



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO  
2022 – 2023

**Mission Statement:** *The Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program, borne from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland organization and existing as an independent non-profit, serves to allow parents in high conflict or high-risk situations, access to their children in a safe and supervised environment. for the purpose of strengthening parents and empowering children and youth to re-engage with the absent parent.*

**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 received approved expansion of three other services during 2022, In-Home, Off-Site and the resumption of our On-Site service. The latter service is now operating from Room 159, Building A,

**Service Delivery:**

Our four avenues of visitation services identified above, now continue serving Rockland County’s children and families with dedication. During the past year, The Court Ordered Visitation program, which has now been under our leadership for seventeen years, has processed 110 families via 1100 visits. 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.

**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.



2022 Inaugural Fundraiser honoring Retired Family Court Judge, William Warren  
L – R: County Executive, The Hon. E. Day, Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and Assemblyman, Ken Zebrowski



Retired Family Court Judge, William Warren Founder of the Rockland Court Ordered Visitation Program and our Inaugural Honoree and, Board Chair, Robert Barilli

### **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
- 10.

### **Program Delivery:**

**The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center** 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 post the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Goal Setting and Planning:**

The Business 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,

### **Annual Service Summary:**

The Court Ordered Visitation program has now been under our leadership for seventeen years during the year, 2022, we conducted **146 Virtual 1 – 1 Office Intakes Office resulting in 220 children being served throughout the year from 110 families, 83 of whom were victims of domestic abuses.** There were 1100 visits between the Visiting Parent and their child(ren) which is a remarkable increase in services and quite unprecedented



L - R – Appellate Court Judge, Linda Christopher, and Director Barbash

**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, The Center for Safety and Change and Serenity Health Group, Suffern.



**Annual Spotlight:**

The Inaugural Fundraiser held at The Crowne Plaza, Suffern on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> honoring Retired Family Court Judge, William Warren, was an outstanding success. With approximately 150 attendees, 24 sponsors, 50/50 raffle, tricky tray raffles and a silent auction, we grossed \$40,000. Our expenditures were limited, so the net was \$32,000. An incredible feat

but a wonderful evening wherein we offered plaques to our 4 Champion Sponsors, Apple Bank, Crowne Plaza, James Sexton P.C and The New City Florist together with acknowledgment to the Serenity Health Group for the pro bono office at 75 Montebello Road, Suffern.



Supreme Court Judge, Larry Schwartz



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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gillian E. Ballard