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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Leader</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
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| **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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