



RAPC Member Victoria Sammartino (standing) talks with families and residents

Youth and Guests Enjoy Family Day at Horizon Juvenile Center

On Monday, December 29, 2008, Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx welcomed family members of residents to the facility for the Family Day event.

The juveniles and their families enjoyed performances by staff and residents singing and choral groups. Lunch, refreshments, holiday treats and music were provided for all to enjoy. More than 120 families participated in this year's event throughout the day.

Also in attendance were volunteer members of the Resident Advocacy Program Committee (RAPC), as well as staff from the Department of Education. Staff from the Life Transition Program represented by Good Shepherd Services, interacted with families and provided them with information for re-entering youths and their families at home after release from the juvenile justice system.

Family Day provided detained youth with the opportunity to visit with their younger siblings in a joyful atmosphere. A specially decorated area was set-up for staff to take photographs of residents family and friends.

“This Family Day event allowed the residents to share quality time with their loved ones during this holiday season.” Horizon Executive Director Eduardo Marcial said. The residents worked very hard helping to decorate and prepare with DJJ staff. This very special event allows us to recognize the positive contributions made by residents during their stay in detention.”