West Nyack, NY: The Rockland Collaborative for Children and Youth (Rockland21C) is pleased to announce the creation of a scholarship honoring its distinguished founder, the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell. The scholarship is being administered by the Rockland Community Foundation (RCF), the County’s premier philanthropic organization.

Mrs. Cornell, an esteemed public servant, has been a Rockland legislator since 1984, championing a wide range of issues geared to improving every aspect of people’s lives. She has distinguished herself as the first woman to chair the Rockland County Legislature from 2005-2013, the longest consecutive term of any chair to date. With determination and grace her ongoing collaborative efforts have always included ensuring women’s perspectives and aspirations in the formulation of public policy. The recipient of numerous honors, Mrs. Cornell was deservedly named by the Journal News as one of 25 people who made the greatest impact on Rockland County during the 20th century.

One of her proudest achievements, reflecting her lifelong interest in the well-being of children and families, was her leadership in the creation 25 years ago of Rockland 21C, which she chaired for 20 years. Its goal, the optimal development of every child, links families, schools, community and government, and has notably resulted in the creation of over 40 Family Resource Centers in Rockland’s Schools. It currently has earned the distinction of being chosen as the NYS Eastern Region Technical Assistance Center for Community Schools.

Roberta Zampolin, Rockland 21C’s current Chairwoman and retired Superintendent of Nyack Schools, was Nyack’s leader when the first County Family Resource Center was initiated there. She says, “Without Harriet’s determination and deep belief in a level playing field for all children Rockland21C would not have flourished and have had the major impact it has had on Rockland’s families. This scholarship is a most appropriate way to salute her for everything she has done for our County.”

The annual scholarship grant of $1000, honoring Mrs. Cornell’s values and contributions, will be awarded to a female senior of a Rockland High School planning to attend a four-year college. The applicant must have shown strong leadership qualities, and participated in activities that reflect a diversity of interests and community service.

Donations can be made and applications submitted to the Rockland21C Harriet D. Cornell Scholarship Fund via the Rockland Community Foundation website. Visit www.rocklandgives.org, click on scholarships and grants, and proceed to the scholarship. Contributions can also be earmarked for the scholarship and mailed to the Rockland Community Foundation, P.O. Box 323, New City, NY 10956. The deadline for applications is April 14, 2023.