



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2005

Contact: Ivette Zamora, 914.484.4804

Michael Morey, 914.382.1762

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON STATUS OF CHILDREN SHOWS TARGETED PROGRAMS IMPROVE WELL-BEING FOR MANY, BUT PROGRESS LAGS IN AT-RISK COMMUNITIES

– *Keeping Track Of New York City's Children 2005* Details Quality of Life for Two Million Children, CCC Launches Keeping Track Online for the First Time at www.cccnewyork.org –

(New York, NY) April 7, 2005 – *Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2005*, the most extensive data available in one place on the status of children in every city neighborhood, reports that conditions for children growing up in New York City have improved, particularly in the areas of health and safety, reflecting the city's social and economic recovery. However, in some neighborhoods and particularly among African American and Latino children, improvement has been slow.

“Public investments to support child well-being are paying off, and more New York City children are living healthier and safer lives,” said Gail B. Nayowith, Executive Director of Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, Inc. “But we need fresh ideas and big new approaches to tackle risks to children in neighborhoods where progress lags. And it’s not like we don’t know what it will take. New York City is where innovation happens. It is where the research and development needed to solve complex social problems is underway, but we need every city, state and national lawmaker to step up and deliver for children.”

Overall, Conditions for New York City Children are Improving

Keeping Track 2005 shows that the city is a healthier and safer place for children in the community and at home:

- There was an 8% reduction of juvenile arrests from 2000 to 2003, and a 13% reduction in youth arrests.
- Indicated reports of child abuse and neglect decreased by 2.4% between 2000 and 2003.
- 95% of NYC children were covered by health insurance in 2004, up from 88% in 2001.
- Virtually all – 99.3% – of expectant mothers received prenatal care in 2001, up from 92.1% in 1999.

However, Progress is Uneven and Serious Challenges Remain

Despite notable gains, too many New York City children still face a future where achievement and economic security are out of reach:

- Disparities exist across communities and rates of improvement are uneven across racial and ethnic groups. For example, 72% of Latino and 61% of African American children live in poor families compared to 21% of white children. And in Bayside Queens, 76%

and 77% of students meet city reading and math standards respectively, compared to 32% and 34% in Hunts Point in the Bronx.

- More New York City children live in poor families earning less than \$15,020 (for a family of three), than in New York State or the United States – 29% in New York City compared with 19% in New York State and 18% in the United States.
- Too few students graduate on time: only half of NYC high school students graduate in four years.
- The number of children receiving emergency food assistance (food pantries and soup kitchens) rose from 19.9% in 1999 to 28.9% in 2003, for a total increase of 217,000 children.

The release of the seventh edition of *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*, CCC's signature report, also debuted the premiere of *Keeping Track Online*, CCC's new interactive database, available online at www.cccnewyork.org. This exciting new tool allows anyone with internet access to do online data searches from *Keeping Track's* 200 indicator interactive database, 24/7, and provides customized reports based on user needs and interests.

The *Keeping Track* press conference also previewed *Securing Every Child's Birthright*, a new CCC education and engagement campaign. *Securing Every Child's Birthright* envisions bold initiatives to remove barriers to economic, housing and developmental security that stand in the way of a productive future for every New York City child. *Securing Every Child's Birthright* offers new thinking about old problems, and challenges policymakers and the public to --Think Big-- about public amenities, public services and public benefits that can create structural and lasting improvements for all children.

Through *Securing Every Child's Birthright*, CCC hopes to inspire community leaders, elected and appointed officials and fellow New Yorkers to create a brighter future for our children, by embracing a new framework that expands opportunities for health, success and achievement for New York City children.

More information about *Securing Every Child's Birthright* is available at www.cccnewyork.org.

For more information or to schedule an interview with Gail B. Nayowith, Executive Director of CCC, please contact Ivette Zamora at 914.484.4804 or Michael Morey 914.382.1762. Complete information on *Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2005* is available at www.cccnewyork.org
