



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO
January 1, 2021 – February 9th, 2022

Overview:

Family Court Judges grant Court Orders to non-custodial parents for visitation with their children. Visits are facilitated and supervised by court-approved child advocates. Reports of the visitation are provided to the courts as per Court Order requirement. The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center was created during the pandemic year, 2020 due to the national federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, submitting an Affiliate Agreement wherein the brand was bespoken as mentoring. Therefore, to continue with the valuable service of the Court Ordered Visitation Program and the after-school programming, we applied for a 501c(3) registration to “house” our adjunct programming. During 2021, The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center was provided with an IRS and NYS charitable registration and because of the COVID 19 virus, all programming except our Visitation Program, became suspended. That said, however, since the Family Court of Rockland was pleased with the creation and development of Virtual Visitation during the “lock down” period in 2020, we were asked to not only sustain that service but approved expansion of three other services during 2021, In-Home, Off-Site and the resumption of our On-Site service. The latter service is now operating from Room 159 , Building A, Pomona.

Mission Statement:

A basic website was created to inform the public, receive donations and visitation payment fees and the usage of the 2005 Mission Statement remained: The purpose of the Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program is to provide non-custodial parents an opportunity to meet each week with their child(ren) in a safe, child-friendly environment under the supervision of court approved supervisors. Together with the Vision Statement: To assist youth build skills to enable them to overcome economic and social barriers while recognizing the importance of self-directed learning, we are aware that the Website does need improving and expanding and it is our hope that will take place during 2022.

Intent:

The purpose of the Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program is to provide non-custodial parents an opportunity to meet each week with their child (ren) in a safe, child-friendly environment under the supervision of court approved supervisors.

Service Delivery:

Our four avenues of visitation services identified above, now continue serving Rockland County's children and families with dedication but has increased extensively. During the past year, The Court Ordered Visitation program, which has now been under our leadership for sixteen years, have processed 89 families via 178 Intakes amounting to 127 children served via 1361 visits . Of the number of 89 families as stated above, 44 of that number are families who are victims of domestic violence. The essence of programming is when supervised visits are ordered by Family Court or Supreme Court when a **visit** with a non-custodial parent -- the parent who doesn't have custody -- could be physically or psychologically dangerous for the child.

Rationale:

1. Allegations that custodial parent is denying access to non-custodial parent
2. Lengthy separation of child and parent or no previous relationship
3. History of mental health problems
4. Unresolved conflict between parents
5. Concerns about parenting skills
6. Concerns about emotional, sexual, or physical abuse of children
7. History of substance abuse
8. Abduction concerns
9. History of domestic violence

Summary is on the front-line to deliver since, we all know that the body and mind are intertwined. A healthy body without a healthy mind in a child can create a disturbed child. Knowing that physical, mental and the emotional welfare of children is the key to promoting their self-esteem and healthy behaviors, RYE consistently provides referrals in all social service fields to fill the gaps in our services and to aid those families who are experiencing mental difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Goal Setting and Planning:

The Strategic Plan has been developed as a tool for further expansion of programming and to broaden our community profile. We continue to strive ceaselessly for recognition of our services in the community by repeated and consistent messages, which depict the diversity of each of our service areas. This is a single subject, designed to educate public officials, corporations, civic organizations, and the private/public sector, by way of presenting effective strategies for both visibility and contributions in order to guide the growth of The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center throughout the year and to amplify our vision in the community. Likewise, we frequently submit Proposals to private foundations outlining comprehensive designs promoting all aspects of collaboration with like agencies and minority organizations. When a proposal is accepted, then the grant ultimately leads to expansion of parameters guiding the way we deliver our service,

Collaboration Partnerships:

In fulfillment of The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center's objectives to strengthen additional revenue sources, the organization has integrated collaborative programming partnerships such agencies as: the Rockland County Departments of Social Service, Probation, PINS and Parole. The Rockland Family Shelter, Child Protective Services, Family/Supreme Courts of Rockland County.

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

-John F. Kennedy

Respectfully submitted,
Gillian E. Ballard