



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO
January 2023 – December 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: The program offers supervised visitation, which allows non-custodial parents to have contact with their children only when a court-approved supervisor is present. Visitation is ordered by the Family or Supreme Court and typically occurs in cases involving domestic violence, substance abuse, or allegations of abuse.

Family Court Judges issue Court Orders to non-custodial parents, allowing them visitation with their children. These visits are supervised by court-approved supervisors, and comprehensive reports are submitted to the courts, complying with Court Order requirements.

In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic in 2020, the Rockland Youth Empowerment Center was established as an independent organization due to the 2019 Affiliate Agreement with the national federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, designating mentoring as the only brand of programming. To continue providing crucial services like the Court Ordered Visitation Program and after-school programming, we pursued a 501c (3) registration to formally incorporate our adjunct programming to become autonomous with its own Board of Directors.



In 2021, The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center obtained IRS and NYS charitable registrations. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, all programming, except the Visitation Program, was temporarily suspended. The Family Court of Rockland recognized and appreciated the creation and development of Virtual Visitation during the lockdown in 2020 in order for continuation of service.

As a result, we were not only encouraged to sustain the Virtual Visitation service but also received approval for the expansion of three other services in 2022: In-Home, Off-Site, and the resumption of our On-Site service. The latter is currently operational from Room 159, Building A. This growth reflects our commitment to adapting and enhancing our services to meet the evolving needs of the community, especially during challenging times.

Purpose: The primary purposes of the supervised visitation program are ensuring the safety of children, compliance with court orders, providing a controlled environment for visits, addressing issues of domestic violence and abuse, supporting reconciliation and healing when appropriate, and preventing further victimization of children.

Service Delivery: RYE offers various formats for supervised visitation, including on-site, off-site, virtual, and in-home visitation. The program operates on specific days and times to accommodate different schedules. 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 eighteen years, has processed service to 359 over the year v 110 families in 1922 with 1569 visits v 1100 visits last year. 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. In 2023, we witnessed a significant number of families participating in our program. This growth demonstrates our expanding reach within the community and highlights the trust placed in our services.

Safety: The primary purpose is to ensure the safety and well-being of the children involved. This is particularly crucial when there are concerns about domestic violence, abuse, or other risks associated with allowing unsupervised contact between the non-custodial parent and the child.

Compliance: This program operates in accordance with orders from the Rockland County Family or Supreme Court, ensuring that visitation occurs as specified in legal documents. This helps maintain legal compliance and enforce court decisions.

Controlled Environment: Supervised visitation programs provide a controlled and monitored setting for interactions between non-custodial parents and their children. This can include on-site visitation at a facility, off-site visits in public places, virtual visits through video calls, or in-home supervision. The choice of format depends on the specific circumstances and court orders.



Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse: One of the key purposes is to address cases where there have been allegations or evidence of domestic violence, abuse, or other issues that raise concerns about the child's safety. The program aims to facilitate contact between the non-custodial parent and the child while ensuring the child's safety and emotional well-being.

Reconciliation and Healing: In some cases, the program may aim to support the process of reconciliation between the child and the absent parent. This can involve therapy or counseling to address family issues and improve relationships. It also provides an opportunity for parents to demonstrate positive changes and commitment to their child's welfare.

Victimization Prevention: By providing a safe and controlled environment, the RYE supervised visitation program aims to prevent further victimization of children and ensure their emotional and psychological well-being.

In summary, the purpose of a supervised visitation program is multifaceted, with a primary focus on ensuring the safety of the child while facilitating contact between non-custodial parents and their children under court orders. It seeks to address issues such as domestic violence, abuse, and victimization, with the potential for reconciliation and healing when appropriate. The choice of visitation format may vary depending on the specific circumstances of each case.

Intent: RYE seeks to expand its administration of the Court Ordered Visitation Program, incorporating current Private Court Approved Supervisors into the organization. This would

involve providing background checks, training, insurance liability coverage, and oversight for policies and procedures compliance.

Objective: RYE will receive electronically submitted Court Orders designating Visiting Parents' ability to meet at selected places or residences under supervision. The organization will monitor visits, maintain schedules, and submit reports to the Family Court as required.

Administration: RYE will develop and maintain schedules for each service, including the names, dates, and times of supervisors providing services. These schedules will be submitted to the Family Court for review, if requested.

Benefit: The Court Ordered Visitation Program now housed as an individual 501© (3) charitable organization.

Procedure: Visitation is offered based on Court Orders, with the court determining the length, dates, and times of each visit. Court-approved Supervisors monitor exchanges and provide

Organization History: RYE has been authorized by the Family and Supreme Courts since January 2005 to administer the Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program in Rockland County. This program is designed to provide non-custodial parents with the opportunity to have supervised visits with their children in a safe environment. The program was redesigned and reestablished in 2005 after a budget-related termination.

Purpose: The primary purposes of the supervised visitation program are ensuring the safety of children, compliance with court orders, providing a controlled environment for visits, addressing issues of domestic violence and abuse, supporting reconciliation and healing when appropriate, and preventing further victimization of children.

Administration: RYE will develop and maintain schedules for each service, including the names, dates, and times of supervisors providing services. These schedules will be submitted to the Family Court for review if requested.

In summary, the Rockland Youth Empower Center operates a Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program with the aim of ensuring the safety of children, complying with court orders, and providing a supportive environment for visitation in cases involving domestic violence, abuse, or other concerns. organization seeks to expand its role in administering the program and offers various formats for supervised visitation to accommodate different circumstances. The



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

View of one of our 4 On Site Visiting Rooms



View of our activity nook

Program Delivery:

The Rockland Youth Empowerment Center is engaged in assessing and understanding systemic procedures relating to Court Ordered Supervised Visitation. At the Board Level, government of policies, including By-Laws and administrative procedures'



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 eighteen years. During the year, 2023, we conducted **266 Intakes resulting in 1569** visits between 149 children and 210 Visiting Parent) 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, Derech Shalom, Serenity Health Group and Montebello Media.

Annual Spotlight

September 11, Derech Shalom presented at 75 Montebello Road, Suffern, a Divorce Mediation Summit to the general public. There were two panels of professionals discussing the areas that need addressing during a divorce i.e. matrimonial home; insurance/savings and, of course, the children. It was a lovely occasion with refreshments and camaraderie making it an event for consideration every year.

View of Reading Nook and Activity Center for our On-Site visitation service.



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

Below - Entrance Hall and registration area for on site clients.



Respectfully submitted,
Gillian E. Ballard



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2024

Executive Officers

Title	Name
Chairperson	Robert Barilli
Vice Chairperson	Carol Barbash
Treasurer	Keith Brown
Recording Secretary	Jennifer Sislin

Board of Directors

Carol Barbash, Esq.
Robert Barilli
Edward Brignoni
Keith Brown
Michael Ellman, Esq.
Avi Kahan
James Lugo
Jennifer Sislin

Legislative Liaison

The Hon. Alden Wolfe, Esq.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
2023 Fundraiser	2,450.00
Center Visitation Grant	46,306.64
County Grant	37,816.08
Donations	
Foundation	2,000.00
Individual	2,000.00
Total Donations	4,000.00
Grants	22,000.00
NYS Grant	6,032.03
Other Types of Income	0.00
Visitation Fees	
At Home	4,707.86
offsite	9,114.50
onsite	9,660.50
virtual	3,422.43
Total Visitation Fees	26,905.29
Total Income	145,510.04
Gross Profit	145,510.04
Expense	
Background checks	54.00
Bank Fees	
Stripe Fees	760.88
Total Bank Fees	760.88
Bookkeeping Expense	1,616.00
Consulting	6,984.12
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	6,245.00
Total Contract Services	6,245.00
Facilities and Equipment	
Janitorial Services	3,238.56
Rent	6,366.12
Total Facilities and Equipment	9,604.68
Marketing and Public Relations	166.36
Office Expense	
office expense	3,075.45
supplies	44.95
Technology	17.24
Total Office Expense	3,137.64
Operations	

Telephone, Telecommunications	1,180.01
Total Operations	1,180.01
Other Types of Expenses	
General Insurance	2,489.57
Insurance - D and O	1,044.00
Insurance WC	412.00
Molestation Insurance	7,013.38
Total Other Types of Expenses	10,958.95
Payroll Expenses	97,545.05
Travel and Meetings	
Travel	80.46
Total Travel and Meetings	80.46
Total Expense	138,333.15
Net Ordinary Income	7,176.89
Net Income	7,176.89