

June 17, 2026 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The BRIDGE School at Rye Brook Honors Graduates with Guest Speaker Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr

RYE BROOK, NY – On Wednesday June 17, 2026 at 10:00 am, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's BRIDGE School at Rye Brook, a NYS Department of Education-approved special education center serving students with disabilities, ages 5 to 21, held its graduation ceremony. The school's two graduates, in formal cap and gown attire, were surrounded by their peers from the BRIDGE School, as well as staff, family, and friends for this special day. Hosted by Principal Patricia Caruso, the ceremony included music and poetry performances by the BRIDGE School Chorus, CPW's Vocal Groove Ensemble, and resident



Left to Right: Stephanie Russo, CPW COO; Patricia Caruso, BRIDGE School Principal; Freddie Rivera, BRIDGE School Teacher Aide; Parents and Graduate Yency Rodriguez Santana, Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr; Parents and Graduate Luke W Hobbart; Greg Kemp, Pleasantville School District Psychologist. (Photo by Honora Banks)

poet Ollie Lowery. Greg Kemp, psychologist from the Pleasantville School District was on hand to support our two graduates: **Luke W Hobbart** and **Yency Rodriguez Santana**. The commencement address was given by Iris Gomez, the mother of a past BRIDGE School student, Joyce Gomez, who also spoke a few words using her eye-gaze software. Guest Speakers included Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr, and NYS Senator Shelley Mayer (via video), who spoke on behalf of Westchester County and the State of New York, congratulating the graduates, and wishing them luck in all their future endeavors. Celebrations continued with a luncheon with DJ and dancing.

The **BRIDGE School at Rye Brook**, a division of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, is a special education center serving students with multiple disabilities and medical complications, unable to be served by regular public schools. It offers a comprehensive program that connects families, students, and educational professionals to help each student reach their academic potential and discover what the possibilities are for them beyond the school setting. For more information, visit <https://cpwestchester.org/school-program/>.

Founded in 1949, **Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's** mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people living with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy. CPW's main campus is located in Rye Brook, NY, housing a special education school, an adult day habilitation program and recreation programs. CPW operates the United Preschool Center in White Plains, as well as six group homes throughout Westchester. Through a comprehensive network of educational programs, day services, residential sites, therapeutic services, employment training, recreation programs and advocacy, the agency helps thousands of children and adults in Westchester and Fairfield Counties live more productive and satisfying lives. The organization's motto is: *Realizing Tomorrow's Potential . . . Today!*

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For more information and high-resolution images, contact Tia Levinson, CPW's Director of Development and Public Relations, at 914-937-3800 ext. 353 or email tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org.



Left to Right: Stephanie Russo, CPW COO; Patricia Caruso, BRIDGE School Principal; Joana Gomez, Joyce Gomez (in front), Iris Gomez; , Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr. (Photo by Honora Banks)



Left to Right: Debbie Friedman, Legislative Aide to Nancy Barr; Justin, Legislative Intern; Patricia Caruso, BRIDGE School Principal; Jennifer Brennan, BRIDGE School Social Worker; Stephanie Russo, CPW COO. (Photo by Honora Banks)