

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PARK RIDGE CHILD CARE CENTER ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**

Rochester, NY, Thursday May 21, 2009 – Children's Institute, an affiliate of the University of Rochester, will award Pathways National Accreditation to Park Ridge Child Care Center (PRCCC), located on the Unity Park Ridge Campus, 1555 Long Pond Road at 4:00 p.m. PRCCC is the first child care center in Monroe County to acquire this prestigious national accreditation, marking the center's commitment to delivering high quality child care.

"The Center went through a rigorous process to meet or exceed 500 criteria, which are above what is required by the State of New York Office of Children and Family Services in order for centers to operate," said A. Dirk Hightower, Executive Director of Children's Institute. "The process of accreditation is rigorous, evaluating parent and staff satisfaction, and program quality, including the facilities, qualifications of staff and leadership, and record keeping. Park Ridge Child Care Center values excellence and quality for their staff, parents and most of all the children, who will benefit in their development because of the center's commitment to achieving accreditation."

The accreditation award ceremony is occurring on the heels of the additional \$8 million from New York State to Monroe County for child care subsidies. Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks commented, "Monroe County is one of the few counties in New York State that rewards quality with a higher reimbursement rate for those providers who attain national accreditation. Our county continues to include differential reimbursement for accreditation as a budget priority within the funds that are allocated for child care subsidies. We applaud the significant accomplishments of Park Ridge Child Care Center and congratulate them on achieving Pathways accreditation."

While there are other accreditation programs from which to choose, PRCCC selected Pathways, which was created by early childhood experts and researchers and based on 14 different state and national standards including Academy of Pediatrics, Head Start and other states with high quality child care systems. Park Ridge Child Care Center Director Tracey Frank commented, "When we first learned of Pathways accreditation we knew this was something we needed to do. The beliefs and values of Pathways go hand in hand with our mission statement and philosophy and what it entails to run a quality child care program. We are thrilled and proud to have achieved this accreditation."



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Pathways was commissioned by the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI), a 17-year community partnership of early childhood experts and funders who provide the strategic framework for quality early care and education in Rochester and Monroe County. The development of the accreditation system has been underwritten by Rochester's Child, a fundraising program of The Community Foundation. Park Ridge Child Care Center was one of two centers to pilot the Pathways accreditation system. Pathways National Accreditation is fully implemented, with a growing customer base.

The Park Ridge Child Care Center is located on the Unity Park Ridge Campus in the Town of Greece. Both full-time and part-time programs are provided for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children (ages eight weeks to 12 years). An intergenerational program called Dayshare unites the children from the Child Care Center and the residents of Unity Health System's senior care and retirement housing facilities in activities that promote caring, loving and remembering.

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization based in Rochester and affiliated with the University of Rochester. Its mission is to strengthen children's social and emotional health. It accomplishes its mission by conducting research and linking it to practices with children, offering evidence-based programs and helping systems that work with children improve the quality of their operations and programs.

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**Pathways National Accreditation Celebration**

**Park Ridge Child Care Center**  
1555 Long Pond Road  
Rochester, NY

**Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Agenda**

Welcome and Introductions	Stewart Putnam, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Unity Health System (5 mins)
Congratulatory Remarks	Robert Franklin, Deputy Commissioner, Monroe County Human Services (5 mins)
About Pathways National Accreditation	A. Dirk Hightower, Executive Director, Children's Institute (10 mins)
Presentation of Pathways Accreditation	Connie Valk, Early Care and Education Specialist, Children's Institute to Tracey Frank, Director, Park Ridge Child Care Center (10 mins)
Celebration Festivities	(4:30 p.m.)