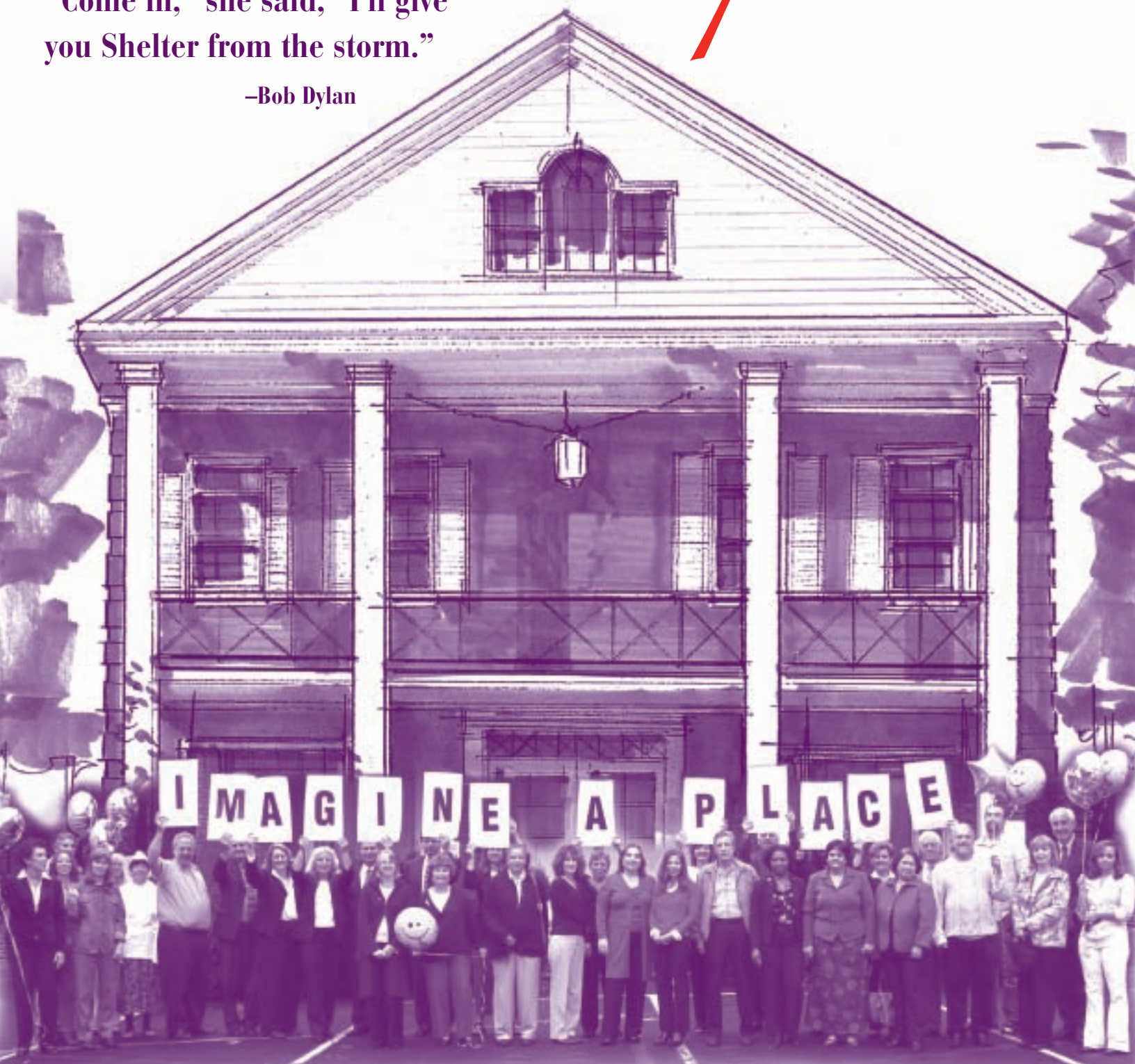


# Imagine

Try imagining a place  
Where it's always safe and warm.  
"Come in," she said, "I'll give  
you Shelter from the storm."

*a place*

—Bob Dylan





# Rockland Family Shelter

*We are pleased to announce a \$2.8 million Capital Campaign – our first ever – to create a new and permanent “home” for our many non-residential programs and services.*

*We are calling our campaign Imagine A Place – a phrase borrowed from Bob Dylan’s 1974 classic, Shelter From The Storm. Since its inception in 1978, the Rockland Family Shelter (RFS) has served over 20,000 women and children seeking “shelter from the storm” of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our success in helping those in need has been due in no small part to caring individuals like YOU – friends and supporters who consistently contribute their time, talents, and money to help keep our doors open and our programs running.*

*May we count on your generosity once again? We need your participation to help make a new “home” for RFS a reality. And thanks to a very generous challenge grant, every dollar you contribute could be worth two dollars toward our very ambitious goal!*

*Thank you so much for your kind consideration! With your help, RFS will be able to serve more families more comprehensively, more effectively, and more efficiently as we move into our second quarter century of service to the people of Rockland County.*



*Capital Campaign Committee members: Karen Michalowski, Lisa Hayes, Elisabeth Voigt, Carolyn Fish and Michael Mandel (Co-Chair), Julie Sadowski. Missing: Lorraine Bracco (Co-Chair), Janet Brooks, Jay Katz and Laura Segall*

Dear Friends,

Since conceiving *Imagine A Place* over a year ago, we have learned just how much hard work a Capital Campaign entails. It seems the only way to be truly successful is with a magical combination of an overwhelmingly important cause, a highly dedicated force of volunteers, generous support from within the organization and the community, endless hours of work – and at least a bit of luck.

We have been fortunate to have had all of these elements and more. The RFS Capital Campaign, is an ambitious drive to raise \$2.8 million for a new and permanent “home” for the **Rockland Family Shelter** and the women and children we serve. In the following pages you will learn why we have chosen to undertake this bold initiative at this time – and what it will mean to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. You will also see that the community, our Board members, our volunteers, our governmental leaders, and many generous lead donors have already stepped forward to help with this important initiative.

While the campaign has already achieved a remarkable level of success, we still have a way to go to meet our goal. So we are appealing to you, our loyal friends and supporters, to help us finish the job. We know that, with your help, we can meet and perhaps even exceed our goal. Not only will every dollar we receive move us closer to our dream, but **each dollar you donate – up to \$250,000 – will be matched by a generous challenge grant from the Board of Directors and other friends of the Rockland Family Shelter!**



Lorraine Bracco & Michael J. Mandel  
Campaign Committee Co-Chairs

Please take this opportunity to learn more about our vision and what you can do to help make it a reality. And please consider a generous contribution that is meaningful for you and your family.

With warm regards,

*Lorraine Bracco  
Michael J. Mandel*

## RFS Board and Friends \$250,000 Challenge Grant

*We are pleased that all of our Board members and many of our staff have made contributions to our Capital Campaign. In addition, the following individuals have made contributions toward our \$250,000 Challenge Grant:*

Paula & Steve Abel  
Mary & Paul Adler and Family  
Toni Babington  
Jo & Peter Baer  
Ruth & Bob Berlin  
Ed Coury  
Nancine & Greg Della Penna

Linda & Jonathan Ewig  
Lisa Hayes & Janet Prata  
Pia Maria Klein  
Barbara & Richard Kolhausen  
Sandra & Michael Mandel  
John Manna

Cindy McMurtrie & Andrew Sammett  
Karen & Al Michalowski  
Kathleen Perrotte  
Kitty Pierce  
JoEllen & Marvin Putter  
Beata & Russell Woolley  
Elisabeth Voigt





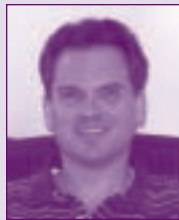
# Heartfelt Thank You! to Our Lead Donors

In order to succeed, every capital campaign needs lead donors – committed friends and supporters who step forward at the very beginning and make significant contributions that create a strong foundation for the fund drive. The RFS Capital Campaign Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the lead donors to our campaign, and particularly the very generous contributions of the people listed here.

**Simona and Jerome Chazen** are two of the longest-standing supporters of RFS and the movement to end violence against women and children. As one of the founders of RFS over 27 years ago, Simona was instrumental in bringing Jerome into the fight against domestic violence when he was CEO of **Liz Claiborne**, which he co-founded. The Chazens' exceptionally generous lead gift will be used to expand and enhance the **Center for Advocacy and Support Services (CASS)** in our new building. CASS provides, among other things, non-residential walk-in support services to survivors of domestic violence and their children, a 24-hour hotline, and a court assistance program.



**Sandra and Michael Mandel** The founding partner (now retired) of the law firm of **Mandel, Katz, Manna & Brosnan, LLP**, Michael Mandel is a member of the RFS Board of Directors and Co-Chair, with Lorraine Bracco, of the RFS Capital Campaign Committee. Under Michael's leadership, the entire MKMB firm has adopted RFS as an ongoing project, providing both financial and volunteer help to a variety of RFS programs and activities for many years. Sandra and Michael have made a most generous campaign contribution – the largest single donation they have ever made to any organization – which will be used in part to establish the new **RFS Technology and Training Center**.



**John Manna** Also a recently retired partner of **Mandel, Katz, Manna & Brosnan, LLP**, John Manna became involved with the Rockland Family Shelter through the numerous RFS-related activities of the law firm. Like Michael, John has made a very generous lead contribution to the Capital Campaign, in honor of his parents, Rose and John. Active in a number of local charities including the American Cancer Society, John's contribution to RFS is also the largest single donation he has ever made to any organization.

We extend our very special thanks to these individuals, and to **A&T Healthcare, Inc., Mary & Paul Adler and Family, Toni Babington, Jo & Peter Baer, Ed Coury, Nancine & Greg Della Penna, Linda & Jonathan Ewig, Lisa Hayes & Janet Prata, Esther Hyman, Judy Ruben-Jacobs & Mark Jacobs, Kara & Jay Katz, Jeffrey Keahon, David Kimmel Foundation, Barbara & Richard Kohlhausen, Cindy McMurtrie & Andrew Sammett, Karen & Al Michalowski, New York Mercantile Exchange, Kathleen Perrotte, JoEllen & Marvin Putter, Quadrangle Foundation, Alissa & Howard Shams, Elisabeth Voigt, Beata & Russell Woolley and Xand Corporation**, all of whom have stepped forward with major contributions. Their generosity has helped our campaign get off to a strong start, and we are most grateful for their support and their commitment to ending violence in the lives of women and children.

Our sincere thanks as well to Rockland County Executive **C. Scott Vanderhoef** for helping arrange loan support from the **County of Rockland**, and to Director, **Joseph Abate** of the **Rockland County Community Development** for assisting us in obtaining financing from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**. Our special thanks also to **Provident Bank** for providing RFS with the one-year bridge loan that enabled us to purchase our building.



*C. Scott Vanderhoef*



*Joseph Abate*

Special thanks also to NY State Assemblyman **Kenneth P. Zebrowski** for obtaining a \$50,000 appropriation to help furnish and equip our new facility. Assemblyman Zebrowski is also a long-time friend whose consistent support of RFS has been invaluable, and we thank him most sincerely for his ongoing and determined efforts to end violence against women.



*Kenneth Zebrowski*



*Alexander J. Gromack*

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the committed volunteers who have helped bring the **Imagine A Place** campaign to life. From suggesting new ways to raise funds, to opening doors to potential new donors, to making personal contributions themselves, these individuals have all earned our deepest gratitude and our enduring admiration: **Jo and Peter Baer, Rita Callan, Harriet Cornell, Ed Coury, Nancine and Greg Della Penna, Town of Clarkstown Supervisor Alexander J. Gromack, Richard Kohlhausen, Martha Roth, Ann Tonetti, and Russell Woolley**. Special thanks also to attorneys **Steven Abel and Alisa Stein**, who generously contributed their time to assist with the property and loan closings.



# Imagine

*a place for...*

## A New “Home” for the Rockland Family Shelter

Just over a year ago, the Rockland Family Shelter (RFS) Board of Directors approved a \$2.8 million Capital Campaign – the first in our 27 year history – to secure a new and permanent home for our non-residential programs and administrative functions. The *Imagine A Place* campaign will enable the Rockland Family Shelter to purchase and renovate an existing 8,500 square foot office building on 1.2 acres in New City. Located at 9 Johnsons Lane, the new facility is a two-story brick structure (with a full finished basement constituting a third floor) that will more than double available program and service space, be accessible to the differently-abled, and enable RFS to expand existing services while initiating a range of new programs that will enhance our ability to provide effective, efficient, and respectful service to our clients.



## Improved RFS Services

Our new facility will, first and foremost, provide expanded space for all of the Rockland Family Shelter’s non-residential programs and services. In our current location, space for counseling, individual and group support programs, training, and educational and community programs has become woefully inadequate – and increasingly expensive. With more than twice the area of our current facility, our new “home” will provide private space for individual, group, and children’s counseling, and dedicated service and administrative areas for our existing programs, including:

- **24-Hour RFS Crisis Hotline** for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse, their families and their friends
- **RFS Center for Advocacy and Support Services**, which provides non-residential individual and group counseling to battered women and their families
- **RFS Sexual Trauma Services**, which assist survivors of sexual assault
- **Mary Weingard Domestic Violence Law Project**, which offers free legal consultation, referrals, and Family Court representation
- **Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program**, our outreach and training program for high school and middle school students
- **STOP F.E.A.R DELTA Project**, a county-wide prevention initiative funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control through the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



## New RFS Programs

With our new and more spacious “home,” RFS will also be able to initiate several new programs that we have dreamed about for some time. In order to better meet the ever-increasing demand for our services, we have included in our Capital Campaign funds for the three new programs (listed on the opposite page) that will significantly enhance the scope of RFS services to the community.

# a place for . . .

## **Women**

Our new building will include a multi-purpose RFS Women's Center encompassing a meeting area for support and empowerment groups and family therapy sessions, a technology area for online job and housing exploration, and areas for survivors and their children to relax before and after court appearances or simply when in need of respite and renewal. The Women's Center will serve as both a haven for battered women and a hub of women's activities in the county. A comfortable and intimate "home-like" space, the Women's Center will help survivors learn more about domestic violence while developing safety plans for themselves and their children, and enable them to interact with and learn from other women in similar circumstances. The Women's Center will also host weekly RFS programs for survivors, including support groups for battered women, sexual assault survivors, and mothers.

*"I have been imagining a Women's Center for years, and I'm thrilled that we're finally going to have the space to make it happen!"*

*—Carolyn Fish,  
RFS Executive Director*

## **Children**

One of the most exciting program additions in our new building will be a critically needed RFS Children's Center that will include an appropriate play area and meeting space for individual and family therapy. In our current facility, there is no area exclusively for the children of the battered women and sexual trauma survivors we serve. The new RFS Children's Center will alleviate this situation by providing play areas, computers, and group meeting space for family therapy and other support services. The Children's Center will be a dedicated space where children can wait safely while their mothers receive services and, more importantly, where RFS Children's Services staff can work with them and their mothers, either together or individually. The Children's Center will be a place where children learn that the violence in their families is not their fault, where mothers and children interact and engage in activities that strengthen the mother/child bond, and where "kids can be kids"—a simple objective difficult to achieve when violence is present their home.

## **Training**

For many years, the Rockland Family Shelter has provided training events for medical personnel, law enforcement, the judiciary, students, and the general public on issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault. All of these trainings have necessarily been conducted off-site at various rented locations. Our new, state-of-the-art RFS Technology and Training Center will accommodate up to 50 attendees for trainings, seminars, workshops, and other group activities. The primary purpose of the Center will be to bring public attention to the complex issue of violence against women by bringing the community into our facility to learn more about domestic abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence — and the programs and services available to survivors and to the community at large.





*and in other news...*

■ The **Rockland Family Shelter** is pleased to announce that our **First Annual Business Awards Luncheon** will be held December 1, 2006 at Restaurant X in Congers. The luncheon will recognize Rockland businesses and business leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to ending violence against women, and the awards will be named in honor of **Simona and Jerome Chazen**. Simona was one of the founders of RFS, and her commitment brought Jerome to the fight against domestic violence when he was CEO of **Liz Claiborne**. The inaugural **Simona and Jerome A. Chazen Business Awards** will be presented to two local businesses that have shown exemplary commitments to ending violence against women:

**Verizon Wireless** in West Nyack and the **Verizon Foundation** in NY – the company’s philanthropic arm – are being recognized for their contributions to ending domestic violence at the local, regional, and national levels. Verizon has generously supported RFS for over 12 years, both financially and through the volunteer efforts of their employees.

**Baer & McIntosh Real Estate** in Nyack and owner **Jo Baer** are being honored for their generous contributions of time, talent, and funds to RFS virtually since its inception over 27 years ago. Jo has served on the RFS Board of Directors and many committees and has brought numerous other individuals and organizations to us to help in our fight against domestic violence and sexual assault.

■ Extending and enhancing their long-time commitment, the **Verizon Foundation** has recently awarded a grant of \$50,000 to the Rockland Family Shelter to help support RFS Group Services. The grant will support three kinds of services for different target audiences: **Support and Empowerment Groups** for survivors; **Training Events** for RFS staff and other professionals; and **Topical Workshops and Seminars** that will provide specialized interactive services for RFS clients and for the general public at the new **RFS Women’s Center**. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Verizon for their ongoing and generous support of the Rockland Family Shelter.

## Upcoming Events

■ **9th Annual STOP F.E.A.R. Coalition Conference: Law Enforcement and The Domestic Violence Court System: Working Together**  
October 25, 2006, 9:30 AM - 2PM  
Casa Mia Manor House, Blauvelt, NY

■ **Professional Trainings for Court Personnel Series: Custody Decisions in Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Cases**  
November 17, 2006; 12–2PM  
2nd floor Jury Room of Family Court, New City, NY

■ **A Collaborative Approach to Serving Victims of Sex Crimes**  
November 30, 2006; 8:15 AM to 12PM; Free Training  
Fire Training Center, Pomona, NY.  
For more information contact Kiera Pollock,  
Director of Sexual Trauma Services, at: 845-634-3391 x223.



Tom Morahan

■ New York State Senator **Thomas P. Morahan** secured a \$30,000 appropriation for the **RFS Emergency Residential Shelter**. Senator Morahan is a long-time friend of RFS who has helped us immensely on many occasions, and we are tremendously grateful for his steadfast support of ending domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

■ Rockland County Legislative Chairwoman **Harriet Cornell** and Rockland County Legislator **Ellen Jaffee** championed \$20,000 in funding from the Rockland County Legislature to help support the Professional Trainings for Court Personnel series, addressing issues involving custody decisions in domestic violence and sexual assault cases.



Harriet Cornell



Ellen Jaffee

They have been leaders in the fight to end domestic violence and consistent supporters of RFS, and we thank them immensely for their commitment to the women and children in our community.

■ As part of the **United Way Day of Caring**, the **Clarkstown Police Special Projects Unit** constructed a new front walk and installed safety lighting at the Emergency Shelter. Seeing the need for additional improvements they extended the project to include renovating the entire kitchen. Special appreciation to **Chief Peter Noonan** for his support and **Lieutenant Robert Donaldson**, who supervised the project and his colleagues.



L-R: Officer Scott Silver, Lt. Robert Donaldson, Elizabeth Santiago (RFS Shelter Director) Officer Mark Hamilla, and Chief Peter Noonan

## RFS Board & Friends \$250,000 Capital Campaign Challenge

# facts...

*Domestic violence is the most hidden crime in the United States.*

*In today's society, 1 in 4 women will be abused by a current or former spouse or intimate partner.*

*1 in 3 girls and 1 in 8 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18.*

In every community across the US, abused adults and children need a safe place where caring, understanding, and experienced professionals provide the help and knowledge needed to heal from the violence, find safety, plan for a productive future free from violence, and live in dignity and without fear. In Rockland County, the primary organization providing these critically important services is the **Rockland Family Shelter (RFS)**.

As RFS continues to respond to ever-growing demands for its programs and services, the inadequacy of our non-residential program and administrative space becomes ever more apparent. The current facility cannot comfortably accommodate confidential client counseling, group meetings, or related staff and administrative needs, let alone important new programs. With cramped quarters and expensive rental and maintenance costs, the space we have occupied for the past ten years has become a drain on both RFS programs and our operating budget.

With a goal of \$2.8 million, the **Imagine A Place** campaign will fund the purchase, renovation, and equipment costs for our new building. We are pleased to report that **over \$1.5 million has already been raised** in gifts and pledges, bringing us more than half-way to our goal. And with this special newsletter, we are also pleased to announce the **RFS Board and Friends Capital Campaign Challenge** – a challenge grant of \$250,000 that will be forthcoming **IF we can raise an additional \$250,000 to match that amount by the end of 2006!**

This ambitious goal is indeed a challenge – and **we need your help to meet it!** Please be as generous as you can and make a donation or pledge that is meaningful to you and your family. We have included at right, a Donor Form and a return envelope with this newsletter for your convenience, and we will be immensely grateful for whatever help you can provide us in meeting this remarkably generous challenge. **Your donation will be doubled and help bring us \$500,000 closer to our goal** – and that much closer to moving from **Imagining A Place** to creating a reality!

**Thank you so very much for your generosity – and for your ongoing commitment to the Rockland Family Shelter!** Should you have any questions or require further information about the RFS Capital Campaign, please feel free to call the RFS office – 845-634-3391 and ask for Carolyn Fish.

 Rockland Family Shelter

# Imagine *a place for...*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift / Pledge Information

- I/We wish to make a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I/We pledge (minimum \$10,000) a multi-year gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Over:  1  2  3  4  5 year(s)  Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - I/We wish to make our contribution with:
    - Check enclosed (*please make payable to: Rockland Family Shelter*)
    - Stock (*Call Carolyn Fish at 845-634-3391*)
    - Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express
- Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching Gifts

- Matching Gift Form enclosed  Matching Gift Form will be sent to RFS
- My gift will be matched by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Company/Foundation*

### Donor Recognition

- I/We wish to remain anonymous
- Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgments

- I/We would like the opportunity for name recognition\* on the building with one of the following donations:

- Brick: \$100  Steppingstone: \$500  Foundation Stone: \$1000
- Counseling Room: \$10,000  Staff Offices: \$10,000  Pillar: \$10,000

Please call Carolyn Fish at 845-634-3391 to discuss inscription options.

\* Naming opportunities for gifts in excess of \$10,000 are available for various rooms and programs in our new building. To explore such opportunities, or for more information about our Building Campaign, please contact Carolyn Fish at (845)634-3391.

- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ additional **Imagine A Place** brochures to distribute to my friends and colleagues.
- Please send your **Imagine A Place** brochures to the individuals whose names and addresses I have listed on the back of this form.

*Please use provided envelope or send donation to: Rockland Family Shelter  
Attn: Capital Campaign, 2 Congers Road, New City, New York 10956*



# Imagine *a place for...*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you so very much for your generosity -- and for your ongoing commitment to the Rockland Family Shelter!**

*Funded by private donations; agencies of the US Government, the State of New York, the County of Rockland; the Rockland County Youth Bureau and the United Way of Rockland County, Inc.*



## Rockland Family Shelter

*We are pleased to announce a \$2.8 million Capital Campaign – our first ever – to create a new and permanent “home” for our many non-residential programs and services.*

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*Each dollar you donate – up to \$250,000 – will be matched by a generous challenge grant from the Board of Directors and other friends of the Rockland Family Shelter!*



## Rockland Family Shelter

### New City (Main Office)

2 Congers Road, New City, NY 10956  
**24-Hour Hotline: 845-634-3344**  
Business Office: 845-634-3391  
Fax: 845-634-3396  
Email: [rfs@rocklandfamilyshelter.org](mailto:rfs@rocklandfamilyshelter.org)

### Spring Valley

United Methodist Church: 845-371-8469  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Multi-Purpose Center: 845-371-4438

### Haverstraw

Central Presbyterian Church: 845-634-3391

### For More Information

Visit us at [www.rocklandfamilyshelter.org](http://www.rocklandfamilyshelter.org)

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