



Safe Harbor Child Access Centers  
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WOMAN BUSINESS

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## ***Child Access Centers Celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary***

April 28, 2006, Bloomsbury, NJ — Safe Harbor Child Access Centers announces that it is celebrating its second anniversary on Saturday, May 13, 2006, at Zarephath Christian Church, Zarephath, New Jersey, located at 14 Chapel Drive, Zarephath, New Jersey (Route 287, Exit 12).

Safe Harbor's mission is to provide services to separated and divorced families to ensure that children have continuing contact with both parents and other family members. These centers, catering to families in crisis, cut down on the opportunity for family violence, allow for parenting time/visitation in potentially high-risk situations, and allow for reintroduction of a parent or other family member. The all-volunteer staff of Safe Harbor aims to provide these services in a safe, courteous and child-friendly environment.

The Zarephath Center, one of two centers operated by Safe Harbor (the other is at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Passaic), serves an average of seven families every other week. Families use the center for an average of three months. In many cases, they are able to transition from supervised visitation, to neutral pickup and drop-off at the center, to regular unsupervised visits.

"Some of our families would not be able to afford the fees to see their children, that some services charge," said Safe Harbor President Erik Purasson, "and other families just prefer our environment, and the kindness and dedication of our volunteer staff. People visiting children at the Centers include mothers, fathers, grandparents and other siblings. We serve as a port in the storm for families in crisis."

Ardis Weaver, Director of the Zarephath Center said everyone is treated equally and all are welcome to use the service. "We welcome families of all faiths. We also have volunteers with multiple language capabilities ranging from Mandarin to Polish to Spanish. We are here to serve children; they represent our future. Services are free. There should not be a charge for a child to see his parents."

To celebrate their second anniversary, there will a program from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM which will include a cake-cutting ceremony at 1:00 PM, as well as tours of the facility. The Center will be honoring everyone who has played a part in its success - from the volunteers who supervise visits, the families that have utilized the center, the people who refer cases to the center, and above all, the many children who have passed through the doors and enjoyed their time at the Center.

Anyone interested in attending the celebration is invited. For further information, please contact Erik Purasson at 908-268-4284.

***Since its founding in 2004, Safe Harbor Child Access Centers has become a reliable safe haven for families in conflict. Recognized by the family courts as a warm and comforting solution for children during court-ordered supervised visitation, Safe Harbor is a not-for-profit organization led by a network of volunteers. It is dedicated to providing a safe and warm environment and promoting loving relationships between parents and children even under the toughest of circumstances.***

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