



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/19/17:

Renowned Chef and Author Lidia Bastianich Reads to Child Center Clients

Media Contact: Eugénie Bisulco, Vice President of Communications; eugeniebisulco@childcenterny.org, 917-933-6833 (o), 917-717-1020 (c)

NEW YORK, NY –

Internationally-renowned Italian chef, Emmy Award-winning television host of Lidia's Kitchen, restaurateur, author, and Queens resident Lidia Bastianich generously shared some of her writings for children with clients of The Child Center of NY. On December 19 at the Ficalora Family Center in Woodside, Queens, Lidia read from her children's book series, "*Nonna, Tell Me a Story*," which depicts Nonna Lidia and her five grandchildren in various gardening and cooking adventures. As the center's Head Start students have begun to learn about gardening, Bastianich's expert storytelling and effusive love of children were quite a treat. Lidia read stories, did demonstration using fresh herbs, and visited several classrooms of children ages 3-5.

"We were thrilled to have Lidia visit us and read to some of our kids; we've been fans for a long time, and we know that she is truly 'on the same page' with our mission to provide new opportunities and learning experiences to New York's most underprivileged children and families," said Child Center Chief Executive Officer Traci Donnelly.

"As a grandmother and children's book author, as well as a promoter of gardening and healthy eating, I loved seeing firsthand what The Child Center of NY has been doing for 65 years," said Lidia. "If I can contribute to that work in any positive way, it is a good day!"

Said Marie Mason, Director of the Ficalora Family Center, "Our Head Start students benefit from visitors like Lidia who can enrich their learning experience with life's lessons and expertise. The children were ecstatic to meet "Nonna Lidia" and hear her stories."

*****To request a photo, please contact VP of Communications Eugénie Bisulco at 917-717-1020.*****

About The Child Center of NY: The Child Center of NY's mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. Founded in 1953, it is a multiservice organization that annually reaches more than 26,000 children from birth through young adulthood at nearly 70 school and community locations. The Child Center works in five main program areas: early childhood education; behavioral health; prevention and family support; health homes and integrated care; and youth development. The Child Center is based primarily in Queens but also serves children and families in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Long Island. To learn more, please visit www.childcenterny.org