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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JCY - Westchester Community Partners Launches Free eTutoring Program**

*Assists Yonkers Public School Students with Distance Learning*

Yonkers, NY - JCY-Westchester Community Partners (JCY), a division of Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY) has mobilized its arsenal of trained volunteers to remotely tutor children who are adjusting to and may have difficulty with distance learning during the stay-at-home order in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. Following registration by a parent or caregiver, children will be paired with JCY volunteers who, prior to the pandemic, participated in JCY mentoring programs at schools across Westchester County.

The eTutoring program was developed in response to a recognized need to assist families and children most at risk of falling behind without one-on-one support as families adjust to learning from home. According to Anietra Guzmán-Santana, Senior Director of JCY, "we recognized that distance learning, as important as it is during this time, has been a challenging adjustment for everyone - now double or triple that for families with limited access or understanding of technology, with language barriers, or parents and children who are simply overwhelmed." To start, JCY is accepting registrations from parents of Yonkers Public School students and from Westchester grandparents and caregivers raising grandchildren, in support of FSSY's Kinship Support Program. Students will be matched with eTutors on a first come, first served basis. Parents and caregivers can register [here](#).

In addition, the pandemic is known to adversely affect senior citizens disproportionately because they are isolated from friends and family who normally keep them interconnected with their communities. Since JCY programming is intergenerational, many of its volunteers fall into this category; therefore the eTutoring program serves the dual purpose of helping children and senior citizens alike, by providing them the opportunity to stay connected. Anyone interested in becoming an eTutor can register [here](#).

JCY is also collecting new or gently used computers and tablets for students and distributing them to families that apply who do not have the necessary equipment to effectively access distance learning materials at home. "JCY has worked with me and my son to find and access his remote learning material", remarked parent Maria Rojas. "The tutor he's been matched with is so attentive and helpful. When JCY learned he did not have a computer, they also got us one. Without them our child would not be able to do his assignments." Contact Madeline Finesmith at [mfinesmith@jcy-wcp.com](mailto:mfinesmith@jcy-wcp.com) to donate equipment. JCY gratefully accepts monetary donations to support its programming at [www.jcy-wcp.com](http://www.jcy-wcp.com).

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## ABOUT FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY OF YONKERS

Founded in 1883, Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY)'s mission is to be the premier provider of comprehensive services which improve the quality of lives of individuals and families of diverse backgrounds. Currently we employ around 300 staff and more than 700 volunteers. FSSY, a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit, provides services for elderly and disabled individuals, including: Home Health Care, Guardianship, Housing Support. Its division JCY-Westchester Community Partners (JCY) houses FSSY's Kinship Support Program, and a suite of intergenerational literacy programs. Through a range of literacy mentorship and afterschool programs and services, JCY provides social and academic support to students in public schools across Westchester. JCY is the leading provider of quality volunteer opportunities for Westchester's retirees and seniors. JCY mobilizes, trains and manages this corps of volunteers.