services with programs in behavioral healthcare, training, and advocacy for those most in need.

## 2019 VCS Annual Report

### **Table of Contents**

Page 1	Message	from our	Executive	Director
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- Page 2 Mental Health Clinic
- *Page 4* Counseling and Family Services
- Page 6 Social Justice and Domestic Violence Initiatives
- Page 8 VCS at Glance
- *Page 10* VCS in the Community
- Page 12 Donors and Special Recognitions
- Page 14 Volunteers
- *Page 15* Funding Sources and Collaboratives
- Page 16 Board of Directors and Staff



Sarah Goforth, MS, CMC, CADCII Executive Director

#### Dear Friends,

I am writing this message during one of the most challenging times in our country in recent memory. A deadly virus has claimed countless lives; an evolution of the civil rights movement and economic hardship has provided a backdrop for VCS to work harder than ever before. *We have conveyed a simple message, since March, through social media; there is hope*. We have been here, we are here and we will continue to be here. Our lights have been on, telephone lines and doors have been open. We are a resource for a community that is struggling with parenthood, school, and lack of work or

balancing a virtual job with family life. We have had neighborhood drive-by graduation ceremonies and extended family visiting one another through glass doors and windows.

Our community needs us now more than ever. We established an emotional help line in April and May to provide a safe place for people to talk. These last few months have given me time to think about gratitude. I am grateful for our staff, volunteer counselors, Board of Directors and people like you. VCS could not carry out our mission without the support of all of our funders and friends in the community. *Our new logo is a fresh representation of what VCS has done for 50 years; "Saving Lives in So Many Ways".* 

We are dedicated and strive for a just world that allows people to be who they are and to be treated with dignity and respect. Our charge is to provide hope through counseling, mental health treatment, advocacy and training. I could not be prouder to have had the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director for the past seven years. VCS employs a unique combination of professional staff, trained volunteers and collaborative partnerships to create innovative multicultural and multilingual responses to pressing social needs and issues.



The VCS mission is carried out with a sense of pride and purpose by a unique blend of volunteer and professional staff and an active, vital Board of Directors. The report that follows is a synopsis of our work and accomplishments in 2019. The greatest measure of our success continues to be the number of individuals, young people and families who look to us for help. Our organization has been a Rockland County institution since 1970. We are proud to be a resource for countless people in Rockland County who otherwise would not be able to access critically needed services.

Thank you, Sarah Goforth, MS CMC, CADCII

### **Mental Health Clinic**

The VCS Mental Health Clinic celebrated its fifth year in 2019. We increased our capacity from 192 to 267 clients and grew our team from 19 to 23 clinicians. We worked with 443 unique individuals over the year totaling 7,202 appointments; approximately 40% growth from the prior year.

Thanks to everyone's extraordinary work (administrative team and clinicians) we exceeded our income budget target for the year by 30%. The target for 2019 was about 50% higher than that for 2018.

We also hired a compliance and privacy officer, who immediately got to work and brought us into compliance with many of the state regulations and quality standards we had been pursuing for several years, and found innumerable ways to streamline and make our operations more profitable.



Clinicians at the VCS Mental Health Clinic break from work with clients in team rooms where they can catch up on progress notes, a quick meal, and find each other easily.

Communication and collaboration are facilitated in this type of setting, as are spontaneous conversations, reducing the need for planned meetings or hunting for another staff member.

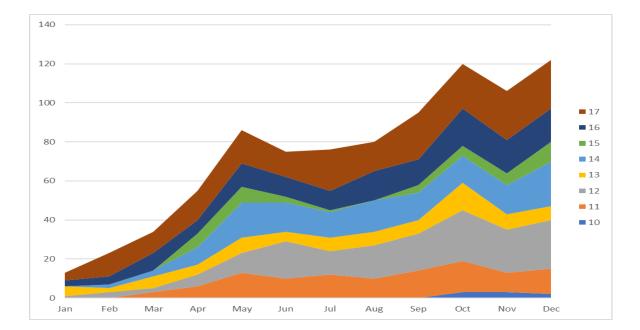
Clinical team rooms help break down traditional barriers and improve clinical workflow.

# **Clinical Services for Youth**

The School-Based Youth Services Program had a very successful start with the Ur Space clinic up and running at Spring Valley HS. Our expansion continued with a site license approval to serve children in the Haverstraw Elementary School.

The unending support of the school staff and administration in the North Rockland and East Ramapo School districts coupled with the dedication and professionalism of our clinicians made 2019 a very successful year! We look forward to continued growth of our clinic services throughout Rockland County.

Our youth services program at VCS has seen substantial growth with a total of 884 appointments for 94 clients under the age of 18. We hope to continue seeing steady growth with the implementation of tele therapy services.



## Child and Adolescent Program Appointments per Month by Age

### **Counseling and Family Services**

#### **The General Counseling Program**

• Served a total of 380 clients in 2019. These are people of all ages, backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities, dealing with mental health issues, domestic violence, adverse childhood experiences and other forms of trauma.

#### **Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)**

- Offers counseling, education, school advocacy, referrals and support to grandparents and other relatives raising children.
- Members are able to participate in a monthly group support program where they share their concerns, laughter and tears.

### Youth Program FINS (Families in Need of Support)

- The FINS Program served over 50 students.
- We implemented a very successful group program with two groups for Spanish speaking students in the East Ramapo Central School District Latinos Unidos and Todos Unidos.
- We continue to work closely with local schools to expand the FINS program throughout Rockland County.

#### **Outreach to Elders**

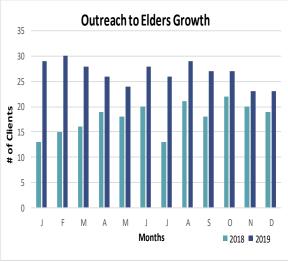
 Provides in-home counseling to seniors with 10-12 volunteers serving 20 to 30 clients at any given time. The majority are in their 80's, with health and financial concerns as well as emotional issues. Having a counselor come to their homes to meet with them on a weekly basis has proven to be a critically needed intervention.

#### **Caregiver Support Group**

 Darcy Bauer continued to facilitate the evening group, which expanded rapidly thanks to her wealth of knowledge and resources from The Office for the Aging.



• Continues to take calls on a daily basis, and responds to requests for information about subsidized senior housing, caregiver agencies, how to select adult day care and nursing homes, and transportation options in Rockland County.



### **Grandparents Raising Children**

• This group of grandparents are assisting with and involved in caring for their grandchildren. This support group offers informative programs, referral services and counseling on issues pertinent to their situations.

### Parenting Apart

- Families are referred from the Integrated Domestic Violence Court and Family Court.
- In 2019, we continued alternating classes between Saturday and Sunday keeping a steady balance of active cases from all communities.
- Served more voluntary families thanks to positive feedback from previous clients.

### Center for Parents Education and Counseling At-Risk Youth

• Counseling for youth and parenting classes for men and women continues to thrive.

### **Rockland Student Advocacy Program**

• Continued to provide information, referrals and direct advocacy support to nearly 200 Rockland families in 2019. This is accomplished by providing parents with information about their rights and their children's rights, and helping them understand how to communicate effectively with their school districts. Our service is available to children in all 8 Rockland school districts and Rockland BOCES.

### **Employee Assistance Program**

• Provides workshops and/or counseling services for people within companies. We work with 10 to 20 employees from local organizations every year.

### Graduate Student Internship Program

• VCS is a highly sought after placement for social work and counseling programs throughout the New York Metropolitan area. We accept approximately 8 or 9 graduate interns from 5 local universities each year. In the last few years we have mentored over 100 students.

### **Counselor Training Program**

- An effective and practical preparation for counselors and highly regarded throughout the county and by prominent educational institutions.
- In 2019, we trained 32 lay community members and 5 interns who are now active and dedicated counselors.
- The diversity of this training group continually grows. At this time, we have counselors fluent in Spanish, Creole, French, Yiddish, Greek, Arabic, Russian, Italian and Portuguese.

### PUENTES

• Celebrated it's 2nd annual event, which was a lot of fun and very successful. We now offer all of our services in Spanish. In 2019, 29 counselors served approximately 200 clients.

## **Social Justice and Domestic Violence Initiatives**



## Highlights from VCS Social Justice Initiatives:

- VCS hosted six Undoing Racism Workshops (URW) with 233 participants. VCS received a grant to hold two more Undoing Racism Workshops for 84 participants. One graduate of this unique 2½-day workshop said, "... I am committed to start the conversation within my own circle in order to expand the knowledge gained this weekend."
- VCS held 19 Working Together for Racial Justice Meetings: 12 during the day and 7 in the evening (with 121 people). These monthly discussions for URW graduates, is to deepen the understanding of the tenets presented in the workshop. Discussions range from movies and books to current events and issues arising at the workplace and at home. Those who have not yet taken the URW are invited.



• VCS facilitated monthly meetings on "Racial Justice" with the staff of the Nyack Public Schools from Sept 2018 – Dec 2019.

• VCS was asked to present on Racial Justice at Lexington Center for Recovery during their 5th Annual Training Day – and presented it to overwhelmingly positive reviews.

Photo Collage: Phyllis B Frank & Darla Salmon host Undoing Racism Workshop Trainers

## NY Model for Batterer Programs National Training Institute

Designed for court personnel, probation and parole officers, prosecutors, defense bar, and domestic violence advocates.

- o Rockland County, NY in May and October
- OBUTTAL STATE OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT. OF CONT

VCS was invited by the NYS Commissioner of Probation to present on domestic violence offender accountability and batterer programs.

VCS was asked to present on Domestic Violence at the Rockland County Teacher's Center.

VCS participated in domestic violence elimination and prevention grants and projects in conjunction with the Center for Safety & Change.

## VCS Domestic Violence Program for Men

Classes for court mandated participants were conducted in Rockland, Orange and Westchester Counties serving domestic violence, criminal, family and IDV courts in those counties.

- Rockland: # of men ordered .....114
- Rockland: # of men who became participants . . . . 130\*
- Orange: # of men who became participants . . . . . 75\*
- Westchester: # of men ordered ...... 41
- Westchester: # of men who became participants . . . 41

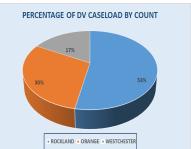
\*The number attended is more than the number ordered as there

were several ordered at the end of 2018 who would not be counted in the "Ordered" but would be counted in the "Attended" for 2019.

In keeping with our multi-language support, there were 25 Spanish registrations for 2019.

Instructors: Haki Baruti, Linda Berns, Tony Garnere, Barry Goldstein, Peter Heymann, Deanna Joy, Jean-Max Naissant, Cherron Petruzzi, Lisa Whiteside

"Accountability and consistency is key."





7

# VCS at a Glance

"We are a resource for countless people across the lifespan who would not otherwise have access to services in Rockland County."

General Counseling Program Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Services for Older Adults & their Families Youth and Families in Need of Support (FINS) Parents Education & Support Rockland Student Advocacy Program Employee Assistance Program Graduate Student Internship Program Volunteer Counselor Training Program

All VCS services provided in **PUENTES** Spanish in the PUENTES Program

Nancy Ros Director of Fi

Rosa Serrano-Delgado Manager Counseling & Family Services

> B Execut

## **Board of Directors**

#### NEW YORK MODEL for BATTERER PROGRAMS

Domestic Violence Program for Men

### a nance



Sarah Goforth Executive Director

ari Lewart

ive Administrator

Phyllis B. Frank Senior Director



UNDOING RACISM WORKSHOP The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

Trainings, Educational Institutes, Social Justice Initiatives

Patti Trichon Special Projects Coordinator



Spring Valley High School Clinic Satellite

Haverstraw Elementary School Clinic Satellite

English & Spanish

lan Laidlaw Manager, Mental Health Clinic

English, Spanish, Creole, French, Yiddish, Hebrew

### VCS in the Community



Bari Lewart and Sarah Goforth walk with Team VCS, for NAMI in September



Stephanie Madison, MHA Rockland, with Sarah Goforth at the Jawonio Brunch in November



Denet Alexandre at Office for Aging's Elder Abuse Conference in September



Rosa Serrano-Delgado and Martha Robles at the Catholic Charities event in October



Phyllis B. Frank honored by the NAACP at their 60th Annual Membership Dinner in April



Rosa Serrano-Delgado presents the VCS table at Healthy Haverstraw in October



The United Way Spring Day of Caring in March. Bari Lewart and Ginny Geerdes gave their all to the front gardens at VCS with the volunteers



PUENTES' 2nd celebration in April with the community



VCS Board President Mary Ann Tozer and friends celebrate at PUENTES in April





VCS Executive Director, Sarah Goforth, at the United Way of Rockland Gala in October

Jill Bieber and Joan Faison at the Mental Health Fair, in May, hosted by Senator David Carlucci at RCC



Silent Auction Chair, Nancy Kupperman, enjoys the excitement at the 16th Annual VCS Golf Outing in August



Jonathan Kupperman, of PDI, and friends golfing in August. **PDI is the VCS Golf Outing's Premier Event Sponsor** 

### **Donors and Special Recognitions**

### \$10,000 or more

The Chazen Foundation PDI Inc. (Jonathan Kupperman)

#### \$1,000 - \$9,999.99

Activeviam Apple Bank for Savings Arthur Rogovin **ASC Technologies** Bernhardt Moving Centro de Amigos, SADC **Elisabeth Voigt** Jonathan & Nancy Kupperman Mario Occhicone Mary Ann Tozer Mimi Gelb Paul Orazio Pell Wealth Partners People's United Bank Phyllis B. Frank Theresa Egan Toni Fallon \* Wegmans Food Markets, nc.

#### \$500 - \$999.99

Active Cares Atlantic Tomorrow's Office Bridges of Rockland California Closets Danny Quintero DeCicco Family Markets Derek Nelson Electronic Office Systems Elisabeth Voigt Frank Orzo Gail Maurer Inserra Supermarkets Inc. Judy Ryan M&T Bank Marshall's of Nanuet "A donation makes a difference in people's lives."

Mimi Gelb NAMI of Rockland Prestige Employee Administrators, Inc. Raymond Francis Rosa Serrano-Delgado Stephen Seward

#### \$250 - \$499.99

Berard & Donahue, CPA's P.C. Beth Kipperman Connie Coker Construction by Allison Inc. David Kurland Deborah Fix Edward Mooney **Geoffrey Cabrera Ginny Geerdes** Good Samaritan Hospital Hendo Contracting Henry Rosen James Barry Jawonio Inc. John McDonald John Sadowski Michael S. Rothstein, D.D.S. Michael Seidenfrau Monserrat Santana Nancy Rosa Orangeburg Volunteer Fire Association Phyllis Eisenberg **Richard Wolff Rockland Business** Exchange

Rockland County Pride Center RRC CPAs P.C. Sarah Goforth Steven Breen Suki Robins Total Advanced Communications

\$100 - \$249.99 AFLAC. Aldan Press Allstate Insurance Company AW Auto & Truck Wholesalers Basiliso Negron **Betsy Benjamin Bob's Art and Framing** Carole Gelfer **Carpets Plus of New York** County Animal Hospital, Inc. Cristina Mineo Dana Treacy Danilo Sulit **Darcy Bauer** David Rivera David's Bagels of New City **Dennis Fleming** Dina Nejman Dominic Ferro Don & Cissy Hanson Donna Borell Edwin Diaz Ellen Palop Elsa Seguinot Eric and Sabrina Roffman **Everlyn Pacheco-York** Eyes of Nanuet

\* Toni Fallon, much beloved supporter and advocate of VCS passed away on December 25th, 2019. Toni was of service to VCS for many years, the last 13 of which she served as a member of our Board of Directors.

### **Donors (continued)**

Faist & Yassky Families Hon. William P. Warren James & Ann Smith Jill Farrell Joseph & Cathy Zayas Julie Wendholt Karen Stern Cohen Lauren Ardizzone Linda Mower Malki Gartenberg Marcus & Sonia Williams Mark & Elaine Carlevaro Mark & Fiona Sanders Mark & Rachelle Acker Martha Taveras Mary Velez Michelle Lockett Morgan Stanley Wealth Management Nyack Seaport Center Orangetown Smiles Paul Trader Pet Nutrition Center Philip & Alba Zayas Phyllis Sirois Rena Finkelstein Rockland Bakery, Inc. Rockland County Hispanic Society Rockland Realty Rockland YMCA Rosie & Raymond Marrero Sharon Wohl Sherri Eisenpress Stanley Cadet Steve & Leigh Kinnard Susanna Cruz United Way of Rockland County Victor York Wanda Nieves Yemaya Massage & Wellness Center

2019 Special Recognition For years of service to VCS El Grupo de Madres Eileen Burge

> **For Photography** Ginny Geerdes: Shadow Photography

#### For Decorations at our Events

Maria Perez: Daisy's Decoration

#### 2019 Golf Committee

Kathy Bareket Kathy Bernhardt Susanne Fitzpatrick Phyllis B. Frank Ginny Geerdes Sarah Goforth Michele Kansky Nancy Kupperman Bari Lewart Douglas Mattliano Ed Mooney Patti Trichon Marie Wood Smith We sincerely appreciate *all* of our donors at *all* levels.



The newest VCS teammate, Lily Salmon, in her VCS onesie

### Volunteers

### 2019 Volunteer Counselors, Student Interns and Supervisors

#### Counselors

Raquel Abreu Margie Adames Deana Adams Judy Aiston Denet Alexandre Barrie Austin Yosmeirin Baez Kathy Bareket Rebecca Bassin Darcy Bauer Maria Bautista Richard Benfield Valerie Bernan Kathy Bernhardt **Ruth Berrios** Jane Bosley Nancy Bowen **Eileen Burge** Diane Campbell Evelyn Carayannis Zacharv Chaikin Tina Chamak Laura Coleman Susanna Cruz Chinee Dunn Vara Edara Nancy Elcik Nancie Eliscar Joan Faison Joseph Felix Sheila Foster **Michelle Francois Ryan Gardiner** Malki Gartenberg **Ginny Geerdes** Carina Genova Marina Gigante Louis Gilbert **Cindy Gisser** 

Esti Glauber Monica Griffin **Tiffany Grosso** Elinor Holland Jamie Hopper Mia Howard Deirdre Jayko Claire Jordan Deanna Joy Devorah Karp Doris Katz Susan Katz Beniamin Kaufman Lorraine Knabe Elizabeth Kotchmar Nancy Kupperman Bonnie LaBar Suzanne Lefkowitz **Debby Marcarelli** Candice Manson Angelica Marte Xiomara Menendez Joel Michel Linda Mower **Everlyn Pacheco-York** Ellen Palop Ana Marcela Patino Maria Perez Barbara Pfingst Lara Pohs Andrew Raska Sabrina Reider Beth Resnick-Folk Suki Robins Phil Rockfeld Kareen Viviana Ruiz Pietro Darla Salmon Monserrat Santana

Sue Saslaw

Deborah Sheehan Susan Silver Phyllis Sirois Veronica Strong Martha Taveras Melissa Turk Roiza Ungar Migdalia Valdes Rosanna Ventura Sonia Wagner Edna Ward Joan Ann Wasser Zvi Weiss Marie Wood Smith Alba Zavas

#### **Student Interns**

Akiel Andrew Jamesha Bradley Alana Cohen Ravi Dasari Theresa Egan Delia Esposito Baila Glauber Sarah Hatkoff Mariluz Hernandez Jacqueline Kelly Jennifer Ledesma Jamer Linares Eva Rappoport Jill Torrente Bobbie Angela Wong

#### Supervisors

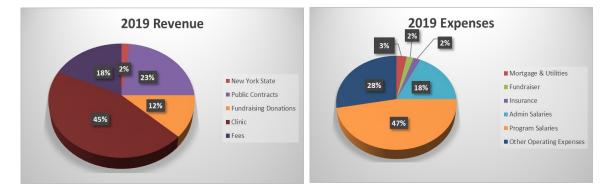
Elizabeth Alvarado **Jill Bieber** Shelly Burns Kathy Carty John Corcoran Phyllis Eisenberg Reka Foster Lynn Gartenberg Sarah Goforth Christine Haskell Marisa Kuropatkin Ian Laidlaw Gail Maurer Dina Nejman Azu Nieves Ellvn Rabinowitz Judy Rvan Marsha Safran Steve Safran Rosa Serrano-Delgado Dale Singer Celine Stillman Alice Taylor

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have heart."

# **Funding Sources**

During 2019, VCS received funding from many generous private foundations, corporations and individual donors, as well as the following contractors:

Active Cares Camp Venture NYS Medicaid NYS Medicare NYS Office For The Prevention Of Domestic Violence NYS Office of Children & Family Services NYS Office of Mental Health Rockland BOCES Rockland Community Foundation Rockland County Dept. of Probation Rockland County Dept. of Social Services Rockland County District Attorney's Office Rockland County Office for the Aging Rockland County Office of Mental Health Rockland County Youth Bureau United Way of Rockland County



# Collaboratives

The VCS General Counseling Program continues to collaborate with the following organizations:

Catholic Community Services Center for Safety & Change Central Presbyterian Church in Haverstraw Centro de Amigos Haverstraw Community Center Hudson River Health Clinic in Haverstraw Hudson River Health Clinic in Spring Valley Montefiore Nyack Hospital Refuah Health Center Rockland County School Districts

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."* 

15

### **Board of Directors and Staff**



## Board of Directors Officers

Phyllis Eisenberg, President Mary Ann Tozer, LCSW, Vice President Steven Breen, Treasurer John Sadowski, Secretary

## Board of Directors Members

Simona Chazen, LCSW Dennis Fleming Mimi Gelb, LMFT Esther Guzman Terry Knight Jonathan Kupperman Anita Levine Derek Nelson Mario Occhicone

### **Advisory Board**

Jeffrey M. Adams Hon. Harriet Cornell Hon. Frances M. Hunter Lawrence S. Karnbad Leonard Lipson, MA Amy Baldwin Littman, Esq Dennis McGloster George Menken, DDS Hon. Howard Miller Selma Porter, LCSW Les St. Louis

#### **Executive Staff**

Sarah Goforth, MS, CMC, CADCII, Executive Director Nancy Rosa, Financial Director Phyllis B. Frank, Senior Director

### **Administrative Staff**

Yosmeirin Baez, Front Desk Coordinator Bari Lewart, Executive Administrator Patti Trichon, Special Projects Coordinator

#### **Counseling and Family Services**

Rosa Serrano-Delgado, LCSW, Manager Jill Bieber, LMHC, Services for Older Adults & Families Coordinator Shelly Burns, LCSW, Parenting Apart Supervisor Kathy Carty, MS, Families in Need of Support Coordinator John Corcoran, LCSW, Student Intern Program Coordinator Beth Kipperman, Student Advocacy Program Coordinator Dina Nejman, MSW, General Counseling Intake Coordinator Darla Salmon, MFT, Parenting Apart Coordinator

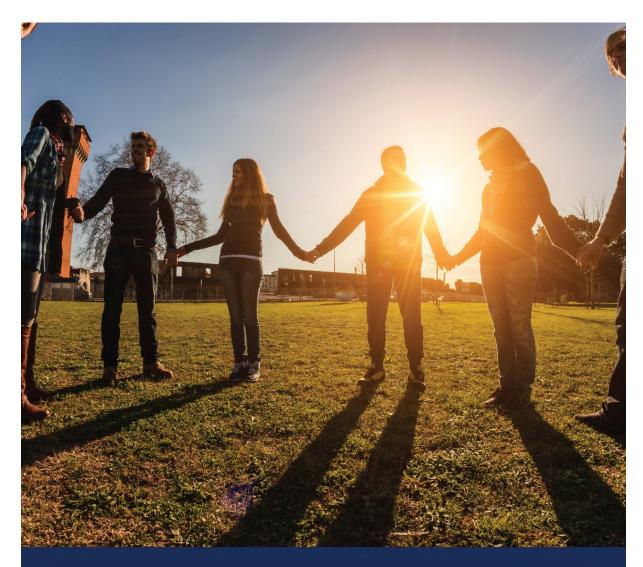
### **Mental Health Clinic**

Ian Laidlaw, LCSW-R, Manager Kevin Greco, Compliance/Privacy Officer Bari Lewart, Executive Administrator Richard Price, MD, Psychiatrist

Denet Alexandre, MHC Felicia Asch, LMSW Kathy Carty, MS, MHC Christy Castillo, MSW Bill DeSiena, LMSW Delia Esposito, MSW Julie Fadl, MSW Stella Farrell, LCSW Reka Foster, LMFT Hunter Harrow, MSW Eva Hernandez LCSW-R Mariluz Hernandez, MSW Jamie Hopper, LMFT Bonnie LaBar, MHC Ricardo Lima, LMSW Jamer Linares, MSW Maria Lucibello, MHC Willie Mae Murphy, LCSW Eva Rappoport, MSW Geraldine Ryan, MHC David Shipper, LMHC Jill Torrente, MSW Migdalia Valdes, LMSW

### Social Justice and Specialized Training Services

Susanne Fitzpatrick, DVPM, Records & Administration Maria Perez, DVPM Registrar, Court Liaison; English/Spanish Darla Salmon, MFT, NY Model for Batterer Programs and Racial Justice Initiatives, Administrative Coordinator, DVPM Instructor, Coordinator, Registrar



# Our services to the community are always growing

In order to continue to flourish and provide valuable services to the individuals and families of our community, we rely on our generous donors. You can make a difference in someone's life with a donation to VCS. Visit us online at vcs-inc.org to find the best way to contribute.

Services currently available in English, Spanish, Creole, French, Portuguese, Arabic and Yiddish.

#### Mental Health Clinic

**Counseling & Family Services General Counseling Program Relatives as Parents Program** Youth & Family Programs in Schools Services for Older Adults & their Families **Parents Education and Support Rockland Student Advocacy Program Employee Assistance Program Graduate Student Internship Program Volunteer Counselor Training Program Puentes:** All VCS Programs & Services in Spanish **Social Justice Initiatives and Trainings Undoing Racism Workshops Domestic Violence Program for Men** NY Model for Batterer Programs **National Training Institute** 

### Saving Lives in So Many Ways



77 South Main Street New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-5729

vcs-inc.org

