

# County Connections

Schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
**Rockland  
21C**  
Collaborative for  
Children & Youth

*Building a Comprehensive Support System that Links Family, School & Community Together* ★ Vol. 7, No. 1 ★ SPRING 2006

## FROM FOUNDERS TO FAMILIES 21C Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Looking Back

All Rockland's children cared for, nurtured and ready to learn – that was the inspiring idea held by the founders of Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth. Eight school districts, BOCES, child-centered organizations, teachers' centers, colleges, public and private agencies and government and business leaders coalesced around Yale University's Schools of the 21st Century Program, which links communities, families and schools "to promote the optimal growth and development of children beginning at birth."



### What has this looked like in practice?

Early on, under the leadership of Board Chair Harriet Cornell, the founders formed a nonprofit, Rockland 21C (as the collaborative is known). School superintendents stepped up to the plate to host Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in elementary schools—places where all families could gather and 'build community,' find resources about child development, health, parenting, social services, and support the schools and their educational programs and goals.

With contributions from the County of Rockland, school districts, State of New York and other organizations, the founders have produced educational symposia, workshops and retreats focusing on children's issues and best practices. Some partner groups have implemented solutions within their own organizations to issues that were identified in early 21C planning efforts and 21C schools have helped to spread the word. Rockland 21C itself imported the nationally lauded, evidence-based Parent-Child Home Program to boost

early literacy skills of two- and three-year-olds. To build the capacity of the Family Resource Centers further, Rockland 21C has collaborated with Rockland County AmeriCorps, a program of the Rockland County Youth Bureau, to place their Literacy Corps members in schools, and with the Rockland County Department of Health's Steps to a HealthierNY program, which has assisted schools in their efforts to promote physical activity and good nutrition.

In their school bases, Family Resource Center coordinators have solved problems, found translators, run empowerment groups and story hours, offered enrichment programs, worked with teachers and school professional staff, organized "Meet the Principal" breakfasts and desserts, and much, much more. And there are now thirty-two FRCs in Rockland County, including three middle-school efforts.

Selected founders and families shared their memories and experiences at the 10th anniversary celebration.

# Founders Reminisce About the Early Days of 21C *by Linda Tarrant-Reid*

**Harriet Cornell** has been in elected office for the past 23 years. In her role as a Rockland County Legislator and Chair of the Legislature, she has been uniquely positioned to assess the needs of the county's children and adolescents.

It was at a conference on youths and adolescents in April 1995, that Mrs. Cornell met Dr. Edward Zigler.

As a member of the organizing committee, she had invited him to be the keynote speaker. A professor at Yale University and a key architect of Head Start, Dr. Zigler spoke about youth violence prevention. Dr. Zigler also talked about a program that he had developed called the "School of the 21st Century."

"It was a program that had been instituted by schools, maybe 300 across the country," said Mrs. Cornell recently, "and the way he described the program, I believed it was a perfect framework for many of the different activities involving children and youth that were going on in the County of Rockland with government agencies, not-for-profit agencies and school groups.

"So, I invited 30 people to go with me to Yale University in December of 1995 to meet with Dr. Zigler and his team. In our group were school superintendents, principals, a Teachers' Center representative, someone from Head Start and several people from the county government."

The day trip to New Haven would be life-changing. "Everyone was very impressed and very interested in Dr. Zigler's program and they asked me



**Harriet Cornell**

Chair of Rockland 21C and  
Rockland County Legislator

to convene meetings back in Rockland so that we could talk about it," explained Mrs. Cornell. "After many meetings by the core group, it was determined that there needed to be involvement by the community, by the parents and by all of the institutions that have a bearing on a child's life," continued Mrs. Cornell. "We put together a Steering Committee, which later on became the Executive Committee, and eventually we created an entity called Rockland Schools of the 21st Century."

At the time, average family structure was shifting and children were the ones most impacted, not just in Rockland County, but also all over the United States. "There was a concern, knowing that many of the children in Rockland County had either two working parents who were not home after school or that children were in families with single heads of households and that there needed to be much more sense of community around children's lives," said Mrs. Cornell. "There was also a deep belief that the early years, before a child went to school, were absolutely crucial to a child's becoming a good learner and being

able to succeed in school.

"Although there were several after-school programs at the time, they were very hard to sustain on an individual basis. An umbrella group was formed and we joined with Yale and really used their model, which was focused on early childhood, parental involvement and the establishment of Family Resource Centers. With Yale lending its technical assistance, we moved ahead with great deliberation; and wherever there was interest by a school district or school, we worked with them to do an assessment of that school community's needs."

In the summer of 1996, Mrs. Cornell invited a group of people to go to Yale University for a four-day National Academy where people came from all over the country to learn more about the School of the 21st Century program. The attendees learned how to implement the program, and benefited from a dialogue of best practices with people who had actually implemented the program.

"It was really a wonderful thing. I remember that first summer: Mark McNeill, the Superintendent of Nanuet, came on the bus and he had planned to go back to Rockland at the end of the day. He was so enthusiastic after the first day of the academy that he went back, got his suitcase and stayed for the rest of the conference. It was really building enthusiasm, building knowledge and showing us how to go about implementing the program. That was the start," reminisced Mrs. Cornell.

After operating informally for almost two years, 21C was officially launched in the fall of 1997. During that year, the founders and organizers of 21C sought input from an outside consultant and the Rockland

community to define a strategic plan. “It’s been a collaboration in which we labored with others to achieve a goal. And we have built that collaboration and what we have in Rockland is really considered unique in the country. Unlike the schools that implemented the program separately, at a



NYS Commissioner of Education Richard Mills and Dr. Edward Zigler, founder of the Yale School of the 21st Century Program, were guest speakers at the launch of Rockland 21C in 1997. Here they join Harriet Cornell, Board Chair.

separate school or a single school district, we joined together countywide and got the support of all the school districts, BOCES, the government, 75 public and private agencies and businesses. We’ve been very, very successful.”

When asked what Mrs. Cornell considered 21C’s greatest accomplishment, she explained, “Frankly, I think that the greatest accomplishment of 21C is instilling in individuals and institutions the need for a community-wide approach to the education, health and development of children. It cannot just be left to the schools in this complicated world we live in. There needs to be family, government, community and schools – all working together. Up until the establishment of 21C, it was not easy to make all those partners recognize that they needed to work together.

“I think another accomplishment is the Family Resource Centers. We went from zero FRCs to 32. We now have FRCs in 29 elementary schools and three middle schools in Rockland County. It was a new concept and it

took a lot of dedication and work – from the first one that opened in the Nyack School District to the 32 we have in operation today. That is the way 21C grew.”

Discussing the Family Resource Centers Mrs. Cornell said, “It has made such a difference for families to be welcomed into the schools even before their children go to school. The outreach to the families is phenomenal. They bring in their infants and their toddlers for wonderful programs. The Centers develop programs depending on the needs of the school community. Their offerings include: Men and Boys Night, Family Fun Night, Bedtime Stories, and all kinds of great opportunities for families to bond and meet school staff.”

One of the keys to the success of the Family Resource Centers according to Harriet Cornell is “...the relationship between a Principal and a Family Resource Coordinator, when they operate as a team, is really wonderful. And to get the support of the Principal is a necessary ingredient.”

As far as the future of 21C, Mrs. Cornell said, “What we intend to do, of course, is sustain what we have and then do more with the middle school years because that is a time fraught with challenges. It is an important step and many of the families, especially the families that have had

Family Resource Centers in their elementary schools, want to see the FRCs in their middle schools to help involve those middle school children in healthy activities.

“The Parent-Child Home Program, a literacy program, is one that I am particularly proud of. We use the national program prototype called Parent-Child Home and some of our volunteers are from AmeriCorps. The volunteers go into a selected home with books and toys twice a week, to the same family. The program is for two- and three-year-olds. The volunteer works with the parent and the child by teaching the parent how to enrich their reading with their child and how to talk to the child. This is a very, very successful program and the whole concept is to have the children ready for kindergarten so those years of early development are not lost, which puts the child at a disadvantage in kindergarten compared to other children.

“For me personally, working with 21C is the most important thing that I have done. The partnership that developed to help Rockland children, each and every one of them, reach optimal development, is really a marvelous thing. I think the people of Rockland are very proud that we are so dedicated to the children of our community.”

**I know FRCs make a difference when ...  
Children have a safe and nurturing place to stay.**

Whether their parents are at work and children have enrichments or care provided by the FRCs, or when parents are simply attending meetings with their teachers and we provide fun programs.

## Founders Reminisce (cont'd)

**Dennis Fleming** has been with the Rockland County Youth Bureau for 29 years. And during that time, he has seen a lot of community-based programs in action, but none quite like 21C. “People keep supporting 21C because it has to do with this idea of a community partnership –a county-wide public and private partnership – which is focused on the optimal development of every child,” Fleming said recently.

“When I arrived here in 1977, Rockland County was required by the State every year or two to put together a comprehensive plan for children, youth and families. And after a few of these plans were completed, it became evident that the county youth bureaus in New York were never going to have enough money to distribute to non-profits and municipalities to allow them to provide the services necessary to address the multitude of problems and needs that were identified in the counties.

We started having community meetings and Harriet Cornell, to her credit, provided the leadership in bringing a lot of people together. Debra Thomas of the Rockland Teachers’ Center and Judy Savage, who headed up Child Care Resources of Rockland at the time, were part of the original team that helped in developing what became 21C,” Fleming continued. “County Executive Scott Vanderhoef supported the 21C concept from the very beginning, which made a significant and positive difference to



**Dennis Fleming**  
Executive Director, Rockland  
County Youth Bureau

our early success.”

Out of those community meetings 21C was born. “It really makes sense,” says Fleming, “to have people working together, not just programmatically and financially, but focusing on what benefits the children. This partnership between the governmental agencies, the not-for-profits and the school systems ensures that families get the support they need so every young person has an opportunity to grow, to thrive, and to someday become good citizens.”

When asked about his favorite memory of 21C, Fleming spoke fondly about the beginning. “The meeting at Stony Point Conference Center in 1996, at which we created 21C, is a favorite memory of mine. We had a facilitator who came from the south who helped our group of 25-35 people stay focused and weave a mission statement. The participants included superintendents, assistant superintendents, non-profit representatives, Harriet Cornell and Scott Vanderhoef.

“Another memory I would cite is probably when Harriet pulled together a team to go to Yale University and meet with Dr. Edward

Zigler, founder of the Yale School of the 21st Century model and an original architect of Head Start, and his staff. That was the beginning of the journey for us. At Yale, we came together and agreed, ‘Well, okay, let’s do this.’”

Dennis Fleming believes that there are several important benefits of the county’s having 21C. “For 21C, the most tangible result is the 32 Family Resource Centers. A secondary benefit is the increased communication between people in the education, government and non-profit worlds. A third important benefit of implementation is the CATI listserv, which can connect our community to 125 key Rockland family workers and leaders. It is a great way of sharing best practices, grants, and fundraising ideas. Finally, I would add one other benefit, and that is the training and symposiums offered through 21C for professionals who work with children and youth.

21C is an excellent example of the power of collaboration. It has been a major plus for Rockland County’s children, youth and families. I look forward to continuing to contribute whatever I can to its continued success.”

### How to Subscribe to CATI:

Want to join the Rockland 21C listserv, popularly known as CATI (and pronounced “Katie”)? Publicize your events, volunteer opportunities, learn about children, youth and family news, and participate in occasional dialogues pertaining to Rockland children and families.

To subscribe, send an email to [mailserver@quess.com](mailto:mailserver@quess.com) and put subscribe cati-21c in the subject box, or contact Rockland 21C.

**Debra Thomas** became involved with 21C at the beginning. “I was really very lucky when the Rockland Teachers’ Center was invited to participate on a journey that Harriet Cornell convened to Yale University to find out about the School of the 21st Century Program,” recalled Thomas.

“A group of us traveled by bus to Yale in 1995 to learn about the program and the Family Resource Centers. We came back from that trip and began to think about how we might translate that in Rockland County.

“The Teachers’ Center took on the responsibility of organizing the official launch of what was then called Rockland Schools of the 21st Century. We sent out invitations, convened the people, planned the events, and really helped to nurture and grow and sustain this little fledgling group of folks who were hoping to accomplish a big dream.”

The official launch was on October 8, 1997. “We featured State Education Commissioner Richard Mills and highlighted some of the individual school districts’ piloted initiatives,” remembered Thomas. “We were very excited because one of the greatest accomplishments for us at the time was that we were truly able to create not only a mission statement to ensure the optimal development of all children, but we were also able to translate that statement into practice with the opportunity to create the first county-



**Debra J. Thomas**

Executive Director, Rockland Teachers’ Center Institute

wide collaborative in the country under the umbrella of ‘Schools of the 21st Century.’”

Asked to share her best memories of the early days of 21C, Debra Thomas recalled two. “We had a very tight budget and traveling back and forth to Yale University to attend the summer institute was really special. We would drive up in the morning, be there all day, and then we would go back to Rockland on the bus in the evening. And during the ride, we would talk about our dreams and our vision and how we were going to organize ourselves and how we were really going to be able to self-sustain and put together a strategic plan that would help us meet our goals.

“Another important experience was when we had the opportunity to travel to Albany and present to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents, on a panel, about the importance of the early childhood connection to K-12 learning. We were able to not only do something really wonderful in our own

community, but we were also able to influence policy on a state and national agenda.”

When asked how 21C has impacted the Teachers’ Center, Thomas responded, “From the Teachers’ Center perspective, in terms of supporting our profession, the fact that we are able to help our colleagues have children who can come to school better able to learn, grow, and meet the challenges of state standards has really been such a benefit. We’ve been able to invest upfront in terms of professional development opportunities. The 21C county-wide symposium which we have helped coordinate through the years has created a community of learners.”

Summing up, Thomas remarked, “The Rockland Teachers’ Center has been really privileged to be a partner of 21C. Our teachers have been the direct beneficiaries to that learning and that knowledge of those resources and those connections. So we’ve been able to filter up and filter back. We’ve given, but we’ve received more to share with our colleagues in our districts and our policymakers in such a wide arena, whether it’s working with our school boards, our central office administrators, our union leaders, or our classroom practitioners. The partnership really gives us a venue for creating a professional climate and addressing emerging needs of children and families.”

### One of the most successful programs our FRCs offer is ... **Bilingual Playgroups**

Not only does playgroup get the preschoolers ready for kindergarten, it helps the Spanish-speaking parents acclimate to their school-to-be. Our group is about 50 percent Spanish-speaking.

Ramapo Central School District,  
R.P. Connor Elementary School FRC



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Conquering a New World

About a year ago, Maria Maldonado and her five-year-old daughter emigrated from Central America to New York. Like many newcomers to the United States, the Maldonado family faced significant challenges – learning English, adjusting to a new educational system, and building relationships with people in their new community.

So, with some trepidation Mrs. Maldonado and her daughter went to their Clarkstown elementary school to register for kindergarten. They were very grateful when near the entryway they encountered the Family Resource Center's bi-lingual coordinator who was greeting every entering family. She explained the various programs and services provided by the school, the district and the Family Resource Center.

The coordinator helped make the Maldonado family's transition to their new world more comprehensible. She encouraged Mrs. Maldonado to attend the FRC Preschool Story Hour with her daughter, where, like many of her future classmates, her daughter especially loved snack time.

In the fall, when the Maldonado daughter began school, the coordinator

was there for the family. The coordinator explained different traditional school events such as the Holiday Boutique and the Book Fair. She filled out forms. And when Mrs. Maldonado had trouble interpreting her daughter's homework assignments, the teacher sent the coordinator a copy of the class calendar with the homework assignments to hang on her refrigerator, so Mrs. Maldonado could call the coordinator at home during the evening for help translating particularly perplexing assignments.

For her part, Mrs. Maldonado has become a vigorously involved parent, not only participating in programs and parent-teacher conferences, but also regularly attending PTA meetings. "When I receive a flyer about an event the school is having, I make sure I'm there," she says. These events give Mrs. Maldonado more chances to practice English, for which she's taking classes, and just as importantly, her daughter fits right in.

This Clarkstown FRC has helped bridge the daunting cultural divide for the Maldonado family and plays a major role in helping families connect to life at their school.

## One of the most successful programs our FRCs offer is ... **Our parent support group.**

Once a month, we hold a parent support group at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Spring Valley, right in the community where the parents live. We offer support—and dinner—for the entire family. Parents can talk with one another about issues and concerns; children get help with their homework, do crafts, and socialize with other children both older and younger. Now in its fifth year, we see parents acting as advocates for their children and participating in school meetings and activities.

Rockland BOCES FRC

County Connections is a Newsletter  
of Rockland 21st Century  
Collaborative for Children & Youth

**Editor** Becky Christner  
**Editorial Review** Harriet Cornell, Mimi Hoffman  
**Layout/Graphics** Laurie Straus, ElEss Design, Inc.

Schools of the 21st Century  
**Rockland**  
**21C**  
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Children & Youth

## A Dad's View

Joe Cama, a retired New York City detective, lives in Sloatsburg, New York, with his wife, Terry, and their two children, Katherine, 2 ?, and Evan, 6. Mr. Cama and his daughter attend the Wednesday Playgroup at the Sloatsburg FRC at Sloatsburg Elementary School. "Number one, we find the playgroup very convenient being at the school because we live close by. It starts around 9 a.m. and runs until about 10:30 a.m. I bring my Katherine, but previously our son, Evan, who is now in kindergarten, attended the 21C playgroup at Sloatsburg School. He started at the playgroup, I believe, when he was three years old. My wife would bring him. It prepared him immensely for kindergarten as far as participating in a social atmosphere with other kids.

"The Wednesday playgroup is very organized," enthused Mr. Cama. "Charlene Vasilik, the FRC Coordinator, does a great job. She is superb." On any given Wednesday there are about 15-18 children with their parents participating in the Sloatsburg playgroup who come together to share playtime, stories and crafts. Charlene's assistant, Nanette Hardiman, helps the children and parents during craft time. "Sometimes the craft-making is themed by the season," said Mr. Cama. "In the winter, we'll make a snowman out of cotton and in the springtime we make flowers out of pipe cleaners and Popsicle sticks. The projects are very, very nice. And the kids enjoy doing them."

The parents sign up on a list and take turns bringing in a healthy snack for the group. After snack



Evan Cama models a mask that is part of the "Go, Dog. Go!" bookbag, which contains P.D. Eastman's book and related activities that families can borrow from the FRC. Evan and his mother developed this bookbag for the school, giving back to their neighbors with their creativity.

time, they have story time. "We'll group around the rug and Charlene will read a story and ask for some participation and interaction between the kids as she's reading the story. And shortly after that we gather up our belongings and prepare to leave," explained Mr. Cama.

"I have been taking Katherine to the playgroup since January. My wife, who used to take my son there, took my daughter from September to January but now I'm home, I'm retired, and I'm taking care of my daughter. Retirement is different. I actually thought I'd have more free time, but Katherine takes up a lot of my time," said Mr. Cama.

"I think the 21C program is great, not only for the children, but for the parents as well. What happens is now, some of the children that Katherine is in the program with she will be spending, basically, her entire scholastic experience with. It creates some close bonds early on, it gets them use to being in a social atmosphere, it gets them accustomed to going to school, and

**I know the FRCs make a difference when ... Families show up through word of mouth.**

Some families hear recommendations about our programs and services from other families. Some hear about the FRC from the staff of community agencies that also hold family events such as the library, St. Catherine's Church, Orangetown Jewish Center, or the Palisades Presbyterian Church's Parenting Group. When families and other groups are promoting the center and its activities, I know they are happy with what we provide.

South Orangetown Central School  
Central School District FRC  
At the William O. Schaefer School

they don't have that anxiety later on when they have a full day. You ease them in. Evan, who has just turned six, knew that playgroup took place in the school he would go to when he started kindergarten. Then he went to Pre-K [in the same building] for a few hours a day, twice a week. Now he's in kindergarten and he's going full days, everyday, and he was prepared," stated Mr. Cama.

Mr. Cama and his family are very happy with the Family Resource Center and its activities in Sloatsburg. "The playgroup is the first rung on the ladder of their scholastic experience. And it's very important to build a strong foundation and I think the 21C system builds that foundation for them to have a good learning experience throughout their life. They learn at a very young age that learning is something kids do, and with the parents there it helps the kids get used to going to that location."

## Mimi Thomas: Giving Back

Mimi Thomas and her 11-year-old son Zach began their journey with the Nyack FRCs five years ago. And during this time, Mimi and Zach have participated in many FRC-run programs that have helped them connect to life at Nyack schools. “The Nyack FRCs take the time to engage and welcome parents and children into the school community and they offer programs that build families,” says Ms. Thomas. “They have served as a powerful resource for both Zach and me.”

When asked about what significant difference Nyack Family Resource Centers have made for her family, Ms. Thomas spoke about the many programs she and Zach have participated in. “Zach and I had the opportunity to attend ReadyFest, a

community-building day filled with activities for parents, teachers, and children. I attended a Common Sense Parenting class which provides parenting tools for caregivers and is offered at the Nyack Middle School FRC. In addition, Zach and his father attended Men and Boys Night, which supports the bond between father and son.

“Zach was also fortunate to participate in a summer camp scholarship program. Without this

support from the Nyack FRCs, Zach would not have been able to attend camp. We really have benefited from the programs, resources, and opportunities that Nyack FRCs provide,” says Ms. Thomas.

In return, Ms. Thomas offers her assistance to the Nyack FRC coordinators whenever she can. “I feel that the FRCs have given me so much that I want to give back. They are a home away from home and no school should be without one.”

**I know the FRCs make a difference when ...  
We marshal resources to solve problems,  
such as preventing homelessness.**

With the assistance of many different community agencies, churches, and individuals, we were able to cut through layers upon layers of red tape to assist a family of five children and a single mom to find a home.

The family had been living at the Rockland Family Shelter. We are so proud to be part of a community so rich in resources and individuals who are willing to go the extra mile. Thanks go out to Nyack Center, Rockland Family Shelter, Village of Nyack Housing Authority, Rockland County Department of Social Services, Grace Church and Valley Cottage school staff who all cared enough to come together and do their part to help.

Nyack Union Free School District FRCs



# Anne Nissen Selected as Administrator of 21C

“Every family is a marvel of love and patience and hard work. Every time the people who make up an FRC community—from a coordinator, to other parents, to hard-working principals and staff—are able to recharge a parent’s battery or remove a barrier the family faces, we all win.”

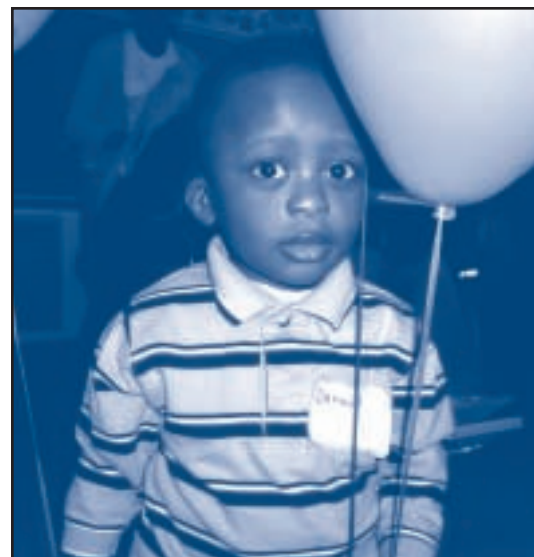
No organization is built without someone who ‘lives and breathes it,’ and coordinator Mimi Hoffman played that role during six of Rockland 21C’s formative years. Her generous efforts impacted people near and far, and were lauded with affection and esteem when it was announced that she had resigned last summer.

With Mimi’s retirement, the reins have been turned over to Anne Nissen. She assumed her position as Rockland 21C’s new Administrator in August of 2005. A graduate of Wellesley College where she earned a bachelor’s degree in art history and MIT where she earned a master’s of science in architectural studies, Anne was previously the coordinator of the Family Resource Center at Sloatsburg School. Anne served as one of the core group of volunteers who, with principal Ron Anagnostis, developed the school’s 21C program in 1997.

Ms. Nissen’s notable projects while at Sloatsburg include: developing Evening Playgroup and Friday Night Frolics with your Favorite Fellow; taking playgroup outside to the village’s Community Field; and bringing in such outside programs as the Target/Tiger Woods Foundation “Start Something” program, which helps children ‘follow their dreams’; and the American Red Cross curriculum for children home alone, “When I’m in Charge.”

Anne’s previous experience includes work as a Web manager for Project for Public Spaces, a community planning nonprofit in Manhattan; a grants administrator for the Architecture and Planning Department of the Massachusetts Council of the Arts and Humanities; and a member of the exhibition department of the National Building Museum in Washington D.C.

At Rockland 21C, Anne is exhilarated to see how many people and groups celebrate the work being done in FRC schools. She looks forward to working on the issues faced by schools whose students do not speak English, to supporting the coordinators and telling the stories of what schools are accomplishing, and to systematically addressing economic barriers to school success. “Every family is a marvel of love and patience and hard work. Every time the people who make up an FRC community—from a coordinator, to other parents, to hard-working principals and staff—are able to recharge a parent’s battery or remove a barrier the family faces, we all win.”



## One of the most successful programs our FRCs offer is ... **Arts in the Afternoon.**

This free “supplemental education” is offered during recess by various community agencies. The programs have four- and six-week sessions, which include African Dance by Chiku Awali, Art and Nature class through the Rockland Center for the Arts, Storytelling by Finkelstein Memorial Library, and Girl Scout meetings through Girl Scouts of Rockland County. These partnerships lead students to thrive in and out of school.

East Ramapo Central School District,  
Grandview Elementary FRC

# FRC Numbers

## 17

17 schools held regular early education programs, with 28 different groups that meet on an average week: Baby, toddler and preschooler groups, held during the day, at night, in the school, in community centers, in apartment buildings, and in playgrounds

## 35

35 families participated in the Parent-Child Home Program, a research-proven, twice-weekly home visiting program for 2- & 3-year-olds and their parents (see [www.parent-child.org](http://www.parent-child.org))

## 134

In 2004-05 Rockland FRCs collaborated with 134 agencies, organizations, and companies

## 1000

More than 1000 sessions of programs for school-age children were held: Friendship club, yoga, cross-stitch, girls group, early risers club, morning exercises, anger management, & more.

## 4777

Attendance at parent support/parent education events totaled 4,777. these events included ESL classes, parenting workshops on health, puberty, fair housing law, and bullying, & more

On May 19, 2006, Senator Thomas P. Morahan presented Rockland 21C with a member item grant to increase the capacity of Family Resource Centers and their programs. West Haverstraw Elementary School's Play Group hosted the ceremony, thanks to the cooperation of the North Rockland School District.



FRC Play Group attendees present Sen. Morahan with a fish sculpture that they made for him.

National and local best practices for creating healthy physical activity and nutrition environments was the focus of an evening for school health advisory team members, a project on which 21C has worked for two years with the support of their districts, and as part of Steps to a HealthierNY.



Inspiration from their peers made this event a success

### One of the most successful programs our FRC offers is ... **After-school enrichments.**

Chess, computers, karate, exercise, reading, knitting, sewing, cooking, tennis, science, scrapbooking, theater, crafts, and jewelry design are some of the programs available. Nanuet's FRC meets its goal to offer new and exciting experiences to their students by offering once-a-week enrichment programs every Fall, Winter, and Spring. This past fall, 256 students participated—more than one-third of the school—and they loved it.

Nanuet Family Resource Center, George W. Miller School

# 2006 21C FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER CONTACT LIST

## BOCES

**BERC Campus – Nyack**  
131 N. Midland Avenue, Nyack  
Contact: Joan Raynor  
Phone: 845-348-3504  
Fax: 845-348-0119  
Email: jraynor@tboces.lhric.org

## CLARKSTOWN

**The Clarkstown FRC Partnership**  
151 Congers Rd., T8, New City  
Contact: Dorothy Atzl  
Phone: 845-639-5619  
Fax: 845-639-2903  
Email: clarkstownfrc@hotmail.com

**Bardonia Elementary School**  
31 Bardonia Rd., Bardonia  
Contact: Joanne Weisbecker  
Phone: 845-624-3493  
Email: cookiew28@optonline.net

**Congers Elementary School**  
9 Lake Rd. West, Congers  
Contact: Jolly Bertolino  
Phone: 845-369-6330  
Email: jollybertolino@optonline.net

**Lakewood Elementary School**  
77 Lakeland Ave., Congers  
Contact: June Ruckel  
Phone: 845-639-6320  
Email: joonrbug@aol.com

**Link Elementary School**  
51 Red Hill Rd., New City  
Contact: Angela Gonzalez  
Phone: 845-624-3494  
Email: eacmg27@optonline.net

**Little Tor Elementary School**  
56 Gregory St., New City  
Contact: Karen Douglas  
Phone: 845-624-3471, x5  
Email: karendoug@optonline.net

**New City Elementary School**  
60 Crestwood Dr., New City  
Contact: Wanda Octaviano  
Phone: 845-620-2022, x4916  
Email: woctaviano@hotmail.com

**Strawtown Elementary School**  
413 Strawtown Rd., W. Nyack  
Contact: Jean LaBosco  
Phone: 845-624-3473  
Email: jlabosco@optonline.net

**West Nyack Elementary School**  
661 West Nyack Rd., W. Nyack  
Contact: Sally Montag  
Phone: 845-624-3474  
Email: Montag@optonline.net

**Woodglen Elementary School**  
121 Phillips Hill Rd., New City  
Contact: Mandi Fiddle Bergenfeld  
Phone: 845-624-3417  
Email: twinmbf@optonline.net

## EAST RAMAPO

**Colton Elementary School**  
40 Grandview Ave., Spring Valley  
Contact: Susan Maldonado  
Phone: 845-577-6250  
Email: pretnd2b@aol.com

**Elmwood Elementary School**  
43 Robert Pitt Dr., Monsey  
Contact: Bernadette Peluso  
Phone: 845-577-6160  
Fax: 426-0852  
Email: bpeluso@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Eldorado Elementary School**  
5 Eldorado Dr., Chestnut Ridge  
Contact: Debra Guerra  
Phone: 845-577-6150  
Email: dguerra@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Fleetwood Elementary School**  
22 Fleetwood Ave., Chestnut Ridge  
Contact: Debra Guerra  
Phone: 845-577-6170  
Email: dguerra@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Grandview Elementary School**  
151 Grandview Ave., Monsey  
Contact: Tanya Soto  
Phone: 845-364-9316  
Fax: 845-362-0646  
Email: tsoto@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Hempstead Elementary School**  
80 Brick Church Rd., Spring Valley  
Contact: Susan Maldonado  
Phone: 845-577-6270  
Email: pretnd2b@aol.com

**Hillcrest Elementary School**  
32 Addison-Boyce Dr., New City  
Contact: Helen Buford  
Phone: 845-577-6180  
Email: hbuford@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Lime Kiln Elementary School**  
35 Lime Kiln Rd., Suffern  
Contact: Tanya Soto  
Phone: 845-577-6280  
Email: tsoto@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Margetts Elementary School**  
25 Margetts Rd., Monsey  
Contact: Bernadette Peluso  
Phone: 845-577-6190  
Fax: 845-426-0958  
Email: bpeluso@ercsd.k12.ny.us

**Summit Park Elem. School**  
925 Rte. 45., New City  
Contact: Helen Buford  
Phone: 845-577-6290  
Fax: 845-362-0920  
Email: hbuford@ercsd.k12.ny.us

## NANUET

**George W. Miller Elem. School**  
50 Blauvelt Rd., Nanuet  
Contact: Rose Ann Mercado  
Phone: 845-627-4889  
Fax: 845-624-1534  
Email: rmercado@nufsd.lhric.org

**Highview Elementary School**  
24 Highview Ave., Nanuet  
Contact: Rose Ann Mercado  
Phone: 845-627-4889  
Fax: 845-624-1534  
Email: rmercado@nufsd.lhric.org

**A. MacArthur Barr Middle School**  
143 Church St., Nanuet  
Contact: Rose Ann Mercado  
Phone: 845-627-4889  
Fax: 845-624-1534  
Email: rmercado@nufsd.lhric.org

## NORTH ROCKLAND

**Gerald E. Neary Elem. School**  
20 George St., Haverstraw  
Contact: Myriam Saravia  
Phone: 845-942-3469  
Fax: 845-942-3476  
Email: msaravia@gens.nrcsd.org

**West Haverstraw Elem. School**  
71 Blauvelt Ave., W. Haverstraw  
Contact: Liz Zurla  
Phone: 845-942-3180, x3048  
Fax: 845-942-3084  
Email: lzurla@aol.com

*Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth is a pioneering countywide partnership with children as our priority. Our mission is to ensure the best possible future for every child by building a comprehensive support system that links family, school and community together.*

## NYACK

**Liberty Elem. School**  
142 Lake Rd., Valley Cottage  
Contact: Jeniene Velez  
Phone: 845-353-7247  
Fax: 845-353-7243

**Nyack Middle School**  
98 S. Highland Ave., Nyack  
Contact: Stephanie Shustack  
Phone: 845-353-7214  
Email: sshustack@nyackschools.org

**Valley Cottage Elem. School**  
26 Lake Rd., Valley Cottage  
Contact: Julie Kassel  
Phone: 845-353-7291  
Fax: 845-353-7287  
Email: jkassel@nyackschools.org

**Upper Nyack Elem. School**  
336 Broadway, Upper Nyack  
Contact: Rachel Berlin  
Phone: 845-353-7268  
Fax: 845-353-7262  
Email: rberlin@nyackschools.org

## RAMAPO CENTRAL

**R.P. Connor Elem. School**  
13 Cypress Rd., Suffern  
Contact: Kathy Lamar  
Phone: 845-357-2858 x217  
Fax: 845-357-8657  
Email: klamar@ramapocentral.org

**Sloatsburg Elem. School**  
11 Second St., Sloatsburg, NY  
Contact: Charlene Vasilik  
Phone: 845-753-2720 x224  
Fax: 845-753-6636  
Email: cvasilik@ramapocentral.org

## SOUTH ORANGETOWN

**Located at the William O. Schaefer School**  
140 Lester Dr., Tappan, NY  
Contact: Margaret A. Umbrino  
Phone: 845-680-1314  
Fax: 845-365-4712  
Email: mumbrino@socsd.org

## ROCKLAND 21ST CENTURY COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

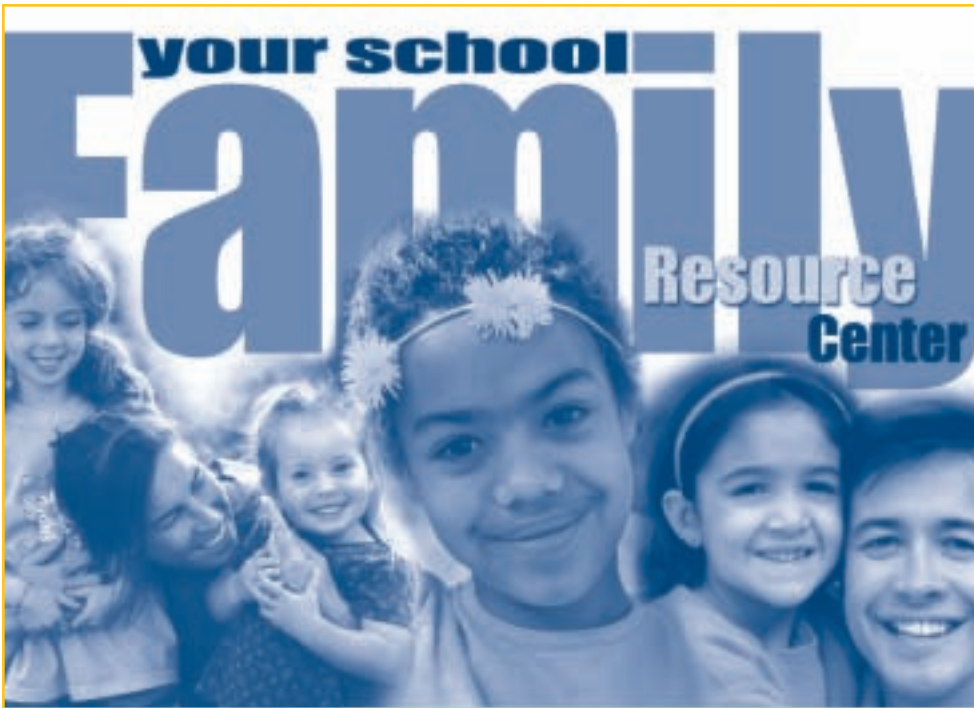
65 Parrott Rd., Bldg 10, W. Nyack 10994  
Phone: 845-627-5437 / Fax: 845-627-2934

**Anne Nissen**, Administrator  
Email: anissen@rockland21c.org

**Becky Christner**, Operations & Communications Specialist  
Email: rchristner@rockland21c.org

**Maria Matos**, Administrative Assistant  
Email: mmatos@rockland21c.org



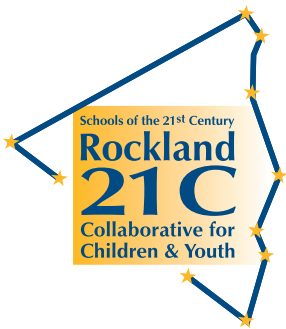


Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth is a pioneering countywide partnership with children as our priority. Our mission is to ensure the best possible future for every child by building a comprehensive support system that links family, school and community together.

One of the most successful programs our FRS offered was the ...  
**“Lunchbox Letters”**  
**mini-workshop**  
for Parents.

How do you spice up a bologna sandwich? Add a note of love and encouragement. In today’s fast-paced world, it can be a struggle for parents to find a way to communicate with their children and show how much they care. But “Good luck on your test! Remember to read the instructions carefully. You may be a little worried, but I know you will do your best! Love, Mom” makes it crystal clear.

Haverstraw-Stony Point Central School District, West Haverstraw Elementary School FRC



**65 Parrott Road**  
**West Nyack, NY 10994**  
**Phone: (845) 627-5437**  
**Fax: (845) 627-2934**  
**[www.rockland21C.org](http://www.rockland21C.org)**

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Permit #9416  
Monsey, NY 10952

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Post what's happening in your organization on [www.rockland21C.org](http://www.rockland21C.org)