

Diane R. Pagen, LMSW
718-612-9053
dianepagen@yahoo.com
www.dianepagen.com

Policy Analyst, Social Worker, and Writer/Communicator

I'm a bilingual (English/Spanish) policy analyst and community activist/social worker with sixteen years of experience in income maintenance policy and direct social services. I build relationships to further social policy that benefits everyone. I have also taught social welfare policy at Rutgers University and at Borough of Manhattan Community College in NYC. My mission is to further the creation and implementation of social welfare policies that are adequate, humane, and efficient.

I co-founded, planned and coordinated the flagship Basic Income March of 2019 which went from Manhattan to The Bronx. Over 800 people participated, including experts in Universal Basic Income study and advocacy. I co founded Basic Income NYC, where I worked with a team to hold ongoing events called Basic Income Movie Nights, from 2015 to 2019. I've provided policy analysis to former NYC Councilmember Daniel Dromm, as well as to Andrew Yang during his campaign for President.

As a writer and communicator, I have published two dozen articles and opinion pieces and one book chapter, have presented at conferences in the U.S. and abroad, have met with key people in government and society, and have been a guest on podcasts and online sessions to discuss poverty and anti-poverty policy.

Education

Master of Social Work, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work, New York City

BA Modern Languages, Magna Cum Laude, Universidad de Puerto Rico, San Juan

Publications (partial list)

New York City Department of Health Pays Pro-vax Doctors \$35 million to Recommend Covid-19 Vaccines.
DailyClout, March 23, 2022
<https://dailyclout.io/new-york-city-department-of-health-gives-35-million-for-pro-vax-doctors/>

Universal Basic Income: My Story. In Political Activism and Basic Income Guarantee: International Experiences and Perspectives Past, Present, and Near Future. R. Caputo & L. Liu, editors. NY: Palgrave. September 2020.

Our Grenfell: Slow Death of the Poor. *New York Daily News*, July 8, 2017; updated and republished in *Pressenza*, Aug, 22, 2019 <https://www.pressenza.com/2019/08/our-grenfell-slow-death-of-the-poor/>

The Big Sneaky: Stop Pretending that Welfare Is Still a Federal Program. In *Basic Income Action blog*, January 20, 2016. http://www.basicincomeaction.org/the_big_sneaky_poverty_forum

Remember the Children: A Call for a Basic Income Supplement in the U.S. In *Basic Income Action blog*, September 26, 2015. www.basicincomeaction.org/remember-the-children

Turkeys and Coats are not a Safety Net. In *NJ Star Ledger*, December 8, 2014.

Food Stamps, Crab Legs, Childhood Obesity. In *The Dallas Morning News*, June 28, 2013. Pagen, D. and

Funiciello, T. (2007) The Adventures of Carrie Giver: The Cost of Caring. TR Rose Associates.

Report for Delaware County (NY) Commissioner of Social Services, *Reducing Periodic Reporting in the Food Stamp program to Increase Child Well Being and Improve the Economy in Delaware County* (2011).

Policy Activism

Co-Founder, **Basic Income March**

Co-Founder and Manager, **Basic Income NYC (2015-2020)**

Invited Participant, **Assured Income Working Group, National Association for Social Insurance**

Activist and Organizer, **Income Movement (since 2020)**

Volunteer Advocate for a long-term shelter client to help him find an apartment and leave the NYC shelter system

Select Social Work Experience

August 2022 to Present City of Danville, Virginia, Community Development Division, Housing Grant

Coördinator In this role I manage disbursements of Housing and Urban Development CDBG federal grants to the City and support our grant sub-recipients in documenting their work to HUD. I also research and write proposals for new funding sources and support local organizations in their own efforts to secure new funding.

March 2015 - February 2022

New York City Department of Education, Committee on Special Education: School Social Worker

New York, New York

I conducted social history interviews for students in the evaluation process of the Committee on Special Education and helped parents to understand the process and the services; I provided support to families during the IEP reviews and the evaluation process. I helped parents to obtain resources and aid in the community for their families. I supported students during school shutdowns and hybrid schedules due to COVID-19 with virtual counseling sessions as well. In 2021, the Chancellor of NYC Schools violated our union negotiated labor contracts and terminated tenured educators because we declined to participate in taking the untested Covid19 vaccine.

December 2013- March 2015

Jewish Board for Family and Children's Services: Social Worker, Tier II shelter for families

Queens, New York

I helped moms and kids living in our shelter to get income and other resources restored when they were cut off from public assistance programs such as TANF. Moms came to me for help with their apartment searches. I also held formal supportive social groups weekly with moms to help them stay strong while they were experiencing homelessness. I accompanied moms to social services appointments and intervened to restore funds when benefits were cut off. I assisted our organization to implement safety reforms after a "near miss" incident in our shelter. One thing I am very proud of is that I saved one mother's life when I made the decision to take her to another ER when she was sent home sick by the local hospital—it turned out she had been misdiagnosed. The shelter director had refused to provide me petty cash to take her to the better hospital that was further away, so I used my own money. My decision saved this mother's life.

April 2012-August 2013

Winston Medical Staffing: Counseling and social work at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital

Psychiatry New York, New York

I served as case manager and did crisis intervention for inpatient psychiatric patients, including intensive encouragement to follow discharge plans. Helping to calm nervous patients was an essential part of the work. I helped families with discharge planning. I provided support to Spanish speaking patients bi-lingually.

January 2008-March 2011

Social Worker/Asthma Counselor

Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York, New York

I managed a social services and asthma education program for one of the largest public hospitals in the City. My home visits, advocacy to get families basic resources, and my analysis of the program to chiefs of staff resulted in a significant decline in emergency room visits for kids with asthma as well as improved home management of asthma. I am proud that I went above and beyond my job description to get Department of Health “Healthbucks” vouchers to the families who used our pediatric asthma clinic—an estimated income boost of \$2,500 each summer.

July 2002-December 2008

Program Coordinator

Social Agenda, Inc. New York, New York

I planned and carried out outreach, advocacy, and public relations for our national women’s policy project, the *Caregiver Credit Campaign*, to amend federal tax law to benefit unpaid caregivers. As part of this project I wore multiple hats—I got us media coverage 30+ times between January 2006 and September 2007: in Des Moines Register, Roll Call (DC), Washington Examiner, UN News Radio. I also co-wrote our policy advocacy comic book, *The Adventures of Carrie Giver* and persuaded noted American comic book artist Mr. Neal Adams to draw the cover. I traveled to Spain and Ireland to collaborate with anti-poverty groups in Europe.

Presentations

2020: Second Annual Basic Income March (2020) and numerous online interviews and forums including for Boston Basic Income (Access at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azFG0D0O038&t=161s>); interview with Congressional candidate Blair Walsingham (Access at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chBAw5UC10k&t=32s>); and Juhl Media (Access at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg9h_DhoLxk&t=1255s)

2019: Panelist for Alternative Basic Income Systems—A Discussion. The Bushwick Generator (NYC)

Interview with Kings County Politics Podcast (NYC). Access at <https://www.kingscountypolitics.com/un-correct-new-york-talks-universal-basic-income/>

Interview with TV news show *Face 2 Face* (NYC). Access at <https://www.pressenza.com/2019/09/face-2-face-with-diane-pagen/>

2018: Presentation on U.S. poverty for visiting delegation of politicians at Consulate General of Finland (NYC)

Interview with Congressional Quarterly

Interview with The Weekly Standard

Presentation for Safety Net Activists at Urban Justice Center (NYC)

2017: Presentation for National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics conference (Pittsburgh)

Presentation for North American Basic Income Guarantee Network Congress (NYC)

2016 and 2015: Presentations:

For Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Former Commissioner, NYC Human Resources Administration

For Richard Ravitch, Former President of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of New York City

For William Glasgall, The Volker Alliance (NYC)

References

Stacey Rutland, Executive Director, Income Movement: stacey@incomemovement.com

Bill Arnone, CEO, National Association for Social Insurance: warnone@nasi.org

Gisele Huff, Executive Director, Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity: gisele@fundforhumanity.org