

# Building Blocks

*The Voice of Comprehensive Child Development, Inc.*



Spring 2009

## COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INC.

2545 PACIFIC AVENUE  
LONG BEACH, CA 90806  
562.427.8834

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## CCD LOCATIONS

### Long Beach

James Benedict Child  
Development Center  
2565 Pacific Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90806

### L.B. Center For Child Development

622 East Hill Street  
Long Beach, CA 90806

### Cabrillo Child Development Center

2205 San Gabriel Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90810

### San Pedro

Third St. Child Development Ctr.  
769 W. 3rd Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

### Wilmington

New Harbor Vista Child  
Development Center  
909 W. "D" Street  
Wilmington, CA 90744

## Comprehensive Child Development Celebrates

What began in 1984 with a handful of children in a rented fellowship hall shared with a local church has today successfully grown into an organization providing quality early childhood education and care for over 500 children of low income families in the greater Long Beach area. Since its incorporation as a non-profit agency, Comprehensive Child Development, Inc. (CCD) has stayed true to its mission to provide affordable early childhood education and nutrition programs developing successful children and self-sufficient families.

September 2009 will mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Comprehensive Child Development. A volunteer committee has been formed with **Aly Mancini** serving as the Coordinator. **Long Beach Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga** is the Honorary Chair. Her daughter was one of our original students in our program! What a great example of the benefit of affordable care and education, allowing a mother to go on to become an important part of the City of Long Beach.

To celebrate this milestone, a special reception event will be held at the Pacific Child Development Center. This ticketed reception will offer guests a chance to see one of our preschools while enjoying food, music and entertainment. This is no sit-down dinner with stuffed chicken and stuffed shirts. The flavor will be Cajun in honor of the 23 year connection between CCD and the Long Beach Bayou Festival.

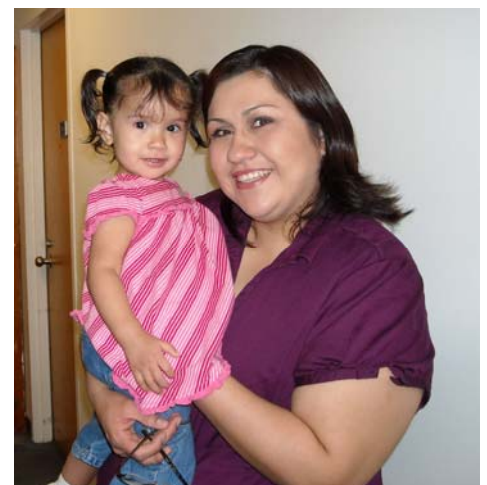
Having the event at one of our children's centers will bring guests into our "home" and keep costs at a minimum, thereby directing a larger portion of the ticket revenue to providing services for our families.

**Save the date: Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** It will be "open house" style for guests to drop in during those hours. A program will be planned for 7:00 p.m.



## Moving on up! A Success Story

There is nothing more satisfying to the staff at CCD as when a child leaves. That is: When a child leaves *because her mother has been able to finish school and start a new career with a good paying job*, as **Ana Del Campo** has recently done. "I found the job I always wanted," Ana said when she and daughter **Natalie Del Campo** said goodbye to teachers at CCD's 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Child Development Center in San Pedro. She liked the Center from the moment she walked in and "met the friendly staff, saw how clean it was and felt assured my baby was in good hands while I was in class." She wants to be sure people know that "my daughter has left the Center to give another parent a chance to reach her goals like we did." Congratulations to Ms. Del Campo as she begins her new career at Torrance Memorial Hospital as a Surgical Technician.



## Tammie Kyle - Executive Director



Can it really be time for Comprehensive Child Development to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Twenty-five years of service to our community have passed in the mere blink of an eye.

It must be true what they say about doing what you love; time flies when you're having fun. A successful beginning in 1984 under the banner of a newly formed non-profit organization and with the endless support and encouragement of a small, dedicated Board of Directors CCD has evolved into the multifaceted organization we are today. As years passed, we have continued on a

path to improve the quality and availability of programs for children and families in our communities. A mere blink and we reached 5 years, doubled in size from 64 preschool children in one center to approximately 132 in two centers and a group of licensed family child care providers offering in-home child care.

Another blink and it was 1991 and we more than doubled in size once again when CCD acquired two new programs in San Pedro. When it came to growth, we learned by doing and flourished with the support of a caring community of friends. Another surge in growth occurred in 2001 allowing us to reach out to over 100 families with infants and toddlers.

To help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be searching to re-connect with children who spent their precious early learning years with us. Many from the early days will have gone on to college and are now productive members of our communities with families of their own. Others are well on their way.

When families tell us how being part of our program has helped give them the assurance that their child was receiving a good education in a safe, caring environment while providing the parent with the opportunity to get vocational training and obtain employment, we know we have met an important measure of success. We have helped lay the foundation for over 6,000 children to lead successful, productive lives.

### Program Profile: LAUP

What is LAUP? Los Angeles Universal Preschool is a program that began in Los Angeles County in 2005 to insure that 4 year old children receive a high quality preschool experience before entering Kindergarten. It is funded through Proposition 10, the tobacco tax initiative. There is no income requirement, however some families pay a modest 'investment fee'. Age eligibility and residence in L.A. County are the only other requirements. CCD is one of two remaining Hub agencies in LA



*These children are showing their friends and family what they've learned while in LAUP. They are ready to move on to Kindergarten.*

County, supporting a network of 22 licensed family child care providers who provide preschool experiences for 241 children. The Provider or a certified teacher works with the children following a defined curriculum for 3 hours each day. CCD functions as the connection between LAUP and the child care providers, providing coaching and technical support. LAUP is funded through First Five Los Angeles.

The Coordinator for CCD's LAUP program, **Alicia Davis**, has been with CCD for 15 years. She has worked her way up from a summer aide, to fulltime teacher, and now Child Development Specialist. During this time she raised her own daughter and attended school, obtaining both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree.

### CCD Employees of the Year 2008

**The best of the best:** Each quarter, employees are honored by their fellow workers based on "outstanding service, exceptional attitude in work performance beyond their specific job requirements." In December, staff voted to choose the **Employee of the Year for 2008** for each of CCD's seven centers. Each received a commemorative pin and the group was honored by the management team at a special lunch for their superior work on behalf of the families served by Comprehensive Child Development. Pictured are winners: **Olivia Lovett** (Food Program), **Sonya Benton** (Cabrillo), **Alicia Becerra** (Pacific Ave.), **Luzminda De Los Santos** (Main office), **Marta Bizarron** (Hill Street), **Punnee Bironde** (Third St., San Pedro), **Roberta Ramirez** (New Harbor Vista, Wilmington). CCD Management pictured: **Diane Payton, Louise Cunningham, Tammie Kyle, Connie Arizmendi and Margie Meigs**. Congratulations and thank you to all!



## From the President - Richard Stember



Most of us are given just a few opportunities to make a real difference in other people's lives. Think of the time that we spend with our children. As parents we have such a large influence over their early lives. Each hour that we spend with our child helps set them on a path to success. But as you know children grow fast and the time flies by quickly. Good parenting means making sure that your children get the best education possible so that they have an opportunity for success.

You also have an opportunity to help other parents do the same. Comprehensive Child Development helps both parents and children by offering high quality early childhood education programs to families who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

I'm asking you to make a difference now. Please send a donation to CCD today in whatever amount that you can afford. Why not make a donation in the name of a loved one? Or ask your family and friends to send donations to CCD instead of sending birthday or anniversary gifts? Your donation could be amplified by the many generous donations of all those around you - including your own children. There are many parents and children at CCD who will benefit if you take this opportunity to make a real difference. Thank you for your generous support.

### CCD 2009 Officers

President: Richard Stember  
Vice Pres.: Harold Rudnick  
Secretary: Rick Pinson  
Treasurer: Edwin Sundareson

### An Opportunity to Help: Family Garden Project

The Child Development Center at the Villages at Cabrillo needs YOU? Would you like to help children learn to garden? Would you like to help families who have been homeless do something positive? We need helpers to plan this garden. Call: 562-427-8834 Louise Cunningham



## CCD Volunteer Activities

CCD's Advisory Council continues to meet on an occasional basis. Members plan to bring associates and friends to show them CCD's programs.

When volunteer opportunities arise, such as family picnics or Celebration events we hope to invite new friends to give a couple of hours to help serve refreshments, or run games, decorate, or whatever is needed. This will be most welcome gift of time and a great introduction to CCD for everyone.

**Thank you for recent welcome gifts of time and talents including:**

- **Julie McComsey** for donating her time to design the newsletter and brochure as well as help with the website.
- **Danielle Hasley** for the Train Event invitation and program.
- **Aly Mancini** for Coordinating the 25th Anniversary Plans
- **Rosalina Vergara** for designing the stationery for the Advisory Committee.
- **Mia Natsume** for designing the 2009 CCD Desk Calendar.



Nine members of **Temple Menorah** came to Cabrillo on Michael Mitzvah Day and did a terrific job of getting the garden ready for the **Family Garden Project**. Thank you!

## All Aboard for the Dinner and Art Train Event



Three dozen happy travelers boarded the vintage train cars on November 15th for a delightful evening of fine dining and an art exhibition in support of families served by CCD. Trini Jimenez of BNSF Railway presented a check for \$1,000 in addition to providing the opportunity to enjoy the evening on restored train cars dating from the 1940's. CCD Executive Director Tammie Kyle told the gathering about the eleven works on canvas and paper which were done by the late James S. Benedict, M.D. He was a primary supporter in the establishment of CCD's Pacific Avenue Child Development Center. He became a prolific painter in his retirement and his family donated the art for auction to benefit CCD. After cocktails and appetizers in the lounge car, the guests enjoyed a fabulously prepared and served five-course meal in the elegant dining car. Later, guests explored the other cars and many relived train adventures from their childhood years. Even though the train was stationary, everyone felt they'd made a great voyage!





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**BUILDING BLOCKS** is a quarterly publication of Comprehensive Child Development, Inc. A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Federal Tax ID #33-061885

*Newsletter items and comments welcome. If you'd rather receive an email newsletter, please send us your email address. Editor Louise Cunningham. [lcunningham@ccdlb.org](mailto:lcunningham@ccdlb.org).*

562-427-8834

**Thank you for your recent support:**

Weingart Foundation

Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Mrs. Muriel Benedict

BNSF Railway

Sidney Stern Foundation

Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership

Long Beach Community Foundation

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Out & About Long Beach

**Please join us  
23rd Annual  
Long Beach  
Bayou Festival**

June 27—June 28  
Rainbow Lagoon Park.



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