

## January 4, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Announces Funding for Hillside and Quad A for Kids

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 4, 2008

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Washington, DC

- Rep. Louise M.

Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, held a press conference today at Hillside Family of Agencies in Rochester to announce funding for local institutions that aim to educate and train our community's children.

The funding secured by Rep.

Slaughter in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill included \$28,200 for the Quad A for Kids after school program for elementary school at-risk youth; \$97,000 for the adoption services for hard-to-place children at Hillside Children's Center, an affiliate of Hillside Family of Agencies; and \$243,000 for Hillside Family of

Agencies affiliate Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection's Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA).

"I am pleased to announce that I have secured these funds for three critical local programs aimed at educating and fostering development among our community's children," said Rep. Slaughter. "Of all the issues and initiatives that I spearhead here at home and in Washington, none is more vital to our region's future than ensuring our youth become productive and engaged members of our community."

"Congresswoman Slaughter's leadership in securing this \$243,000 in aid for Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection and \$97,000 in aid for Hillside Children's Center's Adoption Services ensures that these two programs can continue to meet the ever-changing needs of the children and families receiving services. We are grateful for her unwavering advocacy and dedicated support of Hillside's children and families," said Dennis Richardson, Hillside Family of Agencies president and CEO.

"This funding is critical and will help to keep kids safe during the afternoon hours," said Adam McFadden, Executive Director of Quad A for Kids:

"Each of these programs has a track record with proven results. It's imperative that we support programs that work, like Hillside and Quad A, to develop our next generation of thinkers and leaders and ensure that Rochester's best days are yet to come," Slaughter concluded.

#### BACKGROUND:

\$28,200 for Quad A for Kids after school program for elementary school at-risk youth: Quad A for Kids works with at-risk students to make sure that from a young age they are on a productive track to ultimately graduate, become productive citizens, and add to the resources of society. Such extracurricular programs have demonstrated results in improving student behavior so they are ready to learn, reducing suspension rates, and improving standardized test scores. The funding will be used for continuation and enrichment of activities for at-risk youth at two elementary schools (#34 and #4) where Quad A currently operates. This past year, Quad A expanded their program to School #8 and added a new health and nutrition component to their programming.

\$97,000 for adoption services for hard-to-place children at Hillside

Children's Center: This service will serve as a pilot for adoption and permanent placement for hard-to-place children throughout the state by providing children with adult mentors who were themselves adopted when they were children. The funds will support education and training for Hillside children, recruitment of adoptive families, and provide for post-adoptive services.

\$243,000 for Hillside Work-Scholarship

Connection Youth

Employment Training

Academy (YETA): Currently, nearly two-thirds of kids in the City of Rochester

do not receive at least a high school degree. Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) has dramatically reduced high school dropout rates in both the Rochester and Syracuse city school districts. In Rochester, HW-SC participants graduate at twice the rate of their similarly situated peers.

This funding will permit Hillside to provide all 9th graders in Hillside Work Scholarship

Connection's program with a 5-day workplace skills training, called the Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA). Up until this time, only a select number of 9th graders were able to participate in this valuable training. By extending the benefits of YETA training to all students, it will contribute to HW-SC's goals of increasing the number of employable, work-ready youth in the region.