

# SYSTIMAX®

---

## SOLUTIONS

## A High-Tech Future for the Children: Harlem Children's Zone Community Center Moves into the 21st Century with SYSTIMAX® Solutions

Founded in 1970, the Harlem Children's Zone Inc. ("HCZ, Inc." or "HCZ") is a pioneering, community-based organization dedicated to supporting and promoting the wellbeing and healthy development of children and families in Central Harlem in New York City. HCZ Inc.'s 15 centers serve more than 12,600 at-risk children and adults, of which more than 7,500 are children. HCZ, Inc.'s vision is to help Harlem's disadvantaged children secure both educational and economic opportunities in order to improve their outcomes in life.

At the end of 2004, HCZ opened its brand new community center designed to provide comprehensive social, educational and recreational services to the residents of Harlem. The building currently serves as headquarters for the organization and provides high quality education for 100 sixth grade students who attend middle school at Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School.

Ultimately, when fully developed, the school located at this site will provide high quality education for up to 600 middle school and high school children. The site also will feature a medical and dental clinic and after-school, evening and weekend programs for the Harlem community. At full capacity, the site will serve more than 2,000 people each year.

"The center has a lot to offer, but one of the things we are really committed to is providing access to state-of-the-art technology," said Kate Shoemaker, the director of policy and special projects for HCZ. "We had some big ideas for what we wanted to do from a technology



standpoint, but we weren't exactly sure how we were going to execute them."

To provide all of these services, HCZ had to be sure the building's network infrastructure could support the demands of the technology that would be featured in the center. Lehman Brothers, a major HCZ supporter, was instrumental in helping the organization achieve that goal.

"Lehman Brothers came in and designed an infrastructure plan for us that was way beyond our expectations," Shoemaker said. "The SYSTIMAX® cabling has really helped push our technology capabilities into the 21st century."

For the cabling in the new facility, Lehman Brothers and HCZ decided to do something that went far beyond the old "cables-between-cubicles" plan. Lehman Brothers chose the high-performance SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® XL solution to get the job done.

“Lehman Brothers came in and designed an infrastructure plan for us that was way beyond our expectations. The SYSTIMAX cabling has really helped push our technology capabilities into the 21st century.”

*Kate Shoemaker, Director of Policy and Special Projects for HCZ*

To support the patching for the GigaSPEED XL Solution, HCZ had the SYSTIMAX VisiPatch® System installed. With its organized, professional appearance, the patching solution is helping HCZ to cut costs and improve the efficiency of cabling installation, moves, adds and changes. Together, the GigaSPEED XL Solution and the VisiPatch System offer HCZ network performance that exceeds the Category 6 standards.

"By using the VisiPatch System, we were also able to have everything pre-patched for the HCZ center," said Dmitry Barchenko, a consultant who worked with Lehman Brothers on the HCZ project. "That created a plug-and-play scenario for them, minimizing the moves, adds, changes process. We did whatever we could to ensure the technology would be easy to use, and the VisiPatch System played an important part in that."

In addition to the technology improvements for HCZ personnel and the students who will use the center's computers and other technology, the building will include the Harlem Children's Health Project, a medical, dental, health education and technology program developed in collaboration with The Children's Health Fund and Columbia University.

"The SYSTIMAX cabling will be supporting some very advanced technology in the clinic," Barchenko said. "With the SYSTIMAX infrastructure in place, HCZ is covered for many years to come."

"We are a pretty barebones non-profit," said Steve Horton, HCZ director of IT. "Now we're getting this big jolt of high-end technology that we don't typically have access to. It's definitely exciting, and we're finally experiencing what it's like to have everything working properly all the time."

"Because of the modern technology involved, we're enjoying an increased level of reliability and access speed," Horton said. "As we look toward the future, we will pursue the use of more audio/visual features, and we may seek to establish wireless access points throughout the building. Those are both possible because of the high-speed, high-throughput capabilities of the infrastructure."

"We took the high-powered technology infrastructure used in investment banking and installed it in a non-profit center," said Neal Saiff, Lehman Brothers vice president of infrastructure implementations for the Americas. "It's definitely quite a change from what they had been using in some of their other facilities. In fact, in their previous headquarters, they had no voice mail and no telephone switch. Their old network was just cables pulled between cubicles."

"Lehman Brothers has used SYSTIMAX Solutions™ technology on multiple projects for the last several years because when you take a bit more time and invest more in the technology up front, you have a lot fewer Day 2 problems" Saiff said. "All of the SYSTIMAX technology that I've installed in the last five years looks exactly the same today as when I installed it."

"It's very rewarding working on a project like this," Saiff said. "And when you get to see the benefit it provides to the kids and the community, it's clear that this is all time and money well spent."

## SYSTIMAX® SOLUTIONS

© 2005 CommScope, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

Visit our Web site at [www.systimax.com](http://www.systimax.com) or contact your local SYSTIMAX Solutions representative or SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner for more information. SYSTIMAX Solutions is a trademark of CommScope. All trademarks identified by ® or ™ are registered trademarks or trademarks, respectively, of CommScope.

This document is for planning purposes only and is not intended to modify or supplement any specifications or warranties relating to SYSTIMAX Solutions products or services.