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ROCK BROOK SCHOOL CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Skillman, NJ –Celebrating more than 40 years of providing high quality special education services to children, as well as support for families and professionals, the Rock Brook School in Skillman, NJ will commemorate four decades of success with *A Celebration of 40 Years* fundraiser on Sunday, June 7th at the Hopewell Valley Vineyards, Pennington.

Founded by a speech and language pathologist and a Montessori trained special education teacher, the Rock Brook School opened its doors in 1974 in a Montgomery Township based church. The original design provided an intensive program that worked on language and sensory motor problems for children 2 ½ to 9 with communication difficulties. The program outgrew its surroundings and through a comprehensive fund raising effort, the school raised the money to open a beautiful model school in 1998 at its current location, 109 Orchard Road, Skillman. The age limit at the school was extended to 14 years old in 2005, expanding its elementary program to include middle school aged students. Today, Rock Brook continues to thrive and just this past year, developed its services to include a Community-Based Instruction (CBI) high school program and now serves children up to 21 years of age.

“Students who attend Rock Brook gain the knowledge and skills they need to become comfortable and successful in society,” says Mary Caterson, Executive Director of Rock Brook School. “Family partnerships with the school help develop a better understanding of their child’s place in both their family and community; our committed teachers help students to reach their full potential; and sending districts work in partnership with Rock Brook staff to fill the gap for students who can’t be served in traditional ways.”

With the completion of four decades of successfully serving the special needs community, Rock Brook is looking towards the future. The Board is currently in the midst of developing a new strategic plan to secure the sustainability of Rock Brook’s programs and services. The new plan capitalizes on the unique elements of Rock Brook’s past, but also recognizes that times have changed. With input from families, staff, board members, and school districts, the plan will focus on continuing Rock Brook’s legacy of high quality specialized education, but also identify key themes and develop annual goals to secure the financial sustainability of the organization.

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ROCK BROOK CELEBRATES 40 YEARS/PAGE 2

“We are so proud of our accomplishments over the past 40 years,” says Caterson. “The event on June 7th will celebrate the past as well as the future of this exceptional organization.”

A Celebration of 40 Years will take place from 6-9 pm on June 7, 2015 at Hopewell Valley Vineyards. Ticket, sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. For more information, visit www.rock-brook.org or call (908) 431-9500.

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About Rock Brook School

Founded in 1974, Rock Brook School is a NJ State approved school designed for students aged 5-21 with multiple disabilities and communication impairment. RBS provides a full academic program along with individual speech and language therapy. Its full academic individualized programs follow NJ Core Content Standards. Celebrating 40 years of commitment to educating children with special needs and their families, RBS has demonstrated best practices to the special education community and continues its legacy of quality education, providing support and ensuring success. For more information visit www.rock-brook.org or call (908) 431-9500. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.