



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Laura Schenone (718) 651-7770, ext 220 or (646) 734-6378

JPMorgan Chase Foundation and The Child Center of NY To Expand Learning Opportunities for Students and Parents at Far Rockaway's IS/ PS 43

Far Rockaway, NY – October, 2011 – The JP Morgan Chase Foundation announced that it will award The Child Center of NY a \$30,000 grant to expand learning opportunities at Far Rockaway's PS/IS 43. The money will be used to hire educators who will deliver the highest quality enrichment and academic activities to children during out-of-school hours.

The school, located on Beach 29th Street, currently serves over 1,200 students, in grades K through 8. The goal of the program is to create a vibrant full-service "community school" model that extends high caliber learning not just to students but the community at large.

"We're committed to bringing about positive and sustainable change within our highest need neighborhoods and communities," said Vinford Mentar, Vice President of Global Philanthropies at the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. "We are proud to be part of a partnership that resides in Far Rockaway and directly involves the students, administration, and community surrounding PS/IS 43."

The new award—to be used during the 2011-2012 school year—is an extension of JPMorgan's existing partnership with The Child Center of NY. Over the last four years, the two organizations have teamed up to create a model community school at JHS 185 in Flushing. The goal of the new award is to replicate this success in Far Rockaway.

"JPMorgan Chase is an enlightened and committed supporter of children and our communities. We are grateful for its continued faith in us," said Sandra Hagan, executive director of The Child Center of NY. "Government funding for school-based programs is being dramatically cut. It's so important to keep children off the streets after school. We must keep them learning and growing during those precious hours so they can have a brighter future as productive adults."

The Child Center of NY is already delivering a wide range of services to the Far Rockaway community at PS/IS 43 with a government contract from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Services as a Beacon program. Between 300 to 450 students currently are served in an average week with homework help, organized athletics,

leadership development programs, dance and art programs among a many other activities. However, without additional private funding, the potential of the program is limited. The JPMorgan Chase award will fund teacher staff--who will extend lessons from the school day to after-school time--and a Saturday Academy focused on giving students extra academic help and activities that promote social emotional growth.

The Child Center's site director Jacqueline Gutierrez expressed her joy at the news, as did the school's interim acting principal, Gary Fairweather, who noted, "This will help us meet the academic and social-emotional needs of our school and community."

Founded in 1953, The Child Center of NY is a leading nonprofit children's agency that serves 18,000 children each year. Its mission is to help at-risk children and youth succeed in life. The Child Center serves children in four major program areas: early childhood education, mental health counseling, child abuse prevention, and youth development—in 35 languages at over 80 locations in Queens.

To learn more, visit: www.childcenterny.org