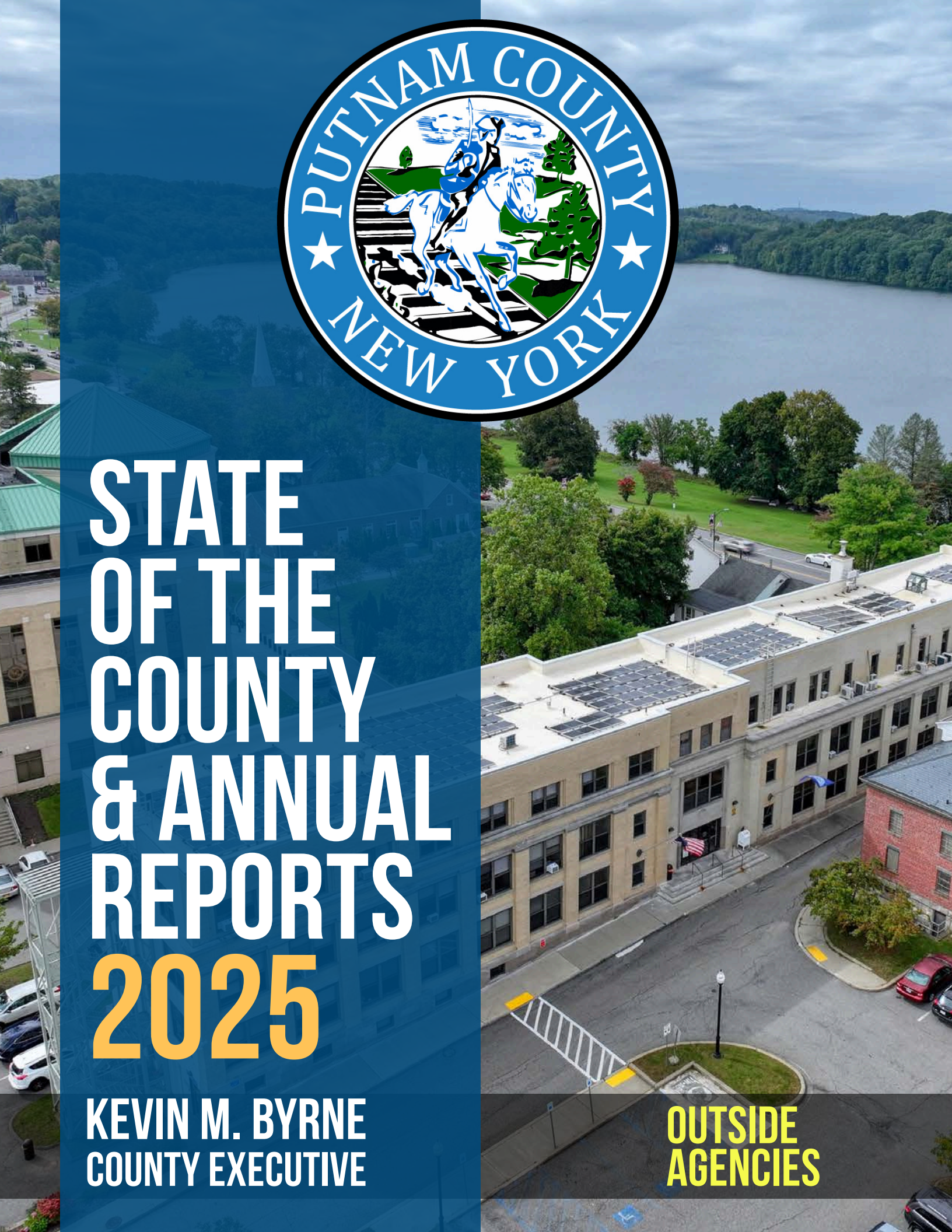




STATE OF THE COUNTY & ANNUAL REPORTS 2025

KEVIN M. BYRNE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

OUTSIDE
AGENCIES



Putnam County

Outside Agencies

2025 Annual Report

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Putnam Arts Council
PO Box 156
521 Kennicut Hill Road
Mahopac, New York 10541
845.803.8622 845.216.0636 cell
joyce@putnamartscouncil.com

I. Description of Agency:

The Putnam Arts Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) cultural organization chartered in 1963 by the NYS Department of Education for educational and museum purposes. We believe art is for everyone.

PAC provides leadership in the cultural development of the arts county-wide and connects artists and the arts to the public. PAC is a voice for the arts in community planning and has ongoing interactions with artists, arts organizations, and community presenters throughout Putnam County. PAC advocates for the arts county-wide, provides leadership in the cultural development of Putnam County while funding and presenting quality arts programs for the enrichment of Putnam County residents. The Council is housed in the Belle Levine Art Center in Mahopac, a hub of cultural activity which has been a destination for artists and the public for over 60 years.

The Executive Director is the Chief Operating Officer and reports directly to the Board Chairperson. In 2024 the Board was comprised of 9 individuals from a variety of municipalities reflecting the community in interest, location, and background. Governance requires vision and oversight, which are primary Board responsibilities. Monthly Board meetings focus on organizational capacity, financial position, and growth as well as program development. New board members are nominated by the Board and voted on by the organization's membership at an annual meeting.

PAC's re-grant, planning, scholarship, and fundraising panels (all volunteer) and a variety of committees enable PAC to extend its reach and broaden its vision. PAC also offers volunteer opportunities for internships and has worked with Putnam County Youth Bureau, Putnam County Probation, Putnam ARC, as well as area high schools, in our goal to be inclusive.

II. Services Provided

As a Putnam County Outside Agency, PAC is contracted with Putnam County to "provide cultural and educational services which promote, foster and perpetuate the visual, performing and literary arts." In this capacity PAC publishes a county-wide cultural arts calendar, and offers onsite arts education classes, concerts, and similar activities or projects for the benefit of the residents of Putnam County. Exhibitions such as the Art in Public Places program; workshops in the visual and performing arts; a summer arts program; theater performances; advocacy and outreach to surrounding arts groups; technical assistance workshops; studio tours and special events are characteristic of the work accomplished by PAC. PAC administers a regrant program comprised of funds from Putnam County and New York State. 100% of those County funds were dispersed to support quality arts programs throughout Putnam County in a variety of mediums. Many of these programs are free and most are very affordable. PAC will also continue to work with Tourism to curate, provide, and install artwork at Tilly's Table located at Tilly Foster Farm and looks forward to offering art classes and/or a lecture series if space is made available.

III. Mission:

The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) is dedicated to fostering the arts in all forms in Putnam County and its environs and providing the public with access to innovative and quality cultural arts programming, events, and activities.

IV. Population Served:

The Council supports projects and arts organizations county wide and serves cultural non-profits, community service organizations, artists of all interests and abilities in all Putnam County communities.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments & Points of Pride:

- **Art programs** – ongoing exhibitions at PAC featuring local artists with free public events throughout the year. In 2024 we showed 800 art pieces featuring 250 local artists in nine separate exhibitions. Free special events, open to the public, were presented at each of the 9 exhibitions.

70 classes in the visual and performing arts were offered to people of all ages and abilities. Several special needs students participated.

- CoveCare – PAC partnered with CoveCare to facilitate a free parent teen art night at – an art series promoting drug free communities – PAC provided (free) space for workshop.

- Partnership with Putnam County tourism to promote programs that enrich county residents

- Increase in applications to our Arts Link Regrant grant program reflecting that public funds are essential to facilitate quality arts programs throughout the County. Several new applicants applied including Cold Spring Dance Company, Putnam History Museum, and St. Mary's of the Highlands.

- Continued to collaborate with Guardian Revival Encore to provide free space for rehearsals.

- Collaboration with Southeast Museum in Brewster to help facilitate their re-opening with an exhibition held in both spaces.

- Continuation of 2 scholarship programs, one for adult artists and one to support tuition for children and or teens in need.

- Ongoing senior discounts for art classes, made possible through a bequest from a longtime friend and instructor.

- Representation of the arts on the leadership council of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation attendance at all meetings (hosting Jan 2025 meeting in our gallery).

- Annual partnership with Assemblyman Slater to judge *Earth Day Art Contest* and meet with young artist participants.

- Ongoing partnership with Putnam County Youth Bureau to present art exhibition "Building Bridges"

Notable savings: Hiring freeze, no incremental wage increases, use of volunteer services through Putnam County Probation for landscaping and maintenance. Energy and cost conscious policy encouraged both in building operations and in the investment of inventory supplies.

VI. Staffing:

One full time Executive Director and one part-time administrative assistant; 15 independent contractors (instructors) including a CPA and a bookkeeper. We had two weekly volunteers, one a hearing impaired instructor and one a Mahopac High School Student. Our instructors are working artists who are highly qualified.

VII. Sources of Revenue/Current trends

Additional revenue through increased art classes and workshops.

State support provided a small increase to operations and programs with level funding to regranteeing through a 3 year contract with some uncertainty for FY25.

We received a \$1500 through a grant from The Rotary Club of Mahopac to replace our vintage (old) phone network.

Expenses continue to climb for marketing/advertising, postage, printing, and building costs including fuel, electric and maintenance of a 4,000 square foot building and approximately 1 acre of land.

Options for Corporate / Foundations grants continue to be few and far between.

No unfunded mandates.

Goals for 2025

Continue to design and offer quality arts programs providing access to the arts for people of all ages and abilities.

Increase opportunities to raise revenue through Art Center programs.

Create a quarterly roundtable of cultural stakeholders facilitating networking, sharing of audiences and resources, and developing partnerships. Identify new artists and support all Putnam County Artists in the creation of new work and service to the community.

Increase awareness of the impact the arts have in addressing the following:

- Isolation and loneliness, Cognitive function, Anxiety, Self Esteem, Bullying
 - Providing a supportive environment for self-expression and creativity.
 - Facilitating live events for encouraging social engagement and interaction.
 - Connecting us to our shared history and bridging us to our future.
 - Presenting new and stimulating learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

Emphasize an awareness of the arts and its impact on economic development in Putnam County:

- Drawing people to Putnam County through cultural tourism.
- Providing job opportunities county-wide.
- Indirectly supporting local businesses including restaurants, shops, and services.

- Recognizing that the arts are good business and a quality of life indicator that strengthens the fabric of a community, enhances real estate value, and encourages local economic development.

The County of Putnam 2024 Funding Annual Report

Agency Name/Address: CAREERS Support Solutions, Inc.

Carmel office: 1961 Route 6, Suite 12, Carmel, NY 10512 (845) 225-8007

Main: 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, NY 10595 (914) 741-8500

Main Email Address: careersforpeople@aol.com

Contract #: C2023017

Executive Director: Christina Cornish-Lauria

Date: February 19, 2025

I. Description of Agency

CAREERS Support Solutions is a private, non-profit established in 1987 that empowers students and adults with intellectual, learning, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities throughout Putnam, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties, NY to achieve the dignity, financial independence and sense of community they deserve through meaningful employment. Our newest program is for seniors (55 years and older) – with, and without, disabilities. All of our services are provided at no cost to the individual, their families or employer.

For 38 years, our mission has been to empower people with disabilities achieve the dignity, financial independence and sense of community they deserve through meaningful employment. We achieve our mission through a robust combination of soft skills training, hands-on job search assistance, thorough on-the-job training and ongoing support throughout the duration of every client's relationship with CAREERS. We also teach life skills and social skills to individuals with disabilities not quite ready for a supported work program.

II. Services Provided

We offer targeted programs tailored for specific populations, including our High School Transition Program, Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program, Seniors Program, Ambition In Motion day hab without walls program and On Course for College for students moving on to college.

Putnam funding helped support the following programs and services in 2024, which target our different client populations:

- **Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program:** Our main program for adults with disabilities provides the job readiness, financial literacy and soft skills training needed for long-term job success. We develop resumes, practice interviewing, and set up and attend interviews. Once a client begins working, our Employment Specialists accompany them to work and stay with them throughout the training period until all required job skills are mastered. Once initial training is completed to the employer's satisfaction, we continue to provide long-term support while maintaining regular contact with the client, their family, employer and co-workers. Our staff trains each client until they can successfully function autonomously or with minimal assistance.

The classroom training is taught in groups, which helps our clients learn from each other on a variety of levels. They are able to observe, practice and develop appropriate workplace behaviors needed to obtain and keep a job. The interactive format helps participants make friends, gain confidence from one another, and facilitates successful interactions with managers, co-workers and customers, and in their personal lives. Developing social skills helps alleviate the isolation experienced by many individuals with disabilities.

- **High School Transition Program:** This program helps students with disabilities create a plan for their future and adjust to moving from a classroom to the workplace. We teach Workforce Readiness classes in high schools and our offices, helping students assess their skills and interests, prepare resumes and cover letters, and understand what is expected of them in the workplace. We place students in paid internships in the community, which can lead to paid jobs after graduation. Students receive on-the-job training, job coaching and ongoing support in areas such as communication, conflict resolution and transportation. Research shows that people with autism and other disabilities who participate in vocational training and/or job-related activities in high school are more likely to be gainfully employed as adults.
- **On Course for College:** Our Employment Specialists are paired with students who have a documented disability and meet college admission requirements for a degree or certificate program. Students receive help with admission procedures, registration and course selection. Our staff helps each student evaluate the resources campuses offer, including tutoring, student advocacy and available accommodations. We also provide one-on-one social support and services tailored to the changing needs of each participant, including problem solving, coping skills and stress management. This program helps students with disabilities navigate the complexities of college life while also preparing them for the working world.
- **Ambition In Motion (AIM):** This day habilitation without walls program teaches life skills to developmentally disabled adults who are not ready for traditional supported work. Small groups volunteer in the community to learn job and social skills, go on field trips, play sports, shop, cook, and do other tasks to learn independent living skills while also preparing for internships or paid jobs in the future.
- **Jobs for Seniors:** Our Employment Specialists help seniors age 55 and older, with and without disabilities, find employment with an individualized program that includes resume preparation, teaching workforce readiness skills and stress management, finding appropriate job openings, arranging and preparing for interviews, and providing any on-the-job training that is needed.

III. Mission Statement

CAREERS Support Solutions, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to find productive employment for individuals with learning, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities; provide extensive on-the-job training and ongoing support services; educate employers and the community about the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities; and form effective partnerships with employees, employers and families. Founded in 1987 by parents concerned with the shortage of employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, CAREERS' fundamental goal is to assist its clients in achieving the satisfaction of sustained, gainful employment within their communities.

IV. Population Served

Our target population is low-income adults and students with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities that reside in Putnam, lower Dutchess and Westchester

Counties, New York. CAREERS clients are of working age (ages 16 - 70) and are of any sex, race, sexual orientation or income – though the majority are low-income. Most are diagnosed with multiple disabilities, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, hearing, visual, and/or physical impairments.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

Please see the attached press release and articles about our programs/highlights.

During 2024, we worked with 92 Putnam residents with disabilities, including seniors, that would not have otherwise been able to learn skills needed, and/or be placed in jobs or programs that help them lead better lives. We received 13 new referrals, placed 20 in new jobs and 9 in paid internships and, most importantly, **we provided long-term ongoing job coaching support to 36 who would otherwise lose their jobs without our ongoing support.** Our programs provided the help and support that Putnam families needed for their family members. If we did not provide our services to them, the clients we worked with would have been stuck at home and been a burden for family members to try and deal with.

VI. Staffing

Like most businesses these days, we still have difficulty in hiring staff but we will also wait to hire the right person for each opening. We currently have one opening that we are trying to fill so we currently have 6 Employment Specialist's working in our Carmel office who provide services to all of Putnam County, plus our Executive Director who works in both offices each week.

VII. Sources of Revenue

We have many sources of revenue, and have 5 year contracts every five years with the following: the NYS Education Department (via ACCES-VR), the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the Office of Mental Health (OMH), and Medicaid. We also have annual contracts with local school districts. We have a fundraising thrift boutique just north of Shoprite on Rt. 52 in Carmel run by volunteers that generates some income as we have to fundraise an average of about \$300,000 annually to meet our extremely lean budget. We write grants continuously all throughout each year to assure that we meet our budget – and we always do. We have an annual fundraising event where we give awards to our clients that have excelled and to thank our supporters. Our Board of Directors do an annual appeal and we have a Monthly Sustainer Program for family members. Last year we had a Comedy Show fundraiser to help us meet our fundraising goal. During 2024, besides this grant, we received several grants that Senator Harkham helped us get and we are hoping that we will continue to receive funding from Putnam County going forward as we are providing extremely important services to the disabled population in Putnam County.

VIII. Goals for 2025

Goal # 1: To provide needed services to 100 Putnam residents with disabilities.

Goal # 2: To continue all our programs for Putnam residents in need, including our High School Transition Program, Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program, Seniors program, Ambition In Motion day hab without walls program and On Course for College.

Goal # 3: To continue to collaborate with other Putnam-based organizations to provide ancillary services like case management, psychiatry, social work, recreation, medical, transportation and other services that we do not provide to assure that all of our clients receive ALL the help they need to live better and healthier lives.

Just one of many Putnam success stories:

Putnam resident Ahmed Gonzalez was CAREERS 2023 Employee of the Year because he inspires his co-workers, friends, family and our staff with his positive, can-do attitude.

Ahmed came to CAREERS in 2018 where he became an enthusiastic participant in our Ambition In Motion (AIM) program to help people with developmental disabilities develop the life skills needed for independent living. The Mahopac resident made many friends in AIM while enjoying outdoor activities and volunteering in the community.

Ahmed has a speech impediment that at times limits his response to others, but as he became more comfortable with his new friends and program staff, he was better able to communicate and participate fully in activities. AIM expanded his confidence level and after a few years in the program, he expressed an interest in working in an internship in the community.

CAREERS found Ahmed that opportunity at CVS in Mahopac, and though anxious at first, with coaching and support from his CAREERS Employment Specialist and guidance from his CVS Supervisor, Ahmed settled into the position and began to learn the skills he needed in our Community Pre-Vocational Program.

Ahmed mastered many retail functions, including stocking the shelves, rotating products and checking expiration dates, first at CVS and then at Tops Friendly Market in Carmel. His persistence paid off when he accepted a paid position as a grocery clerk at Tops in 2023. Ahmed has blossomed since coming to CAREERS. He achieved his goal of employment and expresses his thoughts and ideas clearly and with confidence. He is kind, respectful and has a great sense of humor. We are so proud of him and will continue to work with him on-the-job for many years to come so he may remain successfully, and happily, employed.



Ahmed Gonzalez was named 2023 CAREERS Employee of the Year (pictured above with his brother Musa and Employment Specialist Marielena Behnken).

He enjoys doing volunteer work with his buddies in our AIM group like picking up litter in Carmel's skate park (pictured right).



Cornell Cooperative Extension

Putnam County

Terravest Corporate Park
1 Geneva Road
Brewster, New York 10509
t. 845-278-6738
f. 845-278-6761
putnam@cornell.edu
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

TO: Kevin M. Byrne
County Executive

FROM: Stefanie Hubert,
Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2024 Annual Report

DATE: January 29, 2025

Enclosed please find our **2024 Annual Report**, along with a sincere thank you for Putnam County's continued support. This report is a brief synopsis highlighting Extension's responsiveness, nimbleness, creativity, and relevance throughout 2024. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County connects Putnam communities to services and resources from a variety of stakeholders, giving our communities access to no- or low-cost solutions to emerging challenges. Our diverse and flexible professional educators and trained volunteers delivered education, information, and services to thousands of Putnam residents through a variety of methods, including unique events such as the *Putnam County Fair and 4-H Showcase* and *Open House on the Farm*. Our program initiatives focus on the following issues: **Strengthening Community & Economic Vitality; Enhancing the Environment; and Strengthening Individuals and Families; Agriculture & Food Systems.**

Highlights and Trends:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County:

- Provided 8,792 volunteer community service hours in Putnam County.
- Reached 19,565 Putnam residents with person-to-person programming.
- Served 1,453 Putnam youth through 4-H youth development programs and clubs.
- Delivered 11,148 free meals through the CCE Bountiful Meals freezers.
- Purchased 219,401 pounds of locally grown produce from farmers for food pantry programs including Farm to Truck, which offered free produce, eggs, meat, bread, and more to residents throughout the county via a mobile farm stand.

It is also important to note:

- Cooperative Extension's 390 volunteers, supervised by four professional staff, multiply our community outreach. These vetted and trained volunteers provided educational programs and services valued at \$327,854. (Independent Sector 2024)
- We leveraged Putnam County's core funding of \$362,305 with additional funding from the state and federal governments and other sources. Without the County's funding, this leveraged support would not be forthcoming.
- Putnam County provides less than one-third, or 29% of our CCE funding however receives 100% of the programs.



Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUTNAM COUNTY

Agency Address – 1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509

Phone Number – 845-278-6738

Main email address – putnam@cornell.edu

- I. Description of Agency - Since 1944, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County (CCEPC) has extended research-based information and education to the residents of Putnam County, connecting Cornell University's world-class research with regional and county-based educators and partners. CCEPC is uniquely positioned to tailor opportunities and resources to match the diverse and evolving needs of individual communities.

CCEPC partners with local, state, and federal government agencies, and is supported by the national Land-Grant system and Cornell University. In fulfillment of Cornell's Land-Grant mission, faculty and staff collaborate with extension associates, agriculture specialists, CCE educators and staff, local partners, and volunteers to engage citizens and empower communities to transform and grow from the ground up. CCEPC educators develop programming that collects information and experience from their own communities to inform Cornell research and program development.

At Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County, we take pride in our unwavering commitment to reflecting the demographics of the county. Our dedication to fostering a culture of belonging shines through in our programs, outreach efforts, and the diverse representation of our leadership (board members and key staff). By actively recruiting and hiring individuals who reflect the rich tapestry of our population, we ensure that our services are inclusive and accessible to all. In 2024, our elected board members represented a vibrant mix of backgrounds, including diverse races, ages, genders, socioeconomic statuses, health conditions, and geographic locations within the county. Our staff embodies diversity in key positions, with individuals from various backgrounds, spanning different age groups, abilities, and socioeconomic statuses.

- II. Services Provided - From food and nutrition to economic vitality to environmental and social resilience, CCEPC is dedicated to improving lives across Putnam County. CCEPC connects communities with Cornell University research from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and the College of Human Ecology (CHE) to enrich and empower neighbors, local businesses, towns, and villages. CCEPC works hard to improve:
- Farming and food production
 - Parenting, family life and family dynamics
 - Health and nutrition
 - Veteran and military family opportunities
 - Water, land and energy conservation and management
 - Community resilience and economic vitality

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- Nutrition education and health
- Positive Youth Development

III. Mission Statement – Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

IV. Population Served – Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County serves all Putnam County residents regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, political beliefs, and/or income.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County:

- Provided 8,792 volunteers community service hours in Putnam County valued at \$327,854 (Independent Sector 2024)
- Reached 19,565 Putnam residents with person-to-person programming.
- Served 1,453 Putnam youth through 4-H youth development programs and clubs.
- Delivered 11,148 free meals through the CCE Bountiful Meals freezers.
- Purchased 219,401 pounds of locally grown produce from farmers for food pantry programs including the Farm to Truck food truck, which offered free produce, eggs, meat, bread and more to residents throughout the county via a mobile farm stand.

a. **Recently completed projects/programs**

Family and Youth Development

- Hosted 143 high-school aged youth at the Putnam County Youth Forum, in partnership with the Putnam County Youth Bureau, preparing them for their future in our communities and our world (Funder New York State Office of Children and Family Services).
- Read to more than 600 second grade students at all six Putnam School Districts during NYS 4-H Ag Literacy Week during March 2024.
- Educated 300 middle/high school students during their Mental Health and Wellness Fair about the CCE organization and 4-H programs.
- Created and supported four new 4-H Clubs: two for youth ages 5-8, one STEAM Club and one Sewing Club.
- Onboarded nine new 4-H club leaders.
- Sent one high school senior and 4-H member to the first-ever Agricultural Leadership Conference in Albany.

Agriculture & Food Systems

- New Bountiful Meals freezers were placed in CoveCare Center, Brewster Library, and William Koehler Memorial Senior Center in addition to the existing freezers at Putnam Valley Senior Center, Cold Spring Friendship

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Center, and Putnam Valley Free Library, providing ready-to-heat frozen meals.

- 11,148 free nutrient-dense meals delivered through our Bountiful Meals program.
- Approximately 16,000 were served through the food truck, receiving free, nutrient-dense produce, meat, eggs, and dairy purchased from Hudson Valley farmers.
- 219,401 pounds of food purchased from Hudson Valley farmers, equaling the weight of 18 elephants.
- Built relationships with 13 community sites in Putnam County for the Farm to Truck program, delivering free food items, including all Senior Centers in the county, Brookside Senior Mobile Home, and the Putnam Lake Firehouse.
- Provided eight farmers with technical assistance and aided 60 new and existing farmers with workshops in Agroforestry, Small Fruits, and Beginner Sheep and Goats.
- Food preservation workshops (canning) held at Tilly Foster Farm.
- Close to \$500,000 put into the local agricultural economy spent on produce, meat, eggs, and dairy.

Natural Resources

- Educated 100 Putnam residents on lakeshore buffers and water quality by partnering with NYS Federation on Lake Associations, Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation, and Kent Lakes Association, on a Regional Lakes Conference held in Putnam County.
- Marked our second year of the agroforestry demonstration plot at Tilly Foster Farm as part of a growing trend in non-timber forest products and community food forests. We offered a hands-on log grown shiitake workshop for forest landowners (22) with the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and Women Owning Woodlands (WOW). Expanded our reach by hosting a program with Guardian Revival for eight veterans and first responders to teach them the art and science of shiitake cultivation.
- Distributed more than 6,800 native trees, shrubs, and perennials to support pollinators through the Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale, (partnering with the county's Soil & Water Conservation District), and Master Gardener May Plant Sale.
- Partnered with Kent Highway Department to co-host a safety training for Putnam County and Kent Highway staff (46) on dangerous invasive species they could come into contact with in their line of work. Recruited NYC DEP and NYS IPM educators to deliver this collaborative program.
- Educated a diverse audience (22) of Farmers, DOT workers, Nuisance Wildlife Operators and Taxidermists on Animal Mortality Composting with an expert from Cornell University's Waste Management Institute.

Community Horticulture

"Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities"

- Advised 332 clients including green industry professionals and residents through our horticulture hotline and diagnostic lab on integrated pest management and pesticide use, to protect water quality, environmental and human health.
- Introduced 16 adult gardeners and eight young gardeners in Putnam Valley to low-cost vegetable gardening through the “Seed to Supper” program, and provided growing resources in conjunction with Cornell Garden Based Learning and the Oregon Food Bank. Growing one’s own food not only provides for healthier eating, but research has shown that children who grow food with their parents are significantly more likely to eat vegetables.
- Reached 168 residents with messages on backyard composting, waste-stream reduction, and sustainable landscape practices in conjunction with PC DOH.

Smart Energy Choices- Mid-Hudson Region

- CCEPC is one of nine organizations serving the seven-county Mid-Hudson region and educated 11,310 participants on energy and cost-saving programs through 419 virtual and in-person events.
- At least 1 in 3 people acted on a project after talking with an energy advisor.
- There were 569 Mid-Hudson participants in programs recommended by energy advisors, of which 52% were low-income and wrap-around services.

Nutrition

- Partnered with the Putnam County Department of Health and Office of Senior Resources as well as the Mental Health Association, Putnam CAP and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, directly educating 129 people.
- Tabled events/resource fairs with the Putnam County Department of Social Services, Putnam CAP, Putnam and Dutchess Senior Fair, and Assemblyman Matt Slater’s Senior Resource Fair, reaching 127 participants.

b. New projects/programs

- Expansion of Bountiful Meals from Farm Fresh Food Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and NYS Department of Ag & Markets Track 2 totaling \$82,458 to cover all four Putnam County Senior Centers in partnership with Office for Senior Resources as well as two additional distribution sites including CoveCare Center to distribute free, farm-fresh meals prepared by Second Chance Foods.
- Partnering with Columbia University engineering researchers, CCEPC will begin our first growing season in our newly built climate battery, solar greenhouse. Food, grown hydroponically in this greenhouse, will be donated into the local emergency food system in collaboration with Putnam County Food System Coalitions efforts. The facility will also be an educational location for 4-H and school youth groups.
- Expansion of Community Seed Libraries: following a successful second year of this program in which we distributed 1,685 vegetable and herb seed packets to patrons of five Putnam County libraries, we will expand this effort

“Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities”

to include all eight of Putnam County's libraries in 2025. (Funding for this program comes from the Master Gardener Volunteer May Plant Sale.)

- Started and supported four new 4-H clubs: two Cloverbud Clubs for youth ages 5-8, one STEAM Club, and one Sewing Club. On-boarded nine new Leaders.

c. Points of pride (noteworthy departmental accomplishments/successes)

- The Cornell Barn's Phase I Capital Campaign surpassed its \$384,900 goal with \$478,539.
- Construction of a climate battery, solar greenhouse in Brewster.
- The Putnam County Country Fest and 4-H Showcase, a collaboration between Putnam County and Cornell Cooperative Extension, welcomed over 10,000 guests.
- We secured approximately \$4 million towards food security initiatives in Putnam County.
- The Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale and May Plant Sale distributed more than 6,800 native trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Bountiful Meals program distributed 11,148 free meals to freezers countywide.

d. Notable savings realized.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County's highly trained cadre of volunteers provided 8,792 hours of community education valued at \$327,854 (Independent Sector 2024). 8,792 hours is the value of 4.8 full time equivalent, thus allowing our staff to dedicate their time assessing other notable Putnam County issues.
- November 30, 2024's Statement of Operations calculates CCEPC's average budget percentage at 92%. This snapshot shows income at 105% and expenses at 98%. Additionally, Cornell's cash to debt ratio is 1.37 and our current ratio is 2.70.

e. Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office

- Addressing Food Insecurity: Bountiful Meals program in Putnam County Senior Centers, and community partner locations, as well as our Farm to Truck mobile pantry initiative reaching underserved areas, and significant funding towards future food security initiatives.
- Protecting Water Quality, especially Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS), protecting waterfront property/lakeside communities from erosion, and stormwater management with multi partner collaboration.
- Participation on the Putnam County Climate Smart Task Force which aided the county in taking actions to reduce its carbon footprint and mitigate climate change, resulting in New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation certifying Putnam as a Bronze Level Climate Smart Community.
- Productive relationships with Putnam County departments, multiplying our impact, including educational workshops with SNAP-Ed NY at county senior centers.

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- Proposed updates to the Putnam County Fair and 4-H Showcase to include Friday evening and extended hours Saturday and Sunday. Rev 250 will be highlighted at this summer's fair.

VI. Staffing

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County employes eight staff members and hosts one staff member from Dutchess County and one from Orange County Cooperative Extension offices.
- Changes in current staffing and/or new staff: We are pleased to welcome Brandy Keenan, 4-H educator; Amanda Colley volunteer and program coordinator; and Rachael Paradise, operations coordinator.

VII. Sources of Revenue

- a. Capacity funding from federal, state and county appropriations is the critical foundation of Cornell Cooperative Extension, while grants, contracts, fees, and gifts provide some support. Over the past several decades, the purchasing power of federal capacity funding, distributed via formula, has been steadily reduced. Capacity funds are often leveraged three- to four-fold with other funding sources. The 'cooperative' in Cornell Cooperative Extension is the joint funding provided by federal, state and county partners. For further information see Attachment A.
- i. Current trends in the cost of service – CCEPC has seen an increase in operational costs by ≈10 while providing similar services as in previous years. Items seeing the most significant increase in cost include, but are not limited to insurance, staffing, supplies, and utilities.
- ii. New, unfunded mandates – n/a

SOURCE	%
Federal	4
NY State	38
County	29
Other Contracts	3
Programs	2
Contrib Unrestricted	15
Contrib Temp Restricted	9

VIII. Goals for 2025

- Applied for funding to assess and plan a robust trail system within the Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary in Carmel. This project is a partnership between Putnam County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam with input from the NY/NJ Trail Conference and the county historian's office. Will also identify natural, historical, and cultural resources that connect visitors with those resources as part of Rev 250.
- Community Food Project USDA-NIFA goals will increase fresh produce on food pantry shelves, serve six hundred new participants, and increase culturally relevant food by 25% served by emergency food providers will continue in 2025.
- Started on our path to a community food forest by creating a Log-grown Shiitake mushroom demonstration at Tilly Foster Farm, with supporting educational programs planned in 2025.

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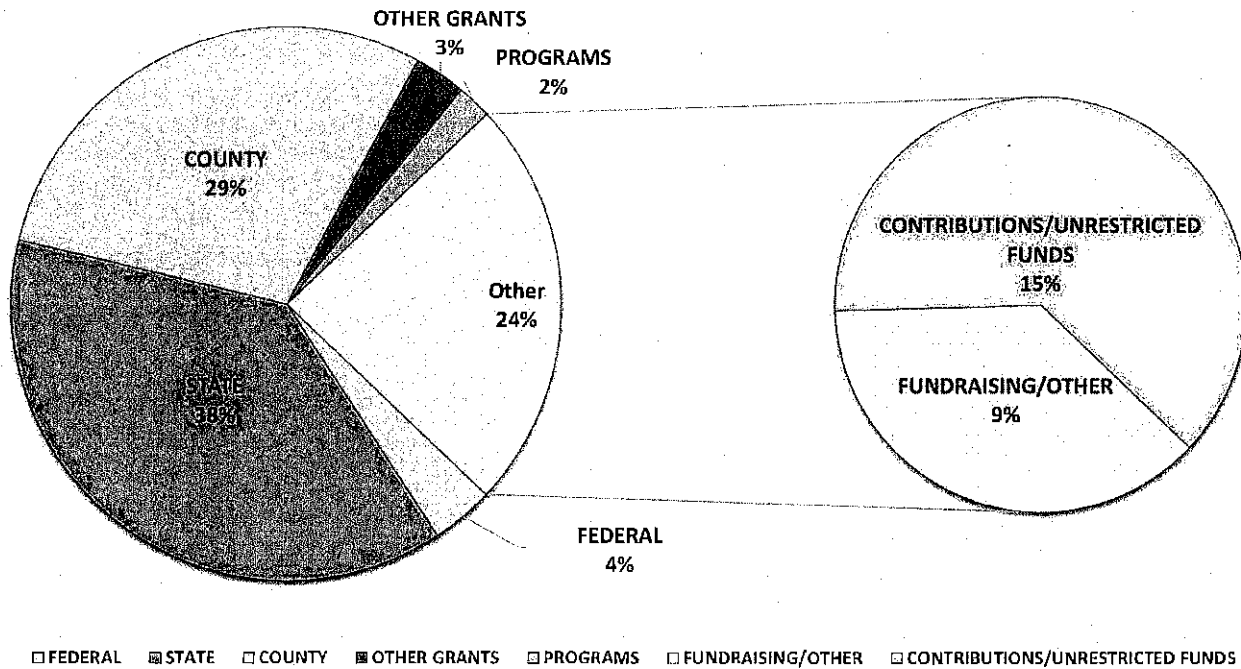
- Kick off Phase II of the Capital Campaign for the Cornell Barn. The fundraising goal for this phase is to raise \$350,000 to complete the build-out of Cornell's new administrative offices and community room/lecture hall.
- Complete construction of the Zero-Energy Greenhouse, a collaboration between Columbia University, Pleasant View Farm and Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Help run and sustain an afterschool Garden Club at an elementary school serving students K-5 using the Dig Art! Cornell Curriculum starting in March 2025 and running until June.
- Having received certification to develop a trail riding and camping horse program for Putnam County youth, planning is in the works for a 2025-2026 program.
- Begin a year-round Garden 4-H Club that will meet the 4-H pillar of "Healthy Living."
- Begin and support a Livestock 4-H Club.
- Host and support several "SPARK" programs in collaboration with the Master Gardeners on: Beekeeping, Entomology (bugs), Ornithology(birds), Mycology (fungi), and a family hiking challenge.
- Work with Putnam County schools to address food-insecure students through the Backpack Program.
- Deliver Smarter Lunchroom professional development with Brewster Central School District Food Service staff to encourage students to make healthy choices.
- Work with the Town of Kent to develop a food security initiative that includes a food insecurity assessment and three new meal distribution sites at community locations.
- Purchase more than \$750,000 worth of local food from Hudson Valley farmers for free distribution to the public.
- Add a new Bountiful Meals freezer at Carmel Senior Center.
- Grow and expand the Putnam County Fair & 4-H Showcase to attract more people including middle through high school-age youth with longer hours, new attractions, additional vendors.

Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office

- Addressing Food Insecurity with our Bountiful Meals program and Farm to Truck mobile pantry initiative to continue reaching underserved areas.
- Protecting water quality, protecting waterfront property/lakeside communities from erosion, and stormwater management with multi partner collaboration.
- Continuing participation on the Putnam County Climate Smart Task Force.
- Building relationships with Putnam County departments, multiplying our impact.
- Grow and expand the Putnam County Fair and 4-H Showcase. Rev 250 will also be highlighted at this summer's fair.

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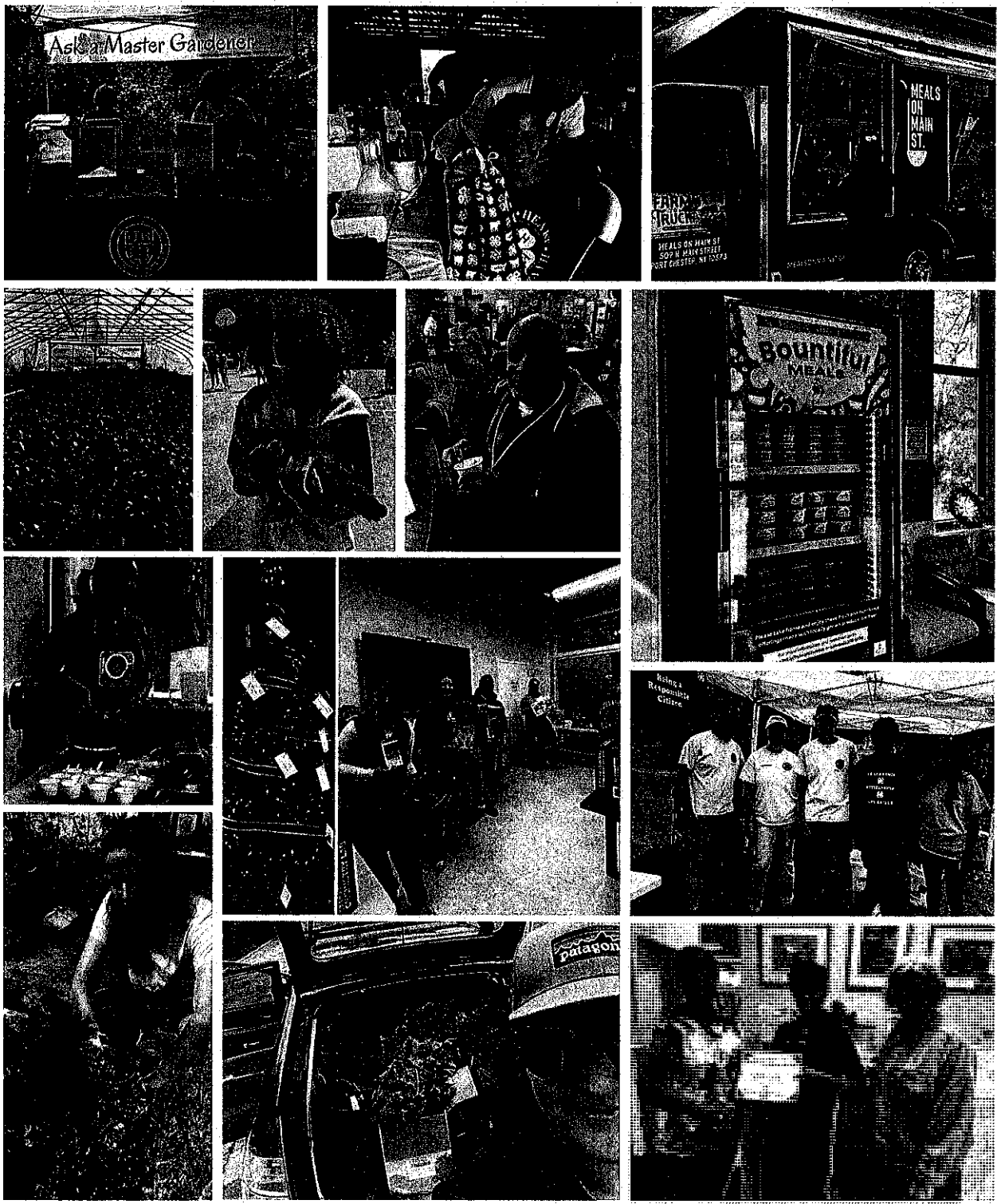
Revenue Source



PUTNAM COUNTY		
Annual Appropriation	\$	362,305.00
Other County Support	\$	10,249.97
TOTAL PUTNAM COUNTY SUPPORT	29% \$	372,554.97
STATE		
County Law 224	\$	141,465.25
Fringe Benefits	\$	340,694.56
University Resources	\$	3,696.64
TOTAL STATE SUPPORT	38% \$	485,856.45
FEDERAL		
Smith Lever	\$	16,789.60
University Resources	\$	30,412.66
TOTAL FEDERAL SUPPORT	4% \$	47,202.26
OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT		
Enrollment Fees, Program Participation Fees	\$	26,165.70
Sale of Equipment, Income from Publications, Dividend, Income, Interest, Facilities Use, Fundraising, Miscellaneous Sources	\$	113,259.80
Restricted and Unrestricted Contributions	\$	202,477.88
Special Projects: Grants	\$	36,442.56
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT	29% \$	378,345.94
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SUPPORT	\$	1,283,959.62

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Cornell Cooperative Extension | Putnam County



"Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities"

**2024 Outside Agency Annual Report
January 28, 2025**

Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC)

Kathleen Abels, President
40 Gleneida Avenue, 3rd Floor
Carmel, NY 10512
Office: (845) 808-1021
Cellular: (845) 242-2212
kathleen.abels@putnamcountyny.gov
www.putnamedc.org

Description of Agency

PCEDC is a 501(c) 6 not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York since 1996 to act as the external marketing organization for the economic development of Putnam County. The PCEDC performs as a team with Putnam County Department of Tourism and the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency.

Services Provided

- Perform Site Searches for NYS Empire State Development Corporation.
- Provide Letters of Support to people and projects applying for Grants and/or loans including for HVSF, the Copeland Foundation, etc. this year.
- Represent Putnam County on the Mid-Hudson Region Economic Development Council, Hudson Valley Regional Council, the New York Economic Development Council, the NYS Empire State Development Corporation and Pattern for Progress events, including the Annual Main Street Conference.
- Direct individuals and organizations to opportunities and incentives, such as Consolidated Funding Applications, Main Street Grants, Workforce Development Initiatives, Preservation Programs, New York State Affordable Housing grants, etc.
- Serve on Red Carpet Team of the Putnam Workforce Partnership along with representatives from Westchester Community College, Dutchess Community College, the IDA, NYSDOL, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES and SCORE.
- Hold semi-annual leadership meetings for Chambers of Commerce, Business Council, Tourism, Putnam Arts Council, the History community (REV250) and the IDA to help define roles and goals and to foster a regional approach to concerns such as the workforce shortage, housing and childcare.
- Advocate for infrastructure improvements county-wide. Foster the reoccupation and repurposing of vacant buildings in concert with historic preservation. Encourage Main Street revitalization, Transit Oriented Development and walkable communities.
- Prepared annual list of Majors Employers in Putnam County for Planning Department.

- Active member of Commercial Brokers' Associations including HGAR and Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) is to promote the economic vitality of Putnam County, to retain and grow existing businesses, attract new businesses, broaden the County's tax base, and increase employment opportunities for County residents. The PCEDC acts as a facilitator, bringing together businesses, government agencies and other stakeholders.

Population Served

The PCEDC provides services to existing and prospective businesses, municipal leaders, and collaborative agencies in economic development, including realtors, developers, planners, engineers, business attraction agents and workforce development specialists.

Indirectly, PCEDC works to create economic opportunity for all Putnam County residents by attracting and retaining desirable employers and jobs, expanding the tax base, and enriching the overall quality of life in Putnam County with smart and balanced development.

Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

- *FilmPutnam* – continued to attract filmmaking and post-production work to Putnam County. This fosters employment for crew members, actors, background extras and services such as accounting, catering, lodging and food. Films and productions partially shot in Putnam County in 2024 included *The Four Seasons* and *Wake Up Dead Man*, the third and final installment in the *Knives Out* series.
- Oversaw another refresh of PCEDC's website and our growing social media outreach.
- Organized and hosted two Leadership Meetings for the four Chambers of Commerce, Putnam County Business Council, Putnam Arts Council, IDA, the History Community and Tourism.
- Hosted meeting for elected officials, not-for-profits, community and business organizations on the childcare crisis in the Hudson Valley on May 9 at InterArts Building in Patterson.
- Served as a panelist on Hudson Valley Gateway Realtor's Association Economic Round Table on May 23 in White Plains for the Lower Hudson Valley.
- In June and July, worked extensively with Valerie Kurtz, Supervisor of Early Intervention and Preschool, Putnam County Department of Health, to help find a location for a school for young, special needs children. Currently, the cost of transportation alone to bus young, special needs students to various locations is \$1.6M annually.
- On October 3 at the Putnam County Golf Course, PCEDC hosted a well-attended (attendance of 126, up 60% vs. 2023) Breakfast Symposium. Keynote presentation "Downtown Revitalization in the Hudson Valley" by developer Joe Cotter of National Resources, Inc., the exclusive developer for the Village of Brewster Revitalization, Brewster Crossing, was very well received. A Panel

Discussion was moderated by Alana Daly, VP of Communications and Public Policy at Northeast Gas Association, featuring panelists Adam Bosch, President & CEO of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, Carla Castilla, Executive Director of Hudson Valley Regional Council and Linda Malave, Regional Director of Empire State Development Mid-Hudson Regional Office.

Staffing

- One salaried employee; no benefits (“President”)
- One part-time (to 10 hours per week) hourly employee (“Administrative Assistant”).

2024 Officers & Directors

Chairman – Alana Daly Mikhalevsky, VP of Communications and Public Policy, Northeast Gas Association

Vice Chairperson – Don Minichino, Licensed Salesperson, Houlihan Lawrence

Treasurer – Richard Weiss, CPA, Founder of Weiss Financial Advisory

Secretary – Walter Recher, Founder & President, Smallball Marketing

Kimball Gell, Owner, Fresh Company and Dolly’s Landing Restaurant, Garrison, NY

Dr. Mark Hirko, President, Putnam Hospital Center

Marjorie Nichols Keith, retired Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County

Dylan Miyoshi, NYSEG, Program Manager – Government & Community Relations, Mid-Hudson Region

Christopher W. Ryder, Executive VP, Putnam County National Bank

Robert Zubrycki, Violinist, Concertmaster, NYC Chamber Orchestra

Kerrie Mehalakes, District Director, Central Hudson Gas and Electric

Bill Dunkel, Senior Commercial Loan Officer, Tompkins Community Bank

Sources of Revenue

The PCEDC is primarily funded by Putnam County. In addition, for the last three years, PCEDC has hosted an annual Breakfast Symposium for educational as well as for fundraising purposes.

Goals for 2025

- Grow the talent pool necessary to attract and support businesses.
- Continue *Film Putnam* as a joint effort of the PCEDC, the Putnam County Department of Tourism and the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency. New York State is one of the most dynamic film and television production centers in the world, The New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development (MPTV) offers generous incentive and tax credit programs. Putnam County offers proximity to talent, transportation and unrivaled location sites.
- Continue to be a cheerleader for agriculture and agritourism. The farm brewery legislation has generated employment and economic development for supporting industries, including bottling, construction, freight, printing, and advertising.

- Pursue the designation of a Qualified Production Facility (QPF), also known as a soundstage, to attract more filmmaking and post-production work.
- Plan, prepare and execute the fourth annual Business Symposium in early October 2025.
- Attract, retain, and help grow businesses in Putnam County to broaden the County's tax base and to increase quality employment opportunities for County residents.
- Continue to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to our economic ecosystem and to stay on track with growth that enhances the quality of life for our community.

Addendum – Large Business Projects in Progress Putnam County

Village of Brewster:

- *iPark Brewster - Brewster Crossing* – This is a Main Street revitalization/Transit Oriented Development project.

Town of Carmel:

- Alexandrian/Gleneida Distillery LLC, Seminary Hill Road – Plans revised to include a 200-room destination hotel. New approvals needed.

Town of Patterson:

- Proposed Patterson Crossing Retail Shopping Center approved and ready to go
- +- 120 room Adirondack-style hotel is proposed at Route 311 and Fair Street. Developer Pete Monteleone is moving forward with acquiring approvals from outside agencies, including NYCDEP, NYSDEC and NYSDOT.

Town of Philipstown:

- Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's (HVSF) had a ground-breaking ceremony in November for its permanent home in Garrison. HVSF was awarded very generous NYS grant money in 2024.

Town of Southeast:

- AceEndico's third expansion in progress for additional 117,000 sq. ft. of building space. AceEndico now has over 500 employees.
- Lincoln Logistics warehouses and distribution center on Pugsley Road is completed. Lesser Evil, a popcorn company from Connecticut, is leasing one of the two buildings.
- The Farm at Brewster Yards, a multi-sports complex, has received all final approvals. This will create additional demand for restaurants, hotels and other lodging.
- Volz Cloverleaf (near a Brewster Ford in between 684 Northbound and Southbound) is completed. This will be an Enterprise parking lot /HQ (not a rental outlet) and a storage area for Brewster Ford vehicles.

- 6,000 sq. ft. NYS Police troopers' barrack is approved for Highland Center at 126 Independence way.

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President Richard Litsky
P.O. Box 1272
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 721-0783
putnam-sporting-clubs@googlegroups.com

I. Description of Agency

- a. The Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc. was organized on February 10, 1954 is a membership-based organization committed to advocating for the interests of the outdoor sports community in Putnam County, New York.
- b. We collaborate closely with the county's sportsmen's clubs, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, elected representatives, and others dedicated to preserving wildlife and natural resources.
- c. In partnership with Putnam County, our 501c3 supports the sportsmen and sportswomen of Putnam County and New York State, working to ensure that the rich legacy and traditions of outdoor sports endure for generations to come.

II. Services Provided

- a. Trout and Walleye Stocking
 - i. We engage in the stocking of trout and walleye under permit by New York State DEC in lakes and streams throughout the county and actively support the DEC in their efforts to stock streams.
- b. Ringneck Pheasant Stocking
 - i. Additionally, we participate in the propagation of Ringneck Pheasants to the Cranberry Mountain MUA, Cornwall Meadows MUA, and DEP Horsepound Wildlife Management Unit. The Federation's stocking activities commence in November, following the completion of DEC's stocking efforts in October
- c. Junior Hunter Pheasant
 - i. Each September, we offer a chance for Junior Hunter small game license holders to participate in a pheasant hunt alongside trained dogs. This takes place on the Cornwall Meadows Multiple Use area, in the Town of Patterson. The Federation ensures that the

land is stocked for the occasion and provides light refreshments for the day. The day starts with a safety brief, given by one of our local Environmental Conservation Officers, fostering positive relationships between Junior Hunters and New York State DEC law enforcement.

III. Mission Statement

- a. At the heart of our Federation is the belief that 'One Voice Represents Many,' a sentiment embodied in the motto of the Federation Insignias Patch. As a unified amalgamation of diverse Sportsmen's Clubs in Putnam County, our mission is to serve as a centralized hub. We function as a clearing house for addressing challenges encountered by individual member clubs, ensuring a collective voice for the sporting community.
- b. Our commitment extends to representing Putnam County on the state level through the New York State Conservation Council and the New York State DEC Region 3 Fish & Wildlife Management Board. Through elected delegates, we participate in vital discussions at various meetings of the New York State Council and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. With a shared purpose, we strive to advocate, protect, and uphold the interests of our member clubs and the broader sporting community to ensure legacy of responsible conservation and outdoor sportsmanship.

IV. Population Served

- a. Putnam County Sporting clubs, youths wanting to enter in Fishing and Wildlife sports and Outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen in Putnam County.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

- a. In a cooperative effort involving the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Federation Officers, a significant agreement was reached permitting the propagation of Ringneck Pheasants on the Horsepound Wildlife Management Unit owned by New York City's DEP. This marked the inaugural authorization by the DEP for the propagation of this species.
- b. Over 450 Ringneck Pheasants were released upon public lands in Putnam County open for hunting to residents and visitors to the County.

- c. Over 1500 Walleye fish were stocked on waters within Putnam County open to Public Fishing Access. 2500 less than the previous year because of the water level at many of the accessible stocking points were too low.
- d. On July 20th, 2024, we conducted a youth fishing clinic with 50 participants.



- e. On September 28th, 2024, the Federation initiated the NYS DEC Youth Pheasant Hunt Weekend. We facilitated the event by offering proficient bird dogs and experienced bird hunters, aiming to cultivate and uphold the ethical traditions of bird hunting for junior hunters from Putnam and neighboring counties.



- f. On June 29th we participated in the Lake Carmel Fishing derby.

VI. Staffing

- a. Federation Officers are comprised of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, representative to the Region 3 Fish & Game and a representative to the New York State Conservation Council. The general membership encompasses individuals from various sportsmen's clubs across Putnam County.
- b. Ray Merlotto has resigned as president and will remain as consultant to the incoming officers as needed. 2025-2026 term of Officers going forward are: President (Richard Litsky), Vice-President (Mike Tozzi), Secretary (Charles Langlitz), Treasurer (Jim Piekarski).

VII. Sources of Revenue

- a. Revenues received through Putnam County, NY are utilized to purchase and release fish and ringneck pheasants on public lands. General operating revenue is received through membership dues levied against member clubs.

VIII. Goals for 2025

- a. In 2025, the Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc will endeavor to increase educational outreach to Putnam County youth interested in hunting and fishing at local community events.
- b. The Federation will also look to increase awareness and participation in the NYS DEC Youth Pheasant Hunt Weekend through leveraging social media and engagement with its member clubs.
- c. In 2025, the Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs, Inc will continue to engage with NYC DEP and NYS DEC to open new areas for public access to recreational sporting activities. Additionally, the Federation will engage with these partner agencies to request increased maintenance and enhancement of these habitats.

Putnam History Museum

63 Chestnut St. Cold Spring, NY 10516

845-532-6546

info@putnamhistorymuseum.org

I. Description of Agency

For over 118 years, the Putnam History Museum (PHM) has served residents, visitors, and historical researchers of Putnam County in a multitude of ways. Putnam County’s generous funding, along with the support of our members, friends, and visitors, has enabled the PHM to establish a world-class special collections library and archive, to preserve the West Point Foundry schoolhouse as the museum headquarters, and to create hundreds of public programs, exhibitions, and publications.

II. Services Provided

- **Research**

The PHM offers comprehensive research services, catering to a wide range of inquiries related to Putnam County history and culture. Our research team handles several topics, including genealogy, house histories, local landmarks, historical events, and cultural heritage. In 2024, we responded to over fifty public research queries, dedicating more than 400 hours to research activities, and facilitating the use of our historical collection for local authors, genealogists, and interested residents.

- **Exhibitions & Collections Management**

At the heart of our institution lies a commitment to preserving and highlighting Putnam County's robust history. We maintain an extensive collection of artifacts and documents, spanning hundreds of years. Our team focuses on collection care and accessibility, both in physical and digital formats. We consistently plan for the long-term management of our collections.

Additionally, the PHM creates rotating exhibitions, both indoors and outdoors, to provide visitors with an accessible and relevant historical experience. Our permanent Foundry exhibition serves as a gateway to the West Point Foundry and Preserve, a National Historic Landmark. In 2024, we opened the exhibition “Revolutionary Visions: Women in the Hudson Highlands during the American Revolution” which featured the work of five local artist interpreting historical women. This exhibition will also travel to the Southeast Museum in early 2025.

We hosted the art exhibit “Healing Hudson” by local artist Selva Ozelli. We also developed new material for our permanent West Point Foundry exhibition, to highlight more local stories and keep the history fresh.

- **Education Outreach**

Our educational programs aim to engage and inspire the community about Putnam County's local history and heritage. We organize an array of programs that evolve and expand annually. Key themes for our educational offerings include Native Americans, Colonial Period, American Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Civil War, BIPOC Histories, Women’s History, Environmental History, and local history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

- **Lecture Series**

Our long-running lecture series covers a wide range of subjects, including subjects such as art, architecture, maritime history, military history, and genealogy. Since 2020, we have adapted the series into various formats, offering virtual, hybrid, and in-person lectures to accommodate diverse audiences. In 2024, we hosted ten lectures.

- **Field Trips**

We collaborate with Putnam County schools and homeschool groups to design field trips that align with curricula standards and provide students with engaging experiences. These field trips often involve guided tours of the museum and the West Point Foundry and Foundry Cove. In 2024, we welcomed schools as local as Haldane’s 4th Grade for an Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County field trip and visiting students from as far away as Manhattan. We also provide materials and field trips for homeschool groups and scouts’ groups.

- **History Hikes & Group Tours**

We offer tours for groups, which may include curator-led tours of exhibitions or guided tours of historical sites located all throughout Putnam County. These popular hikes started during the pandemic but are now an annual offering at the PHM. This year we debuted a new offering at the Mountain Avenue Cemetery in Cold Spring, NY, which sold out three of the four available tour times.

- **Other Services & Activities**

Beyond our core signature services, the PHM actively engages with the community through special events, collaborations, publications, and social media platforms. In 2024, we hosted and participated in various community

events, fostering a sense of historical appreciation and connection within Putnam County. In total, we hosted, co-hosted, or collaborated on over fifty public programs in 2024.

Furthermore, we continued to create an array of print publications, many of which are [available digitally](#), to further promote the exploration and discovery of local history. These resources cater to diverse interests and age groups, making historical information accessible to all.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, the museum uses its collections to engage the community with the vibrant history of our region, and to foster greater understanding of the role it has played in the growth of our nation.

IV. Population Served

The Putnam History Museum serves a socioeconomically diverse audience of students, adults, and seniors. Our primary audience resides in Putnam County and throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Our secondary audience includes weekend visitors from New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, and beyond. Our weekend visitors represent a large urban population.

V. Significant Events and Accomplishments in 2024

To see photographs from all of the activities listed below, please click here: [PHM's 2024 Photo Album](#)

Recently completed projects/programs:

- Lecture & Talk Series:
 - "Civil War Songs" (Hybrid– January 2024)
 - "American Revolution Trivia Night" (Hybrid – February 2024)
 - "Herstory: 20 Remarkable Putnam County Women" (Hybrid – March 2024)

- "Willitt C. Jewell's Putnam County" (Hybrid – April 2024)
- "Taking our Water for the City" (In-person – May 2024)
- Exhibition Opening Talk for "Healing Hudson" (In-person – June 2024)
- "Hudson River School of Art and its Ice Age Origins (Hybrid – July 2024)
- "The Cornish Estate" (Hybrid – September 2024)
- "Healing Hudson" and the American Environmental Movement (Hybrid - September 2024)
- History Hikes:
 - West Point Foundry Hikes (April 2024)
 - Denny Mine and Mining History in Putnam County Hike (May 2024)
 - Native American Stone Structures of the Lower Hudson Valley Lecture and Hike (June 2024)
 - Benedict Arnold's Flight Historical Hike in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County (June & July 2024)
 - Foundry Cove History Hike (Part of NAHW, November 2024)
 - Mt. Nimham history Hike in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County (Part of NAHW, November 2024)
- Additional Community Programs:
 - "Cold Spring in Bloom," a village-wide event (April 2024)
 - Annual MeKeel's Corner Chapels 4th of July Celebration, organized by PHM.
 - Plein air Drawing Class at the Cornish Estate Ruins (September 2024)
 - Native American Heritage & History Weekend (NAHW) had its second iteration this year with two hikes and a living history program with historian Drew Shuptar-Rayvis.
 - Several themed Storytimes for children in collaboration with the Butterfield Library
- New projects/programs in 2024:

- The Oh, Freedom! Putnam County Quilting Project (June 2024)
 - Kayak Tour with Hudson River Expeditions of World's End (July 2024)
 - Kayak Tour with Hudson River Expeditions of Little Stony Point (August 2024)
 - Mekeel's Corners Cemetery and Chapel Chat (October 2024)
 - Mountain Avenue and Nelsonville Cemetery Tour (October 2024)
 - Life in the Eastern Woodlands Living History Program (Part of NAHW, November 2024)
- Points of pride:
 - At the Putnam County Day Awards, the PHM was honored with an Exemplary Public History Award for our work with the Butterfield Library for the Julia Butterfield Bicentennial in 2023. PHM Front Desk Associate, Josephine Bach, was also honored with the Exemplary Public History Programming Award
 - Putnam County Community Grants Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley awarded us a grant this year. This grant will let us develop travelling materials for our upcoming commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.
 - New York Council for the Arts (NYSCA) awarded us an operations grant for the year 2025.
 - Notable savings: The PHM saved about \$5,000 in expenses in 2024 through efficient grant management and spending less on utilities than expected.
 - Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office:
 - The PHM is gearing up for the American Revolution 250th Anniversary Commemoration and will be opening part one of our Revolution exhibitions in the spring/summer.
 - The PHM will need to address impending upgrades to its aging furnace and HVAC system in the near future.
 - The PHM Board recognizes the importance of appointing the PHM Educational Manager as a permanent staff member and understands the essential role this position holds within both the museum and the wider community.

- The PHM seeks to digitize the museum’s entire holdings of the *Cold Spring Recorder* and *Putnam County News and Recorder* for the long-term preservation of these historic resources.

VI. Staffing

In 2024, the PHM said goodbye to Executive Director Cassie Ward after 5 years of exceptional public history service. The Interim Executive Director is Kara Mattsen, who was the former Education & Public Programming Manager. The PHM is currently hiring and looks to fill the position in 2025.

Current Staff:

Interim Executive Director, Kara Mattsen (Full-time)

Collections Manager, John Duncan

Finance Manager, Cristina Bally

Administrative Assistant, Bernadette Knox

Research Librarian, Arman Safa

Front Desk Associate, Josephine Bach

VII. Sources of Revenue

- 2024 Income \$196,143.64
 - Much of our income comes from public and private grants, museum membership, donations, event ticketing, and fundraisers.
- 2024 Expenses \$282,209.28
- 2024 Investments (end-of-year balance) \$1,174,115.79
- *Income and expense figures are tentative and our accounts has not adjusted them to reflect depreciation and investments. Final figures will be reported on PHM’s 2024 form 990 and are available upon request.*

- Current Trends in Cost of Service:
 - Utilities & Insurance costs have remained around the same price as last year.
 - Costly HVAC and boiler repairs/replacement due to age of system.
 - All other operational expenses are stable.

VIII. Goals for 2025

a. Financial Sustainability

Develop a robust multi-year financial plan to ensure the museum's financial stability, including fundraising initiatives, grant applications, and exploring potential revenue streams.

b. Sustainability and Infrastructure

A major goal is to secure funding and resources to address the need to replace the aging furnace and HVAC as ensuring the long-term sustainability of the museum's physical facilities is crucial.

c. 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Through exhibitions, programming, and community collaborations, our goal is to commemorate this major milestone in ways that will get new audiences interested in our nation's history.

Upcoming programs are visible on our website at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org/events.

Our Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for April 6, 2025.

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Annual Report for 2024 requested by Putnam County due January 31, 2025

Agency: Putnam County Human Society, Inc.

Agency Address: 68 Old Route 6, PO Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512
Phone Number: 845-225-7777
Main Email address: shelter@puthumane.org

I. Description of Agency

The Putnam Humane Society (“PHS”) is a not-for-profit IRC Section 501(c)(3) organization formed to:

- a. Establish, operate and maintain adequate shelter(s) in which lost, stray, homeless, or impounded domesticated dogs and cats can be cared for and adopted to responsible homes;
- b. Further public education in the humane treatment of animals;
- c. Provide contract services pursuant to Article 7 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law relating to the licensing and sheltering of dogs; and
- d. Accept gifts, bequests, donations and other contributions.

II. Services Provided

PHS provides safe shelter and care for Putnam County's abandoned, lost and stray animals awaiting adoption or recovery. PHS's goal is to seek responsible, permanent adoptive homes for shelter animals. Another primary goal is to promote an aggressive spay/neuter program including early age and low cost spay/neuter for all community residents, and to implement such program in conjunction with community veterinarians in an effort to reduce the population of unwanted pets in Putnam County. PHS provides humane education and promotes humane awareness for all animals. PHS also actively seeks owners of lost pets. It is through these highlighted services and other services that PHS provides leadership in humane and animal welfare issues throughout Putnam County. Please see attached 2024 PHS Annual Trends & Highlights Report for additional programs and services.

III. Mission Statement

PHS is here for the animals.

- To be the voice for the animals who cannot speak for themselves.
- To provide protection, a safe haven and compassion through leadership for the homeless, abused and neglected animals of our community.

PHS is dedicated to nurturing and protecting the animals in our care while they await adoption. We are committed to providing these animals with the patience, confidence, discipline, nutrition, medical treatment and socialization they may require until they can be adopted into responsible homes.

- To be the advocates for our unwanted/abandoned pets and promote humane awareness for all animals.
- To maintain a no-kill shelter.

PHS is a NO Kill Shelter – meaning, we do not euthanize for space limitations. We provide euthanasia for terminally ill and seriously injured animals to end their suffering when reasonable courses of treatment have been exhausted. We consider HUMANE euthanasia in the animal’s best interest if an animal is behaviorally or mentally tormented to the degree that they will not allow any human contact or interaction and only after every effort has been exhausted to modify the behavior issues of the animal.

IV. Population Served

PHS serves the entire population of Putnam County.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

Please see PHS Annual Report Trends & Highlights 2024 attached.

VI. Staffing

No changes of significance to current staffing assignments and/or new staff.

VII. Sources of Revenue

As a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, PHS accepts gifts, bequests, donations and other contributions including grants. PHS generates additional donations through fundraising activities and dog/cat adoptions. PHS also receives funds from

Putnam County and from specific towns within Putnam County to provide contract services to the community.

The cost to PHS of veterinary services, medications, dog/cat food, utilities, etc. have increased each year.

PHS does not have any new, unfunded mandates for 2025 as of this date.

VIII. Goals for 2025

o Upcoming projects/programs and initiatives for the next fiscal year.

PHS's goals for 2025 (and for every year) include, but are not limited to, our ongoing commitment to:

- provide safe shelter and care for Putnam County's abandoned, lost and stray animals awaiting adoption or recovery;
- seek responsible, permanent adoptive homes for shelter animals;
- promote an aggressive spay/neuter program in conjunction with community veterinarians;
- provide humane education and promote humane awareness;
- actively seek owners of lost pets; and
- fundraising and adoption events and activities to actively promote community outreach and additional donations and adoptions.

Please see the attached 2024 PHS Annual Trends & Highlights Report for details of various events and activities that provide the foundation for PHS's anticipated 2025 events and activities goals.

o Matters of known interest to the County Executive's Office

As of this date, PHS is not aware of any matters that would be of particular interest to the County Chief Executive's Office.



Annual Report
Trends & Highlights
January 2024 – December 2024

SUMMARY

[see following pages of this attachment for full detailed ANNUAL REPORT]

Facility Improvements

- Water connection to property across the street. This was a very big project. PHS needed an engineer's site plan, permit from town for the work, excavating, water meter, hot box for the meter, and electrical work.
- Ground and tree work to improve safety conditions of animal shelter.
- Various equipment and fixture additions/upgrades throughout the animal shelter.

2024 PHS Fund Raising

Donations are also obtained through fundraising and outreach events. In 2024, there was a minimum of 35 fundraising events, not including multiple donation drives throughout the year by volunteers and various schools, organizations and individuals for items on PHS's wish list.

Outreach Education & Adoption

Outreach events throughout our community provide opportunities to educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, microchipping, training, and the humane treatment of animals. Outreach events also provide opportunities to showcase various dogs and cats available for adoption. In 2024, there were approx. 25 outreach, education and adoption events. Adoption events are in addition to actively promoting adoptions every day at PHS's facility on Old Route 6 in Carmel.

PHS Gives Back

PHS gives donated items that it cannot use to other needy not-for-profit organizations within Putnam County. PHS also assists those in need in our community with a pet food pantry.

Putnam Humane Society Ongoing Programs and Services for 2024

- Spaying & Neutering
- FREE Microchipping in partnership with Southeast Animal Hospital
- PHS Food Pantry
- Community Service Opportunities
- Humane Education
- The Trap, Neuter, Return Fund (TNR)
- The Animal Rights Alliance (TARA)– PHS collaborates with TARA in offering low-cost spay/neuter including rabies vaccinations for cats
- Rescue Intake (Incoming Transfers)
- Reuniting Lost Pets
- Re-Homing Database
- Times of Trouble / Sick and Injured Animals Fund
- PHS Advertising and Marketing
- PHS Facebook Page - Social Media Information Resource

ANNUAL REPORT – TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS 2024

Facility Improvements

- New hot water heater.
- New heavy duty pen screens to replace rotted wood behind some of the pens.
- Pool for the dogs- 8 feet in diameter, and 2 feet deep with filter.
- Electrical Outlets in hallway rooms.
- New washer
- Tree work around pens to cut back willows for safety.
- Miscellaneous repairs and painting in kennels, and grounds.
- Landscape work on the property across the street and grounds surrounding to level walking area.
- New shelving in kitchen
- Water connection to property across the street. This was a very big project. We needed an engineer's site plan, permit from town for the work, excavating, water meter, hot box for the meter, and electrical work.

Turner - one of the many dogs who enjoyed the new pool



2024 PHS Fund Raising

The Putnam Humane Society (PHS) is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization where all monetary funds go directly for the care of the animals. Donations are received in a variety of ways. People send donations by mail, through PayPal, and bring them directly to our facility. In addition, donations are also obtained through fund raising events and outreach events.

- PHS does not have any paid fundraising staff. All events are staffed by individuals who donate their time. This includes PHS Facebook, PHS website, and PHS Instagram.

2024 Fund Raising Events

- Shiver For Strays.
- Donation Boxes- throughout the County.
- Send a Gift of One of our Pups Love to Your Valentine- Carmel.
- Valentine Hearts- Purchase a heart in memory of a beloved pet.
- St. Patrick's Day Shamrocks-Purchase a shamrock in memory of a beloved pet.
- Book Sale-Ongoing- Kiosk at Tops- Carmel.
- Carmel Creamery-The big game ice cream football pool.
- Stop & Shop- \$1 donated to PHS for each reusable bag.
- Clear the shelters-Facebook
- PHS Facebook auctions-20 auctions-all items were donated.
- Meet and have a picture taken with the Easter Bunny.
- Hudson Valley Shooting Sports Carnival.
- Furget-me-not- Veterans Memorial Park-Fundraiser and Adoption,
- Day of the dead-Honor pets who have passed
- Murder Mystery Dinner-November- Anthony's Lake Club.
- PHS Open houses throughout the year-Adoption and Fundraising.
- Donation drives are done throughout the year by volunteers, various schools, organizations, and individuals for items on our wish list.

Grants

Blackbaud Giving Fund

Fidelity Charitable donor advised fund

Roy Leonard Charitable Fund

Lake Mahopac Rotary-Grant for PHS food pantry

Sinclair Foundation

Bank of NY Charitable Gift Fund

Outreach Education & Adoption

PHS volunteers also participate in community events throughout the area. These outreach events provide opportunities to help educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, microchipping, training, and humane treatment of animals. Outreach events also provide opportunities to showcase various dogs and cats available for adoption.

2024 Outreach, Education & Adoption Events

- Happy New Year-Adoption Weekend
- Find your forever valentine and boutique-February
- St. Patrick's Day Parade-Mahopac-Marched with staff, volunteers, and dogs.
- Easter Weekend-Adoption-March
- Find your furry Valentine-adoption- February
- May the Dogs and Cats have the luck of the Irish-Adoption- March
- April showers please bring May adoptions-May.
- Mother's Day Weekend-Adoption-May
- Kitten Shower-Adoption-Donation Drive for kitten items-June.
- Blessing of the Pets-MCB Church-Blessing, outreach, adoption-September
- Trick or Trunk-Kent Fire Dept.-Adoption/Outreach-October.
- Back to School-Adoption-September
- Indian Motorcycles-Adoption and Outreach-White Plains-September
- Annual Maci's Day Parade at PHS- Live Stream on Facebook-November
- Cultural Arts Coalition-Town of Southeast-Festival of Trees. Dec/Jan. PHS had a tree decorated with pictures of dogs and cats for adoption.
- Christmas Caroling at PHS-Annual event-Adoption-December
- Ongoing outings with PHS dogs to socialize and promote adoption.
- Videos are both recorded and lived streamed on Facebook throughout the year.
- Adopt-a-pet on the internet. PHS dogs and cats are uploaded to the site.
- PHS fields hundreds of calls per year from the community seeking advice on issues including animal welfare, training, low cost spay/neutering, and basic animal care.

PHS is an adoption facility, and "every day is an adoption day." Adopters are able to meet with staff, go over training assessments, interact with the dogs and cats, meet with trainers, and get all the information needed about the dog or cat they are interested in. We like to have special themed adoption events throughout the year, but again "every day is an adoption day." We do outside events when possible. Rescue groups that do not have a facility have no choice but to go to different venues to showcase their animals. That is the difference between a shelter/PHS, and rescues without a facility. It is also much safer for the animals to be on the premises with trained staff. There are many benefits to onsite adoptions.

PHS GIVES BACK

- Food Pantry- PHS continues to advertise that we have donated food to give to those having a hard time feeding their pets. Many families have been able to keep their pets with this help. The need has increased over the past year. They come to the shelter to pick what they need, PHS also donates on an ongoing basis to the Brewster Food Bank, Second Chance Rescue, MCB Church, Putnam, Dutchess CAP, and Forgotten felines.
- Prescription Dog and Cat Food- PHS receives prescription food from people whose pets have passed, or they no longer needed the food. If it is food we cannot use, we offer it to the public, but they must provide their veterinarian's approval.
- Crates- PHS receives donations of dog and cat crates throughout the year. When PHS has more than needed we donate to rescue groups and individuals who can use them.
- Dog Igloos- Igloos that are being replaced at PHS but still in decent shape, are donated to residents taking care of feral cat colonies, to local cat organizations, and to residents who may need them for their own pets.
- Various dog and cat items not needed are put in a bin at the shelter marked "Free." There is always someone who can make good use of these items.
- When expired food is donated, we reach out to those feeding and caring for Wildlife. They are always able to make use of it.

Putnam Humane Society 2024 Annual Statistics

<u>Dogs</u>		<u>Cats</u>	
Beginning Population 1-01-24	32	Beginning Population 1-01-24	23
Owner Releases	17	Owner Releases	36
Dog Control Seizures	62		
Incoming Transfers	18	Stray Cat Intake	121
Emergency Holds (Reunited)	3	Emergency Hold	0
Reunited with Owners	-49	Reunited with Owners	-7
Adopted	-41	Adopted	-133
Deceased	-1	Deceased	-6
dogs in Foster to Adopt Care	<u>-1</u>	Cats in Foster to Adopt Care	<u>--12</u>
Ending Population 12/31/24	30	Ending Population 12/31/24	26

Summary:

- **During 2024, PHS took care of 312 dogs and cats.**
 - **132 Dogs**
 - **180 Cats**
- **56 dogs and cats were reunited with their owners.**
- **197 animals were adopted or placed in Foster to Adopt Care.**
- **58 Feral Cats were part of the PHS TNR Fund (not included in the Stray Cat Intake total)**

Dog Licenses:

PHS licenses dogs adopted and returns the revenue generated by these licenses to the towns where the dog resides and PHS contracts with. In 2024, an additional 37 dogs owned by residents were licensed for towns in Putnam County for those dogs brought in by dog control and reunited.

<u>Terms:</u>	<u>Definition of Terms:</u>
Beginning Population	Current number of cats or dogs residing at PHS.
Owner Releases	Cats and dogs whose owners have relinquished ownership of their pets to PHS.
Dog Control Seizures	Dogs brought in by DCO (Dog Control Officers).
Foster to Adopt Care	Dogs and Cats still under medical treatment.
Stray Dog/Cat Intake	Cats and dogs that were found by Good Samaritans in the community are also included in the Dog Control Seizures count. This group also includes abandoned cats and dogs left tied to PHS front gates or left in boxes on PHS property.
Incoming Transfers	Dogs brought in from "Kill" shelters who are adopted.
Emergency Holds	Animals brought in by Police Officers or Dog Control Officers as a result of emergencies such as car accidents, hospitalizations etc.).
Adopted	Cats and dogs adopted.
Deceased	Cats and dogs that have been euthanized.
Ending Population	Current number of cats or dogs residing at PHS.

PHS Information

Mission Statement

The Putnam Humane Society is dedicated to nurturing and protecting the animals in our care while they await adoption. We are committed to providing these animals with the patience, confidence, discipline, nutrition, medical treatment, training, enrichment, and socialization they may require until they can be adopted into responsible homes.

Maintaining a No Kill Shelter

As per our mission statement we do not euthanize for space limitations. We provide euthanasia for terminally ill and seriously injured animals to end their suffering when reasonable courses of treatment have been exhausted. We consider humane euthanasia in the animal's best interest if an animal is behaviorally or mentally tormented to the degree that they will not allow any human contact or interaction, and only after every effort has been exhausted to modify the behavior issues of the animal.

Quality Animal Care

All the animals in our care are vaccinated against disease, spayed, or neutered, treated for any injury or illness. All animals are tested for common serious viral and tick-borne illnesses, and Heartworm disease. They also all receive monthly flea and tick treatment, and heartworm preventative. Dogs and cats are microchipped to help increase their chances of being returned to their owner should they get lost. PHS is listed as a secondary contact in case the owner cannot be reached, or their contact information was changed and not updated. All the dogs and cats receive the necessary attention, training and nurturing they require to prepare them for adoption. There is also daily enrichment with various games, agility, and play time, outings to local stores, and businesses. Our managers and trainers will take dogs to their home to socialize, and train. This helps us to see how they act in a home environment and is great information for adopters.

Training and Assessment

All dogs are assessed prior to intake by one of the qualified trainers at PHS to determine the best possible placement for each individual dog. Training is provided for all dogs to help prepare them for adoption. Training is also provided to adopters that need further assistance with newly adopted animals from PHS for as long as it is needed. We also offer help to residents who may otherwise not be able keep their dog because of training issues they needed help with.

Staff Development

Staff is provided with training to help care for the animals appropriately and safely. Training is conducted throughout the year during staff meetings and on an individual basis when necessary.

Town Contracts

In 2024, PHS contracted with the towns of Carmel/Mahopac, Southeast, Philipstown (including Nelsonville and Cold Spring) and Patterson (secondary) to hold stray dogs that are picked up in these areas. Upon a dog's arrival, PHS makes every attempt to locate the owner and reunite them with their pet before they are put up for adoption. If any dogs remain unclaimed, after an appropriate waiting period, PHS then prepares them for adoption.

Dog and Cat Relinquishment

In addition to stray dogs brought in by the local Dog Control Officers, PHS also takes in dogs and cats from owners who can no longer keep them. Stray dogs and cats are also brought in by good Samaritans who find them wandering in their neighborhoods and/or communities.

Putnam Humane Society Ongoing Programs and Services for 2024

Spaying & Neutering

PHS spays and neuters every animal prior to adoption to help control the pet population problem. PHS refers those who are seeking low cost spay/and neutering services to The Animal Welfare League, The Animal Rights Alliance (T.A.R.A.), Friends of the Animals, HVARs, Compassionate Care of DC, and Putnam Animal Wellness for low cost spay and neutering options.

FREE Microchipping

We are pleased to be partnering with Southeast Animal Hospital to provide FREE microchipping. PHS provides the microchips and Dr. Nowowiejski inserts the microchips at no cost. PHS then registers each microchip. This began January 7th, 2022. As of December 31, 2024, four hundred and seventeen microchips (417) were inserted. Eighty-five (85) of those were done in 2024. Prior to the partnership, PHS held FREE microchip clinics at the shelter. Having an ongoing partnership with a vet works better than having clinics at the shelter. It avoids the disruption created when other animals enter the shelter and provides more flexibility for owners to make appointments at their convenience instead of a set date.

PHS Food Pantry

PHS has a food pantry with donated cat and dog food for residents in need, for individuals working on reducing the feral cat colonies in our area, and for local food banks and churches with pet sections. During 2024 PHS gave out 174 bags of cat food, 260 bags of dog food, 120 cases of canned cat food, 45 cases of dog and cat prescription food, and 32 boxes of dog and cat treats. All food distributed was donated to PHS and is food PHS did not need or cannot use for the resident dogs and cats. We always make sure everyone who donates the food is aware that the food will be donated to others if PHS cannot use it. Those donating are always happy that the food will be used for others in need.

Community Service Opportunities

PHS provides a variety of volunteer opportunities including opportunities for students needing to complete community service hours for school graduation or religious requirements, school groups looking to help non-profit groups, Boy/Cub and Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies (PHS collaborates with Scout groups on various projects required to earn badges), civic organizations, persons who receive court-ordered community service, as well as individuals with free time that are interested in helping our cause and mission. Volunteers assist with basic animal care, walking, playing and socializing with the animals, participate in fund raising events, as well as outreach programs in the community. Many volunteers use their time to help maintain our facility with ongoing clean-up.

Humane Education

PHS offers opportunities for various civic organizations, schools, scouts, and religious organizations to expand their awareness of responsible pet ownership. PHS provides tours and discussions with small groups of students to educate them on what a responsible pet owner is and why it is so important to spay/neuter, vaccinate, microchip, and train pets.

The Trap, Neuter, Return Fund (TNR)

The TNR fund was established to help control the feral cat population of our community. PHS loans out humane traps to individuals who need to capture feral or stray cats so they can be spayed/ neutered and vaccinated against disease. PHS provides those who need to trap feral cats the equipment and information on how to do so. The TNR fund pays to have trapped cats spayed or neutered, rabies vaccinated, flea treatment given, and the ear clipped by Dr. Kanouse at Brook Farm Veterinary Hospital. Brook Farm offers a discounted rate for the services. The individuals who go through the PHS TNR fund must sign an agreement that they will continue to care for the cats providing shelter and food, and not just release them to fend for themselves. We also help Advocats with their spaying/neutering costs when we have the funds available

T.A.R.A.

PHS collaborates with The Animal Rights Alliance (T.A.R.A.) and offers low-cost sprays and neuters including rabies vaccinations for cats. Putnam County residents are invited to bring their own cats, strays or ferals to be spayed or neutered for a significantly reduced cost.

Rescue Intake (Incoming Transfers)

Since November 2016, PHS began working with **A Shelter Friend**, a rescue group in N.C. who helps to save dogs from their county kill shelter. We also rescued 4 dogs from Louisiana after the flood and hurricane. PHS only takes in rescues when there is space and there are no Putnam residents who need to surrender their dog. Putnam County residents always come first. A Shelter Friend has sponsors who pay the cost to vet the dogs before they come to PHS. PHS pays the transport fee, microchipping, and 4 DX testing. The adoption fee covers those costs.

Reuniting Lost Pets

PHS maintains a log of lost pets in the community and actively seeks to reunite them with their owners via lost and found flyers, along with information and assistance to help them locate their pets. The PHS Facebook page, and lost pets of the Hudson Valley Facebook page have also evolved and become social media hubs to help share information about lost pets throughout the Hudson Valley region. If all pets were microchipped, and the chip registered, all lost pets would be reunited with their families. We will continue to educate about microchipping, promote and provide FREE microchip opportunities partnering with local veterinarians.

Re-Homing Database

PHS maintains a database for pet owners who need to re-home their dog or cat, and for those who are looking for a specific type of cat or dog. PHS acts as the liaison in the communication process so those individuals needing to re-home their pet can be put in touch with those who are looking for pets. This allows the pets to be adopted directly from one family to another.

Times of Trouble/Sick and Injured Animals

This fund is designated to help those cats and dogs abandoned with significant health problems that have been caused by long term neglect and/or health issues that were ignored and that require extensive medical attention. These cats and dogs may include those relinquished by their owner, dogs brought in by dog control officers, and dogs and cats brought in by good Samaritans that have been injured or abandoned by owners. This fund has also helped residents in need who have reached out to PHS because without help they would not be able to keep their beloved cat or dog. If there is money in the fund, we can help. PHS has helped in so many ways with this fund. The fund was originally created in memory of Trouble, a very special former resident of PHS. Because of the impact he made on staff and volunteers, many dogs and cats have been helped, and many more will be.

Putnam Humane Society Advertising and Marketing

PHS advertises events and animals for adoption through the PHS website, Facebook, Instagram, Pet Finder, Adopt-a-Pet, and YouTube. Social media has become one of the primary ways PHS communicates information about adoptions, fund raising events, donations needed and lost and found animals. Flyers are distributed to promote events as well. Newspapers also offer free ads for promoting adoption.

PHS Facebook Page - Social Media Information Resource

PHS has expanded its use of Facebook to provide information to the public. We post pictures of the cats and dogs for adoption, adoption photos as the dog or cat leaves to go to their new home, event information, recognize donors and more. Facebook has become a wonderful network and a wealth of information. We also provide and share information about lost pets all over Hudson Valley. Our Facebook page also serves as a means to answer hundreds of questions related to adoption, events, and pet care related questions 24 hours a day.

February 5, 2025

Putnam County Industrial Development Agency

2 Route 164, Patterson, NY 12563
(c) 845 721-9216, (o) 845 319-6441
william.nulk@putnamida.com

Description of Agency:

The Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (the PCIDA) is the “tool box” for the Putnam County Economic Development Team which consists of the Putnam County Economic Development Corp., Putnam Tourism, the Putnam County Planning Department and also local Chambers of Commerce. The “tools” available are NYS Legislature authorized tax abatements and bond financing options that can incentivize businesses to come to or remain in our County, strengthening our tax base and workforce options.

Industrial Development Agencies were authorized through Article 18-A of the NYS General Municipal Law in 1964 and established for Putnam County by Section 927f of that law in 1995. The PCIDA approved its initial Universal Tax Exempt Policy (UTEP) in 1996.

Services Provided:

The PCIDA can incentivize qualified commercial projects with:

- Mortgage Tax Abatements.

- Sales Tax (Local and State) Abatements construction costs and for initial set-up furnishings and training.

- Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOTs) for the improvements made to property.

- Tax exempt or taxable industrial development revenue bonds.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency is to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the Putnam County and to improve its recreation opportunities, prosperity and standard of living, through the promotion, development, encouragement and assistance for industrial operations, manufacturing, warehousing, commercial, research, new businesses and recreation facilities, educational or cultural facilities, health care facilities and continuing care retirement communities, in the Putnam County.

Population Served:

The PCIDA serves the residents of Putnam County by encouraging private business enterprise to come into or remain in Putnam County, and by extension, the Lower Hudson Valley of New York State.

Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024:

May - Ace Endico: Completion of 3rd Expansion and Opening of the expanded Marketplace on site. \$18 million project, 60,000 sq ft expansion. This expansion also set up arrangements for a larger expansion in the near future. Ace Endico continues to be the “showcase” commercial business in Putnam County, bringing jobs and a significant tax base contribution.

October – Commercial Campus at Fields Corner (Pugsley Road): Closing of final agreements (PILOT) for project to begin leasing space. \$192 million project, 2 distribution/warehouses total of 921,000 sq ft. New tenants were already lined up, including Lesser Evil Snacks from Connecticut.

The PCIDA participated with PCEDC, Putnam Tourism and the P. C. Planning Department as a team to invite and encourage appropriate businesses to come into and remain in Putnam County. We encourage and monitor infrastructure improvements in water, sewer, internet and telecommunications that will facilitate new and existing businesses and the public in general.

The PCIDA was able to operate in 2023 and 2024 without allocation funding from the County and will continue to do so in 2025.

Staffing:

The PCIDA Board has been operating with limited outside staffing since being re-established in 2016. In 2024, with significant funding from project fees, the Agency was able to contract with a part-time administrator/bookkeeper, greatly aiding in maintaining required records and preparing reports.

The PCIDA Board was able to contract with a part-time Executive Director in 2025.

The PCIDA is authorized by a 7-member Board. It is currently operating with 6 members. We are without a representative from Philipstown/Cold Spring, and we try to have a representative from every town on our Board.

Sources of Revenue:

The PCIDA Board had been operating with limited funding from Putnam County and a couple of small projects which generated some income since being re-established in 2016. In 2023 and 2024, the Agency was able to operate without funding from the County due to significant funding from project fees. The PCIDA anticipates continued sufficient funding from anticipated projects.

Goals for 2025:

The PCIDA is working toward the Gleneida Distillery Project on Seminary Hill Road in Carmel and a possible Assisted Living facility, also in Carmel. Other projects are in early discussion at this time.

The current Chairman of the PCIDA Board will be looking to step down from that position when conveniently possible. He will remain on the Board or available to the Board for as long as needed or practical.

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The Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc.
(PCLAS)

**12 Fair Street
Carmel, New York 10512
845-225-8466
info@pcclegalaid.com**

I. Description of Agency

The Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc. (PCLAS), incorporated in 1966, is contracted by the County to provide legal representation to financially eligible clients in criminal and Family Court matters throughout Putnam. A non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors (President Bonnie Feinzig, Esq.; Secretary Stamatia Dewbury, Esq.; and Directors Margaret A. Nicholson, Esq.; Thomas Purcell, Esq.; and Peter Reynolds, Esq.), the PCLAS employs nine attorneys as well as four full-time and one part-time administrative staffpersons in order to fulfill its mandate, as more fully set forth below.

II. Services Provided

Pursuant to County Law Article 18-B, Putnam County is required to ensure representation to those legally entitled to counsel but who lack the financial means to obtain that counsel. As the primary agency charged with meeting that responsibility, PCLAS staff conduct intakes and screen applicants for financial eligibility. PCLAS attorneys represent eligible defendants in criminal court from initial appearance through ultimate resolution and also represent qualifying parties in Family Court upon the filing of petitions for family offenses, child custody/visitation matters, child support violation allegations, and abuse or neglect allegations filed by the County Department of Social Services.

In addition, because those persons charged with crimes are entitled to counsel at arraignment, the first formal proceeding against them, PCLAS attorneys appear in all Putnam County criminal court forums for purposes of ensuring the right to counsel at the time of initial arraignment. Such appearances may be required during regular work hours, but also frequently occur on evenings, weekends, and holidays.

While the above constitutes the lion's share of cases handled by PCLAS, its attorneys and staff also regularly assist clients in post-conviction matters such as violations of parole, probation or conditional discharge, applications for

early discharge from probation, sex offender registration assessment hearings, etc.

PCLAS attorneys also maintain a steady, ongoing, and vital presence in Putnam County's "problem-solving courts": The Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court; Judicial Diversion/Treatment Court; and the Veterans' Court.

Finally, it is crucial to note that the high-quality representation provided by PCLAS includes the engagement of social workers, interpreters, forensic experts, and other professional services essential to the fulfillment of its obligations to its clients.

III. Mission Statement¹

IV. Population Served

As noted above, PCLAS clients must qualify financially for legal representation. Persons are presumptively eligible for assignment of counsel if, among other things, (i) their net income is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; (ii) they are incarcerated, detained, or confined to a mental health facility; or (iii) they receive, or have recently received, need-based public assistance.

Upon financial qualification and depending upon the level and nature of the charge, clients are represented by PCLAS attorneys at the County level in Criminal Court, Family Court, and the above-referenced IDV, Judicial Diversion/Treatment, and Veterans' "problem-solving courts". PCLAS attorneys also provide representation in the Justice Courts of the towns of Carmel, Southeast, Kent, Patterson, Philipstown, and Putnam Valley as well as those in the villages of Cold Spring, Brewster, and Nelsonville.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

As has been the trend in recent years, the number of cases opened in 2024 increased significantly from 2023:

- Total cases opened: 1,674 in 2024; 1,523 in 2023
- Number of clients served: 1,278 in 2024; 1,246 in 2023
- Number of evening/weekend/holiday arraignments: 322 in 2024; 212 in 2023
- Number of criminal court cases: 1,155 in 2024; 1,067 in 2023
- Number of family court matters: 480 in 2024; 401 in 2023

¹ The PCLAS Mission Statement is under review and awaiting Board approval.

VI. Staffing

In August of 2024, PCLAS was fortunate to hire Grace Sestito, a graduate of Sacred Heart University and aspiring attorney on a part-time basis. Ms. Sestito is responsible for managing and analyzing all the discovery materials provided to PCLAS by the District Attorney's Office, along with other duties as assigned. She has proven to be a significant asset to the organization.

Unfortunately, three attorneys (two full-time and one part-time) resigned in the spring of 2024 and PCLAS suffered a staffing shortage through the end of the year. Because the remaining staff attorneys are thoroughly committed to PCLAS and its clients, each one stepped up and took on additional duties so that PCLAS was able to fulfill its mission.

PCLAS looks forward to having a full complement of attorneys in 2025.

VII. Sources of Revenue

Through an agreement between the County and PCLAS, the County provides necessary funding for the PCLAS to deliver mandated services pursuant to State law. In addition, since 2012, ILS has been providing supplemental funding to the County by way of quality enhancement (discretionary) distributions and statutory distributions.

Distributions are aimed to maintain the level of funding needed by the County to improve and ensure the level of quality legal representation to financially eligible persons through a variety of mechanisms:

- Quality enhancement (or discretionary) distributions have specific goals, including, but not limited to, providing counsel at every criminal defendant's first court appearance and supporting local initiatives aimed at improvements in upstate legal services providers' representation and programs.
- Statutory distributions are meant to ensure the funds are used to improve the quality of indigent legal services. Moreover, statutory distributions are formula-based and consider (i) net local expenditures and (ii) maintenance of effort, providing a relatively non-discretionary and unchanging level of support from year to year.

All grant award funding provided through ILS is intended to supplement, rather than supplant, County funding.

In 2024, Putnam County allocated \$633,212.00 in funding to PCLAS.

State funding through ILS for 2024 was as follows:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Distribution #12	\$47,282
Distribution #13	\$47,282
Distribution #14 ²	\$94,564
Third Upstate Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant	\$100,000
Third Counsel at First Appearance	\$207,204
Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction	\$250,000
Hurrell-Harring Statewide Expansion	\$789,715 ³

Funding remains one of PCLAS’s significant challenges. As noted above, barring unforeseen circumstances, PCLAS expects that ILS funding will remain roughly at current levels. Expenses, however, are guaranteed to rise. In addition to an ever-increasing caseload, PCLAS reasonably expects significant and ongoing increases in the costs of the personnel, services, equipment, and infrastructure that are absolutely essential to fulfilling its mandate to provide high-quality legal representation.

VIII. Goals for 2024

PCLAS’s focus does not—and cannot—alter from year to year. Its overarching goal is to continue to provide vigorous, dedicated, high-quality legal representation to those persons financially eligible for its services.

Continuing to meet that goal requires hiring, training, and retaining a roster of stellar attorneys and staff by offering competitive salaries and benefits and providing the environment, equipment, and continuing education that support

² Beginning in 2025, ILS is inaugurating a system to consolidate its numbered distributions rather than awarding them for staggered 3-year terms. That process is set to be completed by 2027 and PCLAS will eventually receive one distribution grant.

³ These funds were slated for disbursement beginning April 1, 2024; PCLAS is awaiting a signed contract from ILS.

them in what is, by its nature, a uniquely challenging segment of an already challenging profession.

In addition, PCLAS continues to work toward meeting the goal of streamlining internal processes referenced in last year's report. To that end, PCLAS has engaged the services of an independent contractor accountant to help improve internal controls and simplify the manner in which funds are claimed against ILS grants. PCLAS remains engaged in discussions with ILS regarding ways to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of the required quarterly claims, decrease the burden on ILS claim auditors, and ultimately result in a noticeable benefit to both PCLAS and Putnam County. That ongoing process has already yielded significant improvements and further improvements are anticipated.

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Putnam County Libraries Association

668 Route 6
Mahopac, NY 10541
845-279-6421
director@brewsterlibrary.org

I. Description of Agency

The [Putnam County Libraries Association \(PCLA\)](#) consists of the eight libraries in the county:

[Brewster Public Library](#)

[Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library](#) (Cold Spring)

[Alice Curtis Desmond & Hamilton Fish Library](#) (Garrison)

[Kent Public Library](#)

[Mahopac Public Library](#)

[Patterson Library](#)

[Putnam Valley Free Library](#)

[Reed Memorial Library](#) (Carmel)

II. Services Provided

Each of these libraries provides quality programs and services to the residents of Putnam County. We provide cool spaces in the summer and warm spaces in the winter. As part of a consortium consisting of 66 member libraries spanning 5 counties, we are able to provide access to millions of physical items through interlibrary loan, as well as countless e-resources, such as ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and searchable databases.

In addition, library patrons can:

- learn a new craft through Creative Bug
- learn a language with Transparent Language
- use a computer to access the Internet
- access free wifi onsite or borrow a hotspot device
- borrow unique and practical items such as tools, toys, etc.
- get assistance with technology
- obtain homework help
- borrow museum passes
- apply for a passport
- have documents notarized
- participate in support groups, both online and in person
- attend programs for all ages
- ...and much more!

III. Mission Statement

The purpose of the Putnam County Libraries Association is to encourage cooperation among all libraries serving the public in Putnam County, and to promote public interest in and support for appropriate library service in Putnam County.

IV. Population Served

The eight libraries in Putnam County serve **all** residents, from newborn babies to senior citizens. Our goal is to ensure equal access to information, programs, and services, regardless of age, socio-economic status, race, religion, gender identity, national origin, or disability. With county funds, we have made information on our websites more accessible with the addition of the “Recite Me” tool, which offers a range of on-demand accessibility solutions that make each of the eight Putnam County websites user-friendly for individuals with disabilities, situational challenges, and language barriers, through customizable options.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024

- County funds were used to continue the popular local history lecture series throughout the county.
- Once again, every library took part in “[The Great Give Back](#),” a state-wide program where libraries and their patrons participated in meaningful service-oriented experiences.
- We collaborated on county-wide summer reading programs, providing entertainment and educational experiences for patrons of all ages.
- Online New Parents Support Group offered weekly to all county residents.
- We obtained a group subscription to “[Comics Plus](#),” to provide library cardholders with unlimited, simultaneous access to thousands of digital comics, manga, and picture books from dozens of library-friendly publishers.
- With county funding, we distributed thousands of eclipse glasses to community members; several libraries held eclipse-themed events hosting hundreds of patrons.
- Each library participated in local and county-wide outreach efforts and community involvement, attending events such as CEPAB’s Putnam Culture Fest and Assemblyman Slater’s Senior Resource Fair.
- We addressed food scarcity in the community, partnering with organizations like Cornell Cooperative Extension and Second Chance Foods, to bring free seed libraries, dry goods food pantries, and frozen prepared meals to families in need.

Some other highlights from 2024:

- Library visits – 454,757
- Checked out physical items – 373,680
- Checked out electronic materials – 173,963
- Website visits – 348,378
- Wifi sessions – 89,134
- Reference questions answered – 212,172
- Programs offered – 7,041
- Program attendance – 72,409
- Number of public computer uses – 37,350

VI. Staffing

- In January, 2025, Donna Perolli (formerly Director of the Reed Library) became the Director of the Kent Public Library.
- Janice Regula is the Interim Director of the Reed Library.

VII. Sources of Revenue

Each library is funded through town taxpayer dollars. All eight libraries' tax levies are decided through a public vote. Each library strives to keep the taxpayers' burden as low as possible; county funding is crucial to assist in purchasing materials, paying staff, maintaining buildings, and providing programs which are open to all Putnam County residents. Challenges include keeping up with the continuing rise in cost and usage of e-resources, as well as mandated wage increases.

VIII. Goals for 2025

In 2025, PCLA plans to:

- Continue outreach efforts to further engage with our communities.
- Strive to meet the increasing demand for e-resources.
- Establish in-person New Parents Support Group sessions at multiple library locations, serving both the east and west sides of the county.
- Offer a mobile app, to make it easier for patrons to utilize our many resources from their devices.
- Participate in a system-wide "Road Trip" program, encouraging families to visit many different libraries to discover all they have to offer.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.

Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**PLEASE REPORT
ANIMAL CRUELTY
845-520-6915
OR
MAKE A DONATION
PO BOX 850, BREWSTER, NY 10509**



24 Hour Hotline: 845-520-6915 www.spcaputnam.org

Website: www.spcaputnam.org

Facebook: facebook.com/PutnamCountySPCA

Instagram: [@putnamcountyspca.ny](https://instagram.com/@putnamcountyspca.ny)
Putnam County Annual Report-Outside Agencies

Telephone: 845-520-6915

47 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512



ANNUAL REPORT

I. DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY

The Putnam County SPCA serves Putnam County as a law enforcement agency given its statutory authority by the NYS Special Corporations Law, NYS Agriculture and Markets Law and the NYS Criminal Procedure Law. NYS statute dictates that there can only be one SPCA in each county. No SPCA in New York State is part of the ASPCA, and none receive funding from them. By law, the ASPCA has its authority based solely in New York City. The Putnam County SPCA has different divisions working together to provide comprehensive coverage of animal issues throughout the county.

II. SERVICES PROVIDED

a. LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY STATUTES AND ALL LAWS OF NY WHEN APPLICABLE

PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division Officers receive the same training that all law enforcement receives but our course structure varies with a focus towards animals. Our 24-hour animal cruelty hotline is answered 24/7, 365 days a year. The PC SPCA is also dispatched to calls of cruelty by Putnam 911. All police agencies within Putnam County, including Putnam County Sheriff's Dept., Carmel Police, Kent Police, Brewster Police, Cold Spring Police, NYS Police, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation Police, NYC Department of Environmental Protection Police, NYS Park Police, and MTA Police, refer all animal cruelty cases to the Putnam County SPCA to handle. We also work closely with Putnam County Social Services,

including Child Protection Services and Adult Protection Services. Town and Village code enforcement departments and dog control officers also utilize the services of the Putnam County SPCA.

Putnam County SPCA officers are listed on a roster kept by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, who oversees all required training for Law Enforcement within the state. PC SPCA officers receive annual refresher courses in Deadly Physical Force and any non-lethal weapons carried as mandated by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. PC SPCA officers are NYS Peace Officers with statutory authority that exceeds most other peace officer categories.

Because of our countywide statutory jurisdiction, our officers travel the roads of Putnam County and often encounter traffic accidents, local, county and state Police car stops, and other requests for help. Our officers are trained in First Aid and are also trained in the use of Naloxone (Narcan) which is kept in each PC SPCA vehicle's First Aid kit. Officers of the PCSPCA come across incidents/accidents where they ensure the safety of the injured, contact 911 and local police, and direct traffic until local units arrive. Officers will assist until they are no longer needed.

In 2024, the law enforcement division had **2372 Blotter Entries** (Calls, Lobby Complaints, Email Cruelty Reports), a 23% increase from 2023. These do not include targeted patrols, or any other PCSPCA division's activity.

Daily during the warm months of the year, the PC SPCA conducted **550 of patrols** of parking areas and shopping centers throughout the county, proactively searching for companion animals left in vehicles. The PCSPCA will continue its countywide patrol and response to vehicles with pets left inside. In the colder months, the PC SPCA has instituted a patrol of previous offenders that have a history of leaving their dogs out in inclement winter weather to speed up our response time.

This year, in addition to animal related calls, our warm weather patrols also resulted in 4 instances where children were left unattended in vehicles in the heat. We opened Endangering the Welfare of a Child cases and in each instance and made a referral to Child Protection Services. Also, a result of one of our cases, we found the living conditions unsuitable for humans. We opened a CPS case and CPS responded with the Town of Kent building department who condemned the house due to black mold permeating through the entire house.

Officers of the PCSPCA made 51 separate arrest charges encompassing: Violating the Animal Cruelty Registry, Petit Larceny, Criminal Mischief, Leaving the scene of an accident with an animal without reporting it, Poisoning of animals, Animal neglect, Animal abuse, Abandonment, Leaving dogs out in the cold without shelter, and Confining dogs in a hot car. The PCSPCA also made 15 referrals to Social Services (CPS, APS and Youth Court).

(SEE ADDENDUM A FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)

b. PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA DOG CONTROL DIVISION

The Putnam County SPCA currently contracts with the Town of Putnam Valley to provide Dog Control services. This service includes the enforcement of Article 7 of the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law, seizing loose dogs, filing Dangerous Dog Complaints, and enforcing the Putnam Valley Town Code as it relates to animals. We also provide services to other animals that are not dogs, by making different agencies aware of whatever is needed and following through to the resolution. This partnership alleviates the liability from the town, which is covered under the PCSPCA's liability insurance, vehicle insurance and Workmen's Compensation. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the County and any town in the development of a similar relationship and growing this Division.

The PC Dog Control Division will also assist when necessary, in the transport of animals seized by the Law Enforcement Division. The Dog Control Division will also render assistance when dispatched by the Law Enforcement Division throughout Putnam County as part of the SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION.

(SEE ADDENDUM B FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)

c. LEADER IN ANIMAL ISSUES

Our phones are answered 24X7 and we also provide information and direction to the public as to all animal issues that are encountered. We often receive calls and direct the caller to the proper agency for loose dogs, barking complaints, feral cats, adoptions, animal turn-ins, lost pets, low-cost veterinary care, injured wildlife, and any other type of calls. We answer animal cruelty issues and field a variety of calls which would otherwise go unanswered. If you combine all of our division's calls, we received approximately 3000+ calls this year.

d. HUMANE EDUCATION

The Putnam County SPCA also provides Humane Education, available to all schools and any other interested agencies. This course meets the required instruction mandated by:

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION LAW, ARTICLE 17, § 809. Instruction in the humane treatment of animals. 1. The officer, board or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instruction shall cause instruction to be given in every elementary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state, in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty. Such instruction shall be for such period of time during each school year as the board of regents may prescribe and may be joined with work in literature,

reading, language, nature study or ethnology. Such weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods. A school district shall not be entitled to participate in the public school money on account of any school or the attendance at any school subject to the provisions of this section, if the instruction required hereby is not given therein.

IN 2024, ONCE AGAIN, OVER 1000 INDIVIDUALS (SCHOOL STUDENTS, POLICE RECRUITS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, EMS, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND THE PUBLIC) RECEIVED HUMANE EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA

(SEE ADDENDUM C FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)

e. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

i. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Many times, we receive calls from people and stores wanting to donate food and other goods (blankets, beds, crates, etc.). Since we are not a shelter, we have developed, with our volunteer Irene Weiss of Mahopac, a network of groups that we deliver these donations to, at no cost to them, so we can help care for and feed the animals of Putnam County. Also, during our investigations, if we encounter a situation where the issue is monetary, where the pet owner is having difficulty in providing food for the pet, we place that individual on a list where a volunteer will drop food off to help through the difficulty time.

The groups we currently provide food, blankets and towels to are:

- St. John's Pantry
- Phillipstown Pantry
- Rescue Right
- Putnam Advocats

- Putnam Valley Dog Shelter
- A New Chance Animal Rescue
- Green Chimneys
- SNARR (Special Needs Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation)
- For The Love of Animals
- Guardian Veterinary Specialists
- Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County
- Putnam County Social Services Clients (Adult Protective Services, Office of the Aging)

(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

ii. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

- The PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION also provides support for the Law Enforcement Division by providing transportation of seized animals to veterinarians, staffing the office when necessary, fundraising, IT support, and any other necessary function that is necessary. It also provides for animal care when necessary.

As in the past, with Spring approaching, volunteers of the PC SPCA will again distribute to stores within Putnam County, the familiar stop sign poster reminding people not to leave their pets in their vehicles as the weather gets warmer. (SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)



iii. EMERGENCY ON-SITE SUPPORT

When the SPCA encounters situations where large groups of animals are seized, or in the event of a death, SPCA SUPPORT SERVICES mobilize and care for the animals “in place”, providing food, shelter and medical care. The ultimate goal is to keep the animals safe and fed while finding suitable new homes for the animals.

(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

iv. FUNDRAISING

- During the year, our SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION and our PC SPCA Officers will staff tables in front of stores throughout Putnam County soliciting donations from the public. This serves as a great way to fund the PC SPCA, meet and educate the public, and provide answers as to the role the PC SPCA has countywide.
- Our SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION will also solicit raffle items and advertising for our Annual Fundraising Dinner which is held at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac. PC SPCA volunteers will put baskets together to be raffled, check guests into the event, or assist in any way needed. The PC SPCA Volunteers truly make the night a success.

(SEE ADDENDUM D FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

III. MISSION STATEMENT

The MISSION of the Putnam County SPCA is to proactively enforce NYS and Federal Animal Cruelty statutes, and all laws of NYS when applicable, to ensure shelter and medical care to any animals seized pursuant to arrests resulting from cruelty, to provide Humane Education to other law enforcement agencies, schools and all other interested groups and to be a leader in animal matters throughout Putnam County.

IV. POPULATION SERVED

The Putnam County SPCA serves the entire population of Putnam County. The SPCA responds to calls of animal cruelty countywide. Under NYS law, all animals, including wildlife, are protected. The PCSPCA works with all law enforcement agencies, including the Putnam County District Attorney's Office, Putnam County Sheriff's Dept., Brewster Police, Carmel Police, Cold Spring Police, Kent Police, NYS Police, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Police, NYC DEP Police, MTA Police and NYS Park Police. The Putnam County SPCA also works closely with Putnam County Social Services, Adult Protective Services, Child Protection Services, and Putnam County Probation Dept.

Our phones are answered 24X7 and we also provide direction to the public as to all animal issues that are encountered. We direct the caller to the proper agency for loose dogs, barking complaints, feral cats, adoptions, animal turn-ins and lost pets. We answer animal cruelty issues and field a variety of calls which would otherwise go unanswered if the PC SPCA did not exist. We have also worked with Putnam 911 to establish a protocol where all animal related calls are sent directly to the Putnam County SPCA officers.

Because of our countywide statutory jurisdiction, our officers travel the roads of Putnam County and often encounter traffic accidents and other requests for help. Our officers are trained in

First Aid and are also trained in the use of Naloxone (Narcan) which is kept in the vehicle First Aid kit. Officers of the PCSPCA come across incidents/accidents where they ensure the safety of the injured, contact 911 and local police, and direct traffic until local units arrive. Officers will assist until they are no longer needed.

V. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024

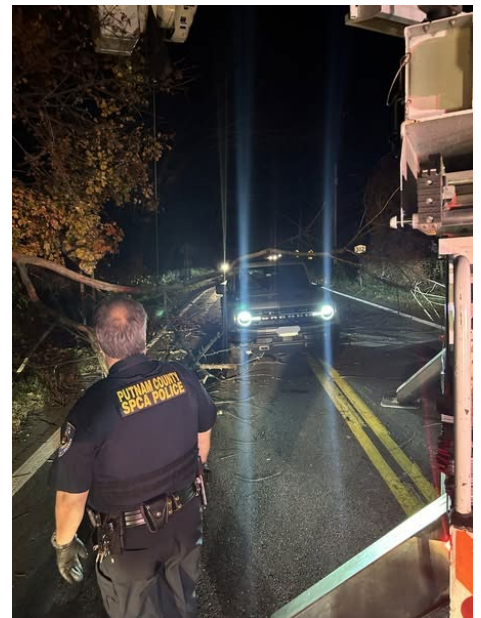
a. POINTS OF PRIDE



BECAUSE OF OUR COUNTYWIDE PRESENCE

On the evening of 11/01/2024, while responding to animal cruelty calls, the Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division encountered an accident where a large tree limb fell across Route 312 in the Town of Southeast, striking a vehicle. The Putnam County SPCA immediately contacted Putnam 911, stopped traffic, and checked for injuries of the vehicle occupant.

The Putnam County SPCA would like to thank the NYSEG Linemen who were traveling on Route 312 at this time and quickly worked to resolve the incident by clearing the tree and limbs. Thankfully, there were no injuries and Route 312 was re-opened promptly.



b. Matters of Known Interest to the County Exec’s Office

- The County needs to address the lack of laws regarding farm animals. Local and County Codes do not address farm animals at large, the seizure of these animals while at large, housing for these animals – during the process of locating the owners, if possible, and penalties to address at large and abandoned farm animals. Permanent housing is also necessary when owners cannot be located or have left the county. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.
- The County needs to address the absence of a facility to house animals seized pursuant to cruelty arrests, hoarders, abandonments, and the death or incapacity of the animal’s owner. The PCSPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.
- The County needs to address the absence of a facility to hold dogs during their Health Department mandated bite hold and during the Dangerous Dog process. The County should also revisit the Dangerous Dog proposal submitted by the PCSPCA to the County Legislature. Again, the PC SPCA welcomes the opportunity to be part of the solution.

VI. STAFFING

- The Putnam County SPCA currently has three (3) paid employees. The PC SPCA has two (2) paid, sworn law enforcement officers, on call 24X7, to handle calls of animal cruelty. The PC SPCA has one (1) paid Dog Control Officer on contract with the Town of Putnam Valley. The two (2) sworn law enforcement officers have a combined 39 years of experience in law enforcement and the handling animal cruelty investigations. These two (2) officers are also Bureau of Municipal Police Instructors through the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. Pastor Columbia, of the Mount

Carmel Baptist Church of Carmel, and the Rev. Bruce Fern, nondenominational, both volunteer as PC SPCA Chaplains.

The PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division also has several sworn volunteer officers who are current or retired police/law enforcement officers.

- Frank Long, retired New York State Court Officer
- John Bennett, former Town of Carmel Police, retired City of Peekskill Detective
- Jaemie Caban, former NYPD and Fishkill Police Officer, current PC DA investigator
- Chris Perrotta, retired City of Yonkers Police Sergeant
- Jason Driscoll, retired NYPD officer, former Village of Brewster Police
- Edward Pollick, retired City of Yonkers Police Detective
- Andy Guich, retired FDNY, retired Town of Bedford Police Dispatcher

VII. SOURCES OF REVENUE

a. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

COUNTY OF PUTNAM OFFICE FUNDS	\$52,000 \$37,440
TOWN OF CARMEL	\$10,000
SPCA INTERNATIONAL	\$18,000 (2024) \$32,000 (2025)
OPPENHEIMER TRUST	\$30, 000
TOTAL	\$147,440

b. CONTRACTED SERVICES

The PCSPCA provides the following contracted services:

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY SHELTER & DOG CONTROL	\$39,000
--	----------

c. ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

In 2024 the Putnam County SPCA held its annual dinner. In attendance was approximately 240 people. The PCSPCA raised approximately \$15,000.

(SEE ADDENDUM E FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

d. TRENDS IN THE COST OF SERVICES

- Fuel – the increase in gas prices has had a tremendous effect on the services provided by the PCSPCA. Responding to calls to investigate animal cruelty continues to be extremely costly.
- Insurance continues to be costly and difficult to find alternate choices.
- Equipment – Because we are not “municipal, federal or tribal” law enforcement, we are not eligible for 99% of law enforcement grants. Because we are not a shelter, we are not eligible for 99% of animal grants. We continually face the need for additional, upgraded or unfunded mandated equipment:
 - Less than lethal weapons. To provide another additional alternative to O/C spray and baton, the PC SPCA investigated the use of TASERS. In 2022, we entered into a 3-year lease agreement with AXON/TASER to provide this added option. The funding for two (2) units had to come from already depleted revenues. One (1) additional unit was purchased, and a

major upgrade to AXON's Evidence program used by the PCSPCA, in order to ensure proper documentation of crime photos and to effectively share this evidence with other police agencies and the District Attorney's Office, in 2024.

- Body Worn Cameras. NYS is steadily moving towards mandatory BWCs for all law enforcement. Wearing BWCs protects the PC SPCA and people we encounter. In 2022, the PC SPCA entered into a 5-year lease agreement with Motorola to provide two (2) BWCs. The funding for two (2) units had to come from already depleted revenues. In 2024, it was necessary to add two (2) additional BWCs.
- Radios – Putnam County is in the process of upgrading their radio/911 system, moving towards radio interoperability. This move to digital and different frequencies will mean the PC SPCA will be unable to communicate with other first responders with the current Radio's the PC SPCA has.

VIII. GOALS FOR 2025

a. Fundraising

- The Putnam County SPCA plans on adding additional Coffee with the PC SPCA events which will also have fundraising components. Weekends at local Supermarkets with fundraising tables are also scheduled.
- PCSPCA has scheduled a fundraising BBQ at the Clock Tower Grill in Brewster for February 2, 2025
- The PC PSCA has already set a date, October 24th, 2025, for the next annual fundraising dinner.

b. Humane Education

- In 2024, the PCSPCA continued to provide Humane Education to schools, police academies and all interested groups. Studies show that 100% of serial killers and many mass shooters and school shooters started by abusing animals without any intervention. We have already contacted and scheduled additional schools, organizations, and libraries to conduct additional classes in 2025.

c. Law Enforcement Division

- The PC SPCA is planning to put an additional SPCA police vehicle on the road during the warm weather.
- The PC SPCA is developing a group of Support Service Staff to handle SPCA phones and serve as a dispatch.
- The PC SPCA will continue its proactive enforcement of the animal cruelty laws. As always, we will offer aid when possible and arrest when no other option is available. During the hot months, we will again distribute, with our Support Services Division, our STOP SIGNS to County businesses in a continual effort to raise awareness of the danger of leaving one's pet in a vehicle. The PC SPCA will continue to provide patrols of all the parking lots in the county, during these warm months, looking for pets, children and the elderly left in vehicles. We will also respond to calls of suspected animal cruelty and when necessary, provide aid and assistance at accidents or other incidents when encountered.
- The coming year, 2025, is filled with challenges – fundraising and financial. We greatly appreciate the help that Putnam County provides us and we will continually explore additional means of funding the necessary services we provide.

Our mission is an important one - helping both animal and human.

We are committed to fulfilling it.

"The oppression of animals is the gateway drug to oppressing humans."

(Dr. Alex Hershaft)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KDR', is centered on the page.

**Kenneth D Ross ,
Chairman**

ADDENDUM A

HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Putnam County SPCA continued its proactive enforcement of the animal cruelty statutes of New York State and all applicable Federal and State laws.

In addition to responding to calls of suspected animal cruelty, the PCSPCA conducted targeted patrols during the warmer months. The PCSPCA continually patrolled the following locations throughout Putnam County:

- Putnam Plaza (Carmel)
- Shoprite Plaza (Carmel)
- Eveready Diner Parking Lot (Southeast)
- DeCicco's / Kohls Parking Area (Southeast)
- Home Depot Lot (Southeast)
- Marshal's/PetKraze/Michael's Parking Area (Southeast)
- Optum Parking Area (Southeast)
- Lakeview Shopping Center (Southeast)
- Towne Center Parking Area (Southeast)
- Patterson Commons (Patterson)
- Tractor Supply Parking Area (Patterson)
- Lake Plaza Shopping Center (Southeast)
- Mahopac Village Shopping Center

- Putnam Hospital Center (Carmel)
- CVS Pharmacy Parking Area 1905 US-6, Carmel
- CVS Pharmacy Parking Area 100 E Lake Blvd, Mahopac
- 4 Brothers Parking (Mahopac)
- Boscobel House and Gardens (Garrison)
- Foodtown Shopping Parking Area (Cold Spring)
- Main Street, Cold Spring

Total number of patrols conducted during warm weather in 2024 was:

550 + separate patrols

+

In addition to above patrols the PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division responded to calls from the public, dispatched by Putnam 911, and local police agencies to handle animals left in vehicles.

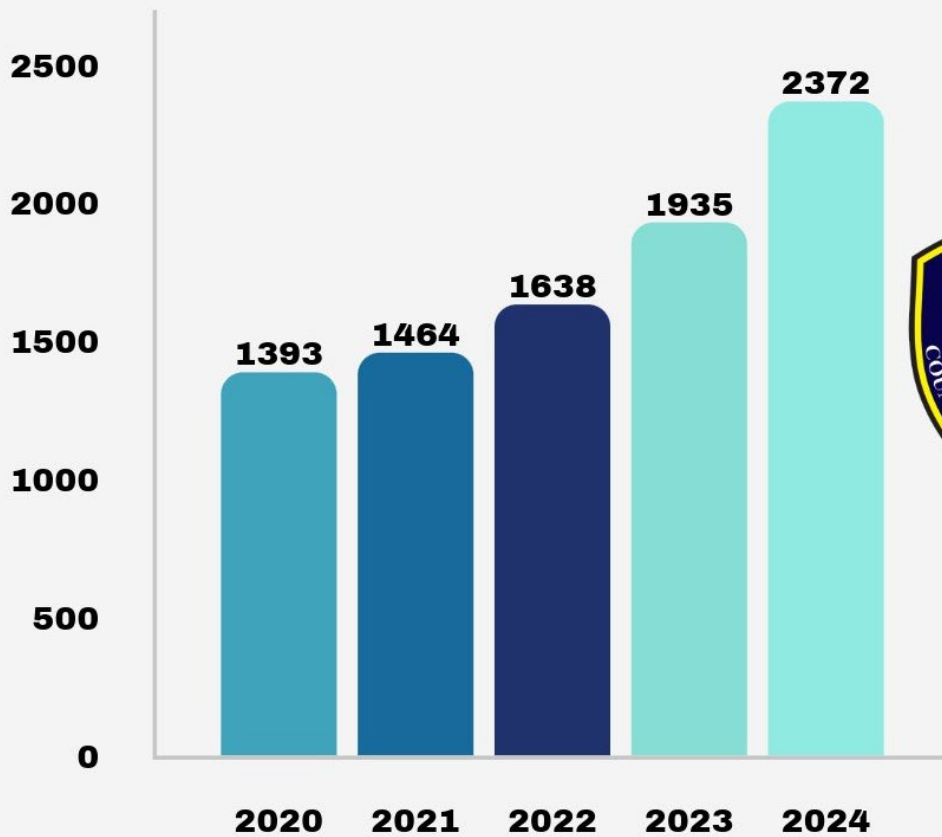
The PC SPCA Law Enforcement Division had:

2372 Blotter entries

PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

**B
L
O
T
T
E
R
S**



**YEARLY BLOTTER ENTRIES:
CALLS, LOBBY COMPLAINTS, AND WEBSITE CRUELTY FORM COMPLAINTS.**

SOME NOTEWORTHY CASES



The Putnam County SPCA announces the arrest of a 28-year-old female resident of the Village of Brewster. The 28-year-old Village resident allegedly fled the scene after hitting a dog with her vehicle and failed to stop and report the incident to the owners, authorities, or aid the injured animal.

On Monday, 12/02/2024, at approximately 5:22PM, Putnam County SPCA Detectives responded to the Center Street area of the Village of Brewster, where an owned, five (5) year old, “Golden Doodle” dog named “Astro” was severely injured after being hit by a white Toyota Rav4. Astro was taken by family members to Guardian Veterinary Specialists in the Town of Southeast for emergency treatment. Since being admitted, Astro has received several surgeries and will remain



under medical care until some time next week. Astro was found to have significant swelling and bruising, head trauma, intestinal damage, a dislocated hip, and several other injuries causing extreme pain and suffering.

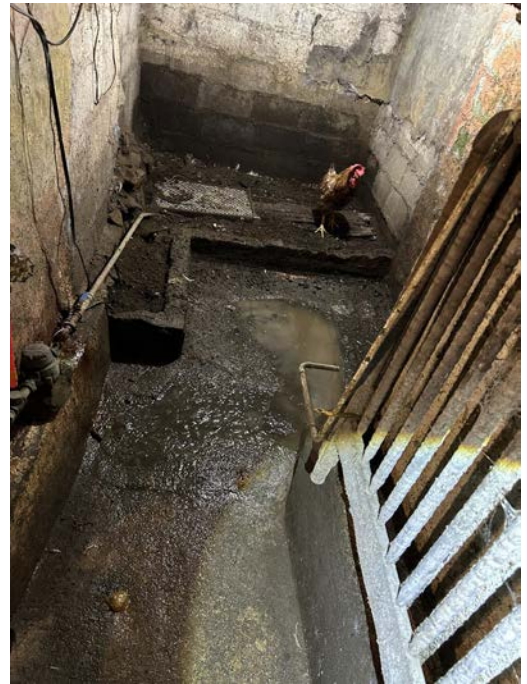
Putnam County SPCA Detectives opened a criminal investigation, and through information provided by witnesses, ring cameras, and good Samaritans, the 28-year-old female village resident was located and placed under arrest by PCSPCA officers on 12/03/2024 at her residence for committing the alleged crimes of:

Agriculture & Markets Law- Animal Cruelty, Penal Code - Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, Vehicle & Traffic Law - Leaving the scene of injury to certain animals without reporting.

The defendant will be arraigned in the Village of Brewster Justice Court in January. The Putnam County SPCA thanks the Village Of Brewster Police Department, Guardian_Veterinary Specialists, Astro's family, and the good Samaritans who assisted with this case.



The Putnam County SPCA announces the arrest of a 57-year-old resident of Putnam County for allegedly neglecting four (4) chickens, three (3) ducks, and two (2) roosters.



On September 23rd the Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division met with case workers of the



Putnam County Child Protective Services,

who had reported possible animal neglect. Putnam CPS Case workers had already opened a case regarding the care of a teenager at the residence when ducks, roosters, and

chickens were also observed in deplorable conditions. After a criminal investigation by

Putnam County SPCA Detectives, charges of alleged animal cruelty were filed and a 57-year-old male resident arrested. The resident was charged with nine (9) counts of alleged Failure to Provide Sustenance and nine (9)



counts of alleged Neglect of Impounded Animals. The nine (9) animals were removed and placed with foster care where they are recovering.



The Putnam County SPCA announces the arrest of a 56-year-old resident of the Town of North Salem (Westchester County) for three (3) counts of animal abandonment and three (3) counts of animal cruelty.

On July 13th the Putnam County SPCA Dog Control Division responded to calls of three (3) dogs wandering the Sunken Mine Road area of Putnam Valley, which is part of Clarence Fahnestock State Park. Three (3) female collie/lab mixes were retrieved, wet, covered in fleas and ticks, and brought back to the Putnam Valley Dog Shelter. When the dogs were shared on social media as lost, the Putnam County SPCA received one tip, with limited information, that the dogs were possibly owned and abandoned.



Over the course of a three (3) week investigation, Putnam County SPCA detectives were able to develop a person of interest, using multiple sources, including the Westchester-Putnam Real Time Crime Center and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. On August 1st, Putnam County SPCA detectives were able to locate the suspect at his residence on Grant Street in North Salem and interviewed him regarding the alleged abandonment and animal cruelty. The suspect acknowledged to Putnam County SPCA detectives that he abandoned the dogs in the Sunken Mine Area and was subsequently placed under arrest and charged with 3 counts of animal abandonment and 3 counts of animal neglect under the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law.



The Putnam County SPCA announces the arrest of a 42-year-old resident of the Town of Kent for the alleged crime of animal neglect. During the evening of June 23rd, the Putnam County SPCA was asked to respond to an address on Chief Nimham Drive by the Town Of Kent

NY Police, who were already at the address regarding a dispute between landlord and tenant and while there, observed an eight year old female Catahoula leopard mix dog in a state of



severe emaciation. Putnam County SPCA detectives and the Town of Kent, NY Dog Control responded immediately. The dog was seized by PCSPCA Detectives and transported by the Town of Kent Dog Control Officer to Guardian Veterinary Specialists where it was examined and found to be

approximately 21 lbs with a body condition score of 1/9. According to the examining veterinarian, a healthy version of this dog should be 40-50 lbs. with a body condition score of 5/9.

Additional tests performed on the dog, named "ABBY", have found that "ABBY" is otherwise healthy and only in the severely emaciated state due to lack of proper feeding. The dog owner was placed under arrest by Putnam County SPCA Detectives and processed at the



Town of Kent Police Department. The defendant will be arraigned in the Town of Kent Justice Court on July 11th for alleged animal cruelty.



The Putnam County SPCA announces the arrest of a 62-year-old resident of the Town of Patterson. The Putnam County SPCA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police worked in conjunction after being alerted by the Putnam County

Probation Department that the suspect, who is on Probation for an unrelated crime, admitted to illegally trapping squirrels on his property, spraying them with apple-red colored “Rust-Oleum Paint + Primer”, then releasing them at another location within the Town. After a short investigation, PC SPCA Detectives and NYS DEC Officers interviewed the suspect at his residence on 1/13/2024. PC SPCA Detectives charged the 62-year-old resident with three (3) counts of Poisoning or Attempting to Poison Animals, a misdemeanor in the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. The NYS DEC Police charged the 62-year-old resident with several violations under the New York State Environmental Conservation laws.

The PC SPCA seized two traps from the property, as well as the Rust-oleum spray can, allegedly used on the squirrels that were caught. The PC SPCA thanks the Putnam County Probation Department, NYS Department



of Environmental Conservation Police, Southeast Animal Hospital, and the local Wildlife Rehabilitators who assisted in this investigation.

**ADDENDUM B
Putnam SPCA Dog Control Division**

Dog Control Division Call Log 2024

Total Calls - 598

- Nuisance complaints (barking dog, dog at large, etc.)
- Dangerous dog complaints
- Assist Police Department with dog/animal complaints
- Assist/Educate Public with animal related issues/questions
- Aid in searching for missing/lost pets
- Report Dog bites to Putnam County Health Department
- Assist Health Department with Rabies Quarantine/follow ups
- Patrol local common areas for loose/nuisance dogs (Town Parks, Trails)
- Assist Health department with Rabies Quarantine complaints/follow up

Additional Dog Control Division 2024 Statistics

Dogs Abandoned, Housed in Place, or Sheltered in PV	35
Total Days a Dog was Sheltered under PCSPCA care	243
Total Animals adopted, rehomed, transferred to rescue or reunited with owners	42
Written Warnings:	156
Summons issued:	8

Total calls: 598

ADDENDUM C Humane Education

- January 9, 2024 - Austin Road Elementary - Humane Education to entire 4th and 5th grade classes 185 students
- January 11, 2024 - Lakeview Elementary School - Humane Education to entire 4th and 5th grade classes 180 students
- January 22, 2024 - Columbia County Sheriff's Academy Animal Cruelty Module Training
- March 25, 2024 - Fulmar Elementary School - Humane Education to entire 4th and 5th grade classes 100 children
- April 4th, 2024 - Westchester Community College Veterinary Technician Program - Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training
- April 8th, 2024 - Guardian Veterinary Specialists Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training for staff and other veterinary offices in the area, in person and on zoom
- April 16, 2024 - Presented a Recognizing Animal Cruelty presentation for all members of the Putnam County Department of Social Services
- April 17, 2024 - Saint James the Apostle - Humane Education to entire school, Kindergarten - 5th grade
- April 18, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty to all members of the Putnam County Youth Bureau/Putnam County Youth Court
- April 25, 2024 - Guardian Veterinary Specialists Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training for staff and other veterinary offices in the area, in person and on zoom
- April 20, 2024 - Humane Education to the Brewster Girl Scouts, Troop 02486
- May 17th, 2024 - Westchester County Police Academy Animal Cruelty Module Training

- May 20, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty training for the Putnam County Sheriff's Cadets
- May 21, 2024 - Hosted the Patterson Rotary at the PC SPCA HQ and gave a Recognizing Animal Cruelty Presentation
- July 9, 2024 - Gave a presentation to the Pawling Rotary Club
- July 17, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty presentation to the Carmel Police Youth Academy
- July 18, 2024 - Ride along with Pastor Columbia of MCB Church
- August 21, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training for new Westchester/Rockland/Putnam Probation Officers at the Westchester Police Academy
- September 3, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training for the Continental Village Fire Department
- September 12, 2024 - Humane Education for local home-schooled students at PC SPCA HQ
- September 24, 2024 - Recognizing Animal Cruelty Training at CP Unlimited in Southeast
- October 3, 2024 - Humane Education at Camp Herrlich to 77 campers ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade
- October 16, 2024 - Westchester Police Academy Animal Cruelty Module Training
- October 30, 2024 - Westchester Police Academy Animal Cruelty Module Training
- November 19, 2024 - Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES Law Enforcement Program and Veterinary Science Program - Recognizing Animal Cruelty Presentation

ADDENDUM D
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Support Services Division/Community Outreach:

- In 2024, SPCA Support Services Volunteers drove to various pet stores, in addition to pick-ups at donor homes, to pick up donated food to distribute to individuals in need, animal organizations and food pantries.

Donation Pickups:384

Donation Drop offs:256

- February 18, 2024 - Participated in the Putnam County Youth Court's Law Enforcement Night in Philipstown
- March 10, 2024 - Participated in the Northern Westchester - Putnam Saint Patrick's Parade
- March 12, 2024 - Participated in the NY Animal Protection Federation's Annual Advocacy Day in Albany
- April 7th, 2024 - Coffee with the Putnam SPCA and Carmel Police at Freight House Cafe in Mahopac
- April 21, 2024 - Coffee with the Putnam County SPCA at Paulettes of Cold Spring
- May 18th, 2024- Participated in Carmel Spring Fair
- May 19, 2024 - Participated at the MCB Church Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- June 2, 2024 - Participated in Green Chimney's Birds of Prey Day
- July 14, 2024 - Held a fundraiser at Clocktower Grill in Southeast
- July 21, 2024 - Participated in the Germanfest in Putnam Valley

- July 29, 2024 - Participated in the Putnam County Fair and 4h Showcase
- August 6, 2024 - Participated in the Village of Brewster Police's National Night Out Against Crime Event
- August 21, 2024 - Participated in the Town of Carmel Police's National Night Out Against Crime Event
- September 6, 2024 - Participated in the Blessing of the Pets at MCB Church
- September 14, 2024 - Participated in the Putnam Hospital's Kids Day
- September 22, 2024 - Participated in the Back The Blue/Prayer Walk at Camarda Park
- October 6, 2024 - Participated in the Mahopac Street Fair
- October 18, 2024 – Participated in the Putnam County Youth Court Trunk or Treat event.
- October 27, 2024 – Participated in the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department Trunk or Treat event.

Putnam County SPCA Fundraising Dinner



SPCA VOLUNTEERS



**MASTER OF CEREMONIES
GEORGE WHIPPLE**



240 ATTENDEES

SUPPORT SERVICES also placed signs in the windows of local stores at the beginning of the summer months alerting people of the dangers of leaving their pets in vehicles in the heat.



THIS PARKING AREA IS PATROLLED BY:
THE PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA



845-520-6915

TEMPERATURES IN A CAR CAN RISE UP TO 40 DEGREES HIGHER THAN THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE

IT ONLY TAKES 10—15 MINUTES FOR AN ANIMAL TO SUFFER IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE DUE TO HEAT STROKE




Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation

James F. Sullivan, Executive Director

692 Route 6, Mahopac NY 10541

(845) 621-5594

Prph953@gmail.com

www.PRPHNY.org

I. Description of the Agency

Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation (PRPH) a parent founded non-profit Corporation incorporated in 1979. It provides community-based recreation, socialization, and respite services to Putnam County residents.

II. Services Provided

An array of events is conducted year-round in community-owned venues that offer participants the most normalized and least restrictive environments where the free choice of expression and activity decisions are exercised. The organization offers professional supervision during activity choices as well as important family outreach, transportation, and respite care services as required by each participant.

III. Mission Statement

PRPH provides high quality recreation services in normalized settings for residents of Putnam County who are Developmentally Disabled regardless of ability to pay for these services.

IV. Population Served

PRPH serves over 110 families who have a family member is eligible for services from age 7 – Adult. Participants reside at home with family caregivers. Accommodation for the person's care needs, assistive technology devices, and unique personality traits are all part of participation decisions. Participants are typically qualified for services by NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities – Family Support Services.

V. Significant Events and Accomplishments

- Holiday and Summer Camps at Veteran's Memorial Park
- Weekly Sports Training (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)
- Seasonal Socials and Dinner/Dances
- Special Olympic Team and Individual Sports Competitions
- Aquatic Participation and Instruction
- Golf Instruction by the Pro at Putnam County Golf Course
- Community Trips to popular venues throughout Putnam County
- Participation in Community Cultural Events (parades and street fairs)
- Evening Social events (line dancing, and Bingo Nights)
- Annual Gingerbread Decorating Party (continuous since 1979)

PRPH ANNUAL REPORT 2024 cont.

VI. Staffing

The Agency is guided by an elected and volunteer Board of Directors consisting of Parents and other interested community partners. Operations are guided by a part-time Executive Director and a part-time staff consisting of 25 part-time activity facilitators. Programs are staffed to ensure participant safety and maximum support. Staff support varies by program activity.

VII. Sources of Revenue

- Putnam County Legislative and Executive Contract
- Office of Children and Family Services through Putnam County Youth Bureau Sports Training Grant
- NYS Office of People with Developmentally Disabilities – Family Support Services
- The Carmel Rotary Club
- The Nearing Buttremuk Foundation
- The Mary Clancy Charities
- Un-Restricted Donations from many generous individuals
- Organization sponsored Fund Raising Events – Memorial Bowling Tournament, Mother’s Day Plant Sale at Veteran’s Memorial Park, Annual Golf Outing, Annual Brunch and Silent Auction at Putnam County Golf Course

VIII. Goals for 2025

- PRPH looks forward to being a partner with the County Executive and the Legislature to provide an important service to an historically underserved constituency.
- Continuously evaluate services maintain high standards in the most fiscally efficient way possible.
- To continue to support the dedicated staff who are the backbone of the organization.
- To meet or exceed the expectations of our various partners and stakeholders.

Southeast Museum 2024 Annual Report

Southeast Museum
67 Main Street
Brewster, NY 10509
Telephone: (845) 279-7500
Email: deborahoswald@southeastmuseum.org

Description of Agency

The Southeast Museum is a non-profit, educational institution established in 1963. The museum's primary service area is Putnam, Westchester and Dutchess Counties in New York State, as well as Fairfield County, CT. The Southeast Museum is located in a restored Landmark Building, the 1896 Old Town Hall of Southeast, on Main Street in Brewster.

In addition to its ongoing exhibits, the Museum also offers temporary exhibits each year. Other programs presented by the Museum include local history presentations in the Brewster School District and the Lakeview Manor Senior Center, art exhibits featuring work of local artists, concerts featuring local musicians, History Exchange and History Book Club through our collaboration with the Brewster Public Library, and tours for groups of adults and seniors with disabilities followed by lunch at the museum.

Southeast Museum provides visitors access to exhibits featuring local artifacts housed in our facility, reference resources, and local history education opportunities both onsite at our Main Street Brewster location and throughout the town of Southeast via collaborative programming with community organizations.

Services Provided

The Southeast Museum has expanded its services in 2024 to include onsite presentations throughout the buildings of the Brewster Central School District as well as the Lakeview Manor Senior Center, and The Brewster Library. Group tours by senior groups as well as clients attending programs for adults with developmental disabilities have enjoyed tours and lunch in the museum space. In 2024, the museum hosted two concerts, a Brewster Chamber of Commerce Meeting, and a business networking event for Putnam SCORE.

Mission Statement

Mission:

The Southeast Museum celebrates the history of the town of Southeast and lower Hudson Valley by educating, collecting, preserving, and interpreting significant material artifacts and culture, to serve as a source of community appreciation and inspiration.

Vision:

To be a financially sustainable organization with an increased and diverse audience, expanded education programs, and secure and stable facility, which is supported by a dedicated board, knowledgeable staff and an engaged lower Hudson Valley community.

Values:

- Preserving and interpreting accurate history
- Facilitate discussions about heritage.

Population Served

Throughout 2024, the following populations were served through Southeast Museum programs and events

- Community participants in the Brewster Library History Exchange and History Book Club Programs.
- Community members attending the September 7th concert event “Celebrating African American Contributions to the Hudson Valley.”
- Students at JFK Elementary, C.V. Starr Intermediate, and H.H Wells Middle schools.
- New members of the Brewster Central School District Faculty
- Members of the Southeast Seniors.
- Local artists and supporters of the arts through the museum’s collaboration with Putnam History Museum on the October Rev 250 Kickoff art exhibition premiere, “Revolutionary Visions: Women In the Hudson Highlands During the American Revolution.” The exhibit will premiere at the Southeast Museum on March 4, 2025.
- Children and families through the December 7th Festival of Trees: ornament making workshop, and CV Starr student chorus performance in collaboration with the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition.
- Adult clients of Career Support Solutions of Carmel and Artemis Memory Care Facility of Somers during group tours followed by lunch in the museum.
- General public attendance during open museum hours.

Significant Events and Accomplishments in 2024

- The Southeast Museum was awarded grants by the Greater Hudson Heritage Network for the purposes of a site assessment and artifact preservation. This allowed for a November 2024 inspection and assessment of the museum’s artifact collection as well as the purchase of two portable air conditioning units to

preserve said artifacts. The museum will use the recommendations made on the site assessment report to continue to preserve and protect its collection.

- The Executive Director of the museum conducted fifteen interviews with longtime residents of Brewster as well as descendants of residents for the purposes of establishing a Town of Southeast Oral History Program. Excerpts from some of these interviews were transcribed as part of the upcoming “History of Business in Brewster” exhibit.
- Through Southeast Museum’s partnership with the Brewster Public Library, monthly History Exchange programs are facilitated by the museum’s Executive Director. Recent History Exchange guest presentations included Eleanor Roosevelt’s family throughout the history of Putnam by the Town of Carmel Historian Alicia Briley, Sybil Ludington by author Vincent D’Acquino, The Stone Chambers of Putnam by researcher Fleur Fairman, the “Old Put” railroad by researcher Brian Vangor, The Historic Teahouses of Brewster by former museum director Amy Campanaro, The Military history of Putnam by Southeast Historic Sites Commissioner John Duncan, and local *The New Yorker Magazine* cover artist Ilonka Karasz by Putnam County Historian Jennifer Cassidy.
- Curriculum collaboration with the Brewster Central School District on local history presentations designed to complement New York State K-8 Social Studies curriculum for grades kindergarten through fifth grade.
- The Executive Director’s Narration of the History of Brewster Bus Tour for new Brewster School District Faculty Members.
- Presentation at the Grade Eight Career Day at Henry H Wells Middle School.
- Collaboration with the Brewster School District on Brewster High School senior Roderick Cassidy’s digitization of the Tilly Foster Mineral Collection. Roderick photographed each mineral and created a link to the museum’s website which allows students and researchers to study the collection by virtual means.
- Collaboration with the Putnam Arts Council on the September 7th concert event “Celebrating African American Contributions to the Hudson Valley.” This event was funded by grants from the Putnam Arts Council, M&T Bank, Tompkins Bank, Putnam County Savings Bank, Rotary Club of Brewster, and the Brewster Fire Department.
- Collaboration with the Brewster Chamber of Commerce in creating the exhibit “The History of Business in Brewster.”
- Collaboration with Putnam History Museum in creating the local art exhibition “Revolutionary Visions: Women In the Hudson Highlands During the American Revolution.”
- Collaboration with the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition and the Brewster Central School District on the second annual Festival of Trees event featuring a performance by the C.V. Starr 4th grade Chorus.

- The formation and facilitation of the Town of Southeast Rev250 Advisory Committee to ensure that Brewster is at the forefront of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 2026. Members include the Town of Southeast Government including the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Supervisor of Recreation and a Board Member, the Brewster Central School District Superintendent, the President of the Southeast Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition, the President and Treasurer of the Landmarks Preservation Society of Southeast, the Regent of the Enoch Crosby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Putnam County Historian. Meetings are held at the Walter Brewster House.

Staffing

- Deborah Oswald, Ed.D, joined the Southeast Museum staff as Director of Education and Programming in 2023?. Deborah accepted the position of Executive Director in 2024. Deborah is a retired teacher with the North Salem School District. Deborah is also a published author of local women's historical fiction books. She is currently working on her sixth book, which takes place in Carmel and Troy, New York, during the Civil War. Since joining Southeast Museum, Deborah has joined the Brewster Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Brewster.
- James Nixon III serves as President of the Southeast Museum Board of Trustees.
- Current board trustees include Elizabeth Ryder, Michelle Powers, Verna Bergstrom, Mary Ann Taormina, Stephen Shea and Joan Bradley.
- Kathleen Zuris joined the museum in May 2024 as Museum Curator. Kathleen is an accomplished researcher, writer, and genealogist who has worked for New Milford Historical Society. Kathleen has created all of the exhibits for the museum's upcoming exhibit on "The History of Business in Brewster."
- Angela Nardoizzi joined the staff as Director of Administration in October of 2024. Angela brings with her thirty years of office management experience with the PepsiCo Company. She has proven invaluable in streamlining the museum's administrative programming as well as its social media presence.
- Patricia Frische, retired Brewster School District Educator and member of the Brewster Fire Department, joined the museum as a volunteer in August of 2023. Patricia has created several outstanding exhibits at the museum and has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from her work at The Institute for

American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut. Mrs. Frische volunteers six hours a week in addition to her work during special events.

- Board trustees Verna Bergstrom, Mary Ann Taormina, and Joan Bradley, as well as volunteer Michelle Carlson, contribute their time and provide coverage on a regular basis at the museum.

Sources of Revenue

- The Southeast Museum is supported by its membership, Putnam County, the Town of Southeast, New York State Council on the Arts, and other public and private charitable foundations, as well as corporations, local businesses and individuals. A volunteer Board of Trustees governs the museum, while a part-time Executive Director currently manages the museum alongside community volunteers.
- The Southeast Museum wishes to graciously acknowledge Putnam County and the Town of Southeast for their generous support.

Goals for 2025

- Development of an Oral History Documentary for Public Viewing - Southeast Museum has applied for a grant from the Putnam Arts Council which will enable the formalization of the interviews conducted throughout 2024 into an oral history project available to museum visitors. Funding for this project will be needed to cover the cost of recording devices, a standing camera, lighting equipment, microphones, and headsets for listening. The Southeast Museum plans on collaborating with the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition to contract with filmmakers and technical support in creating this documentary.
- Digitization of the Museum's Photograph Collection - Southeast Museum has begun collaboration with Green Chimneys School to host a supervised work study program for students to digitize the museum's photograph collection. Following the success of BHS senior Roderick's Cassidy's digitization of the Tilly Foster Mineral Collection, the museum has met with staff to create a program whereby students will photograph historic images and upload them to *Past Perfect*, a software program that will store photos. A link will then be created that will allow the digitized photographs to be available for viewing on the museum's website.

In conclusion, Southeast Museum would once again like to thank Putnam County, the Town of Southeast, The Putnam Arts Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts for funding our programs and exhibits.

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Putnam Community Action Partnership (CAP)/Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.

121 Main Street

Brewster, NY 10509

(845) 278-8021

moleary@westcop.org

Description of Agency:

Putnam CAP is a component of WestCOP, Inc. Founded in 1965 under the Economic Opportunity Act, WestCOP is a private not-for-profit multi-service organization serving the lower Hudson Valley. Established in 1986, Putnam CAP provides services to Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Services Provided:

Putnam CAP provides a myriad of services to Putnam's low-income community members. Those services include:

- **Food Pantry-** registered clients can access twice monthly
- **Soup Kitchen-** prepared hot, nutritious meal is provided 3 times weekly (increases to 4 times per week from December – April) to anyone in need of a meal
- **Emergency Financial Assistance-** assistance with utility or rental/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs, medical bills, camp tuition, etc. All recipients of this form of assistance must agree to meet with an agency Case Manager monthly for 12 consecutive months to assist with budgeting, setting and implementation of both short and long term goals toward self-sufficiency and to provide wrap around support.
- **Emergency Services-** \$100 or less assistance, in the form of a gift card, for needs such as gas for a vehicle, prescription co-pay, food for a dietary restriction, clothing, etc.
- **Miles of Hope-** grant of up to \$1,000 to assist anyone currently undergoing breast cancer treatment. Assistance is not restricted to just medical needs/bills, can also be used toward personal expenses.
- **Barret Lending-** provides up to \$1,200 in financial assistance with business expenses and up to \$900 in financial assistance with personal expenses to low-income business owners (offered in partnership with the Barrett Lending Corporation).
- **Information, Referrals & Advocacy-** Information and referrals are provided to

guide clients toward community resources. Assistance is also offered to connect clients with the appropriate organizations to access the services that meet their needs.

- **Children’s Car Seats-** Offered in collaboration with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, low-income parents are provided with a new child safety seat and instruction on how to properly install the seat.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program-** Contracted through Putnam County, Putnam CAP assists low-income youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to secure entry-level employment during the summer months. Youth are mentored in work ethic, appropriate work behavior, effective communication, and in career exploration activities.
- **Special Programs**
 - **School Supplies-** parents are provided with new backpacks and gift cards to purchase school supplies & clothing for their school-aged children.
 - **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**
 - **December Holiday Toy Program**
 - **Children’s Winter Coats**

Mission Statement:

Putnam CAP’s mission is to mobilize and efficiently manage resources, through partnerships and collaborations, to help low-income and at-risk populations in Putnam County achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Population Served:

Putnam County residents whose total household gross income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2024:

- 12,448 food insecure individuals received monthly supplemental food
- through the food pantry program. This is a 67% increase from 2023. We anticipate a continued increase in the number of individuals accessing this program due to inflation and rising costs of basic living expenses.
- 11,802 individuals received a hot nutritious meal through the soup kitchen program. This is a 10% increase from 2023.
- Due to its small staff size, Putnam CAP relies greatly on volunteers to assist with the operation of its food pantry and soup kitchen programs. In 2024, 6,487 hours were donated to the agency by our dedicated community volunteers. This was a savings in staff costs of \$217,180.
- Through partnerships with ShopRite, TOPs, Stop & Shop in Mahopac, DeCicco’s and Trader Joe’s, Putnam CAP received a total \$493,245 worth of food donations from their respective stores. These donations not only supplemented Putnam CAP’s food budget, but enabled the agency to expand our offerings of

fresh produce, organic meats and whole grain breads. Food donations received from these stores would have otherwise been discarded.

- \$41,830 was provided in client financial assistance with needs such as utility and rent/mortgage arrears, vehicle repairs & medical bills.
- 358 low-income children received needed school supplies to arrive to begin the school year equipped to learn
- 22 low-income youth between the ages of 14 – 20 were provided with summer employment for 9 weeks, financial literacy instruction (offered in partnership with Tompkins Community Bank), mentorship and workforce skill development support.
- 1476 at-risk individuals were connected with community resources (i.e. health insurance, mental health services, child care services, SNAP, HEAP) to help stabilize their families
- 332 families received Thanksgiving food
- 500 children were serviced through our December Holiday Toy Program
- Putnam CAP is currently partnering with two local farms, Lobster Hill Farm & Aurelia’s Organic Garden, to reduce food waste. These farms accept the leftover bread and produce, that is no longer appropriate for client distribution, at the time of closing each day that the food pantry is open. We are proud to help to reduce the amount of food that ends up in landfills.
- Putnam CAP held its Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction fundraiser in April 2024

Staffing:

In July 2024, Putnam CAP’s longtime Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen Operator, Jerry Grant, retired after 19 years of service to the organization, which was a significant transition for staff, volunteers and clients. Kyoko Namba was hired to fill the position in November 2024. She is a former Putnam CAP Food Pantry volunteer.

Putnam CAP has struggled to retain a qualified bilingual Receptionist, as the position is part-time and only pays \$17.00/hr. Position has been vacant since August 2024, however a new candidate has been selected and will start with the organization in January.

Sources of Revenue:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Department of State (Community Service Block grant): | \$279,450 |
| • Putnam County: | \$12,917 |
| • Grants/Foundations: | \$52,845 |
| • Private/Fundraising: | \$99,817 |
| Total: | \$445,029 |

Goals for 2025:

- Expand community partnerships to secure donations of fresh milk to be distributed more cost-effectively through the food pantry program. Putnam CAP currently purchases milk through a local market, however with the increase in demand for services, this increasing cost is not sustainable for the organization.
- Continue development of additional financial literacy programming for clients which incorporates items such as understanding hidden fees, building credit and strategies for budgeting while living on a fixed income.
- Explore opportunities for a physical presence on the Western side of the County to better serve individuals with transportation barriers.