



**Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Remarks by Margaret Brennan-Tonetta – October 17, 2008**

Today we celebrate partnership and the great achievements that can be accomplished by working towards a common goal.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, well it took a village to raise this building and each and every one of you here today are a part of that village.

- Whether you are from a state or federal entity and provided financial support,
- From the university and provided your expertise your expertise and guidance,
- From the community and recognized the impact of this program on your local economy,
- Perhaps you are a client who benefited from the services provided by our dedicate staff, or
- A member of the construction team who literally made this dream a reality,

Each, in your own way, has played a part in bringing us to this great day.

It is truly unbelievable to be standing here today and see the vision that was created 10 years ago, finally become a reality. But through the efforts of FIC's outstanding director, Lou Cooperhouse, the hard work and dedication of the FIC staff, and a committed group of partners, we were able to successfully accomplish this goal.

Together we made a great team, believing in the vision for this program, and never wavering in the trust that one day we would accomplish it. So we are here to today to thank you, the members of our village, and express our gratitude for all you have provided. I would also like to say a special thank you to our family members who provided emotional support and put up with our dreams of one day seeing this building completed.

As much as this is a celebration of what has been achieved it is also a celebration of what it is to come. This is only the beginning.