

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Leaders Visit Child Care Programs to Celebrate the Week of the Young Child

Monroe County, NY... On April 26 and 27 community leaders will be visiting some of Rochester's highest quality child care programs and pre-k programs to learn more about the importance of early education and care. The visits are part of a week-long national celebration to focus public attention on how early childhood programs and services help meet the needs of young children and their families.

Rochester City School District Interim Superintendent Bolgen Vargas will be spending the morning of April 26 at Carlson MetroCenter Child Care Center. "We know that our quality pre-k programs and early education and care experiences are essential to children's school success. The District is fortunate to offer high quality pre-k services to over 2,000 students with half of the children served in community agencies and half in Rochester City Schools."

Dr. Vargas is one of several community leaders who will be attending child care on the 26th & 27th. Other community leaders who are participating include Rochester City School District Board Member Jose Cruz, County Executive Maggie Brooks, Senator Joe Robach, Assemblymen Sean Hanna, Harry Bronson and Mark Johns, Katie LaShomb representing Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Commissioner of Human Services Kelly Reed, and Isobel Goldman, Farash Foundation.

Leaders have the choice to visit a pre-k program, child care home, or a child care center. Visitors will meet with children's teachers, participate in daily activities and read ***Splat the Cat*** by Rob Scotton with the children, a humorous and animated story about the first day of school.

The visits are sponsored by The Rochester Association for the Education of Young Children (RAEYC) and the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) as part of a national week-long celebration, Week of the Young Child™. This annual celebration is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association. The purpose of the Week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

"Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Most brain development occurs before a child enters first grade, yet funding for early education is far below that provided for K-12 and for higher education. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at child care, at school, and in the community—that will promote their early learning," said Jacque Cady, who is one of the organizers of the celebration.

The Rochester Association for the Education of Young Children (RAEYC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer affiliate of the National AEYC, that provides professional development, community outreach and advocacy to promote quality early education standards and best practices.

The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) is a 20 year community collaboration dedicated to ensuring that high quality early education and care is available to all children in the Greater Rochester area so that they have the foundation to succeed in school and in life.

Schedule of Child Care Visits

Community Leader	Location	Date & Time
Beth Mascitti-Miller Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Rochester City School District	St. Paul's Child Care 113 Vick Park B Rochester, NY 14607 Pre-k classroom	April 26th 9:30 a.m.
Dr. Bolgen Vargas Interim Superintendent of Schools Rochester City School District	Carlson MetroCenter Child Care 444 Main Street Rochester, NY 14604 Pre-k classroom	April 26th 11:00 a.m.
Commissioner Kelly Reed Monroe County Office of Human Services	Lakeside Child & Family Care 75 Stutson Street Rochester, NY 14612	April 26 10 a.m.
Assemblyman Harry Bronson 131st District	Rochester Childfirst Network 941 South Ave Rochester, NY 14620 Special education pre-k classroom	April 27 9:30 a.m.
Mairead Hartman Program Officer Rochester Area Community Foundation	Community Child Care Center 170 Troup Street Rochester, NY 14608 Pre-k classroom	April 26 9:30 a.m.
Maggie Brooks County Executive	Volunteers of America 214 Lake Avenue Rochester, NY 14608	April 26 9:30 a.m.
Assemblyman Sean Hanna 130th District	Volunteers of America 214 Lake Avenue Rochester, NY 14608 Pre-k classroom	TBD
Katie LaShomb Community Liaison Congresswoman Louise Slaughter	Rochester Childfirst Network 941 South Ave Rochester, NY 14620 Meet at RCN - Walking up to Highland Park with children for a Spring Song Festival	April 26 9:30 a.m.
Assemblyman Mark Johns 135th District	Generations Child and Elder Care 52 West Avenue Fairport, NY 14450	April 27 10:00 a.m.
Senator Joe Robach 56th District	Rochester Childfirst Network 941 South Ave Rochester, NY 14620 Pre-k classroom	April 27 2:30 p.m.
Isobel Goldman Program Officer Farash Foundation	IBERO American Action League 777 Clifford Ave Rochester, NY 14621 Pre-k classroom	April 27 10:00 a.m.

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