



**Westchester Mental Health Guild  
Press release, January 27, 2022**



The Westchester Mental Health Guild celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year on January 26 with its annual meeting of members, held virtually this year due to virus concerns. The Guild recognized Mary Ellen Cassman with its Founders’ Award. Mrs. Cassman is the only one of several original founders of the organization who is known to still be living in the area.

When Mrs. Cassman moved from the East Coast to Westchester in the early 1950’s, she recognized the need for mental health services in the community. A consummate volunteer, she developed community support to establish the Westchester Mental Health Guild, which, in turn, led to the opening of the Airport Marina Counseling Service (AMCS). Mary Ellen served as the AMCS Executive Director for 19 years and has stayed involved as a member of the WMHG and AMCS Boards ever since. We salute her and express our deep gratitude for her creative leadership and lifelong dedication that have produced and sustained WMHG and AMCS.

The Guild is a 501(c) (3) organization which has for the past 60 years worked to raise funds to support AMCS. Among other activities, the Guild operated a gift shop called “the Guilded Cage” from 1975 through 2016, and conducted 37 annual indoor tours of homes decorated for the holidays in Westchester and Playa del Rey. When the pandemic began, the Guild began to hold mostly online events, including wine tastings, cooking and flower-arranging demonstrations, and a trivia contest. In addition, the Guild hosted a popular Holiday Lights Tour & Contest in both 2020 and 2021, as well as selling handcrafted items and hosting restaurant fundraisers.

The funds the Guild raises support the AMCS clinic at 7891 La Tijera Boulevard, which provides affordable mental health counseling to the community and also trains therapists. For further information, access the Guild website, and the AMCS website at [www.amcshelps.com](http://www.amcshelps.com). For questions, email: [info@westchestermhg.org](mailto:info@westchestermhg.org).

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