

Building Blocks

The Voice of Comprehensive Child Development, Inc.



Fall 2009

25 Years and Counting

Bright colors, centerpieces hand-made by the children at CCD's Cabrillo Child Development Center, along with a variety of brightly colored linens on the tables dotting the playground set the stage for the 25th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 26th. Guests enjoyed sumptuous fare at the outdoor Cafe, catered by Triple R Catering, as well as beverages donated by Anheuser Busch, flowers from Trader Joe's and photography by Leo Delati. The awards concluded with a champagne and sparkling cider toast, along with 25th Anniversary cake and cupcakes, donated by Mia Natsume of Ticings. Sponsors of the event included Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, Signal Hill Petroleum and Paramount Petroleum.

The Honorable Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga from the City of Long Beach served as the Honorary Chair and her commitment to families and children was celebrated with the **Community Leadership Award**. Other awards included **Volunteer Service Awards** to Toby Schuster, Mia Natsume, and Board members Harold Rudnick and Rick Pinson. **Special Recognition – 25 Years of Service to CCD** went to Jenny Cardenas, Carmen Reynoza and Connie Arizmendi. **The Founders Award** was bestowed upon Phyllis Levitt, Ph.D., founder and first Executive Director, who traveled from Healdsburg, CA for the event. Richard Stember, Board President was honored with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. A **Special Award** went to Tammie Kyle, CCD's Executive Director, for 25 years of leadership.



Founder Phyllis Levitt and 25 Year Employee Jenny Cardenas

A Determined Parent

Maria Marin and her two children, Adamaris Lopez (age 3) and Edgar Lopez (age 5) have been enrolled at CCD since March 2008. Maria is a single parent and when she originally came to CCD it was based on her "working parent" status. Then, the economy failed and she lost her job cleaning rooms in a small motel. She came to our Family Services staff to let us know she was unemployed and fearful of losing her child-care for the children she saw learning their colors, ABC's, shapes. She got good news when she was told she was eligible to continue because she was seeking employment. She found work as a cook, but without experience, was again laid off. Now, she has obtained work with the Marriott Hotel in Long Beach. She is proud of having a stable job and frequently thanks Family Services staff for their help and encouragement. She gives the Family Services staff credit for encouraging her, and she appreciates the care and education her children are receiving. Edgar has gone on to Kindergarten and is doing very well. Her long range goal is to attend school and study English and general education so she can advance in her job.



COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INC.

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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

Tammie Kyle - Executive Director



Having just enjoyed CCD's 25th Anniversary celebration, I can't help but reflect on some other numbers significant to our agency's history.

learning environment in which they were supported at every turn and now being expected to be independent in many aspects of the day.

We began with one center, 4 classrooms, 64 children and a staff of 14. Now over 450 children are educated and cared for each day in five centers, 23 classrooms and in a CCD supported network of 50 licensed family child care providers with whom we contract. Along the way, we became sponsors of the Child and Adult Care Food Program with almost 700 providers we reimburse for feeding nutritious meals to children in their care. Our staff now totals 110 dedicated, hard working individuals who make children and their families a priority every single day.

Twenty-five years ago 16 bright-eyed, enthusiastic 4 and 5 year olds, armed with confidence, competence and a certificate that proudly acclaimed they had attended CCD's Department of Education funded preschool program participated in the center's "Farewell Celebration", a tradition that remains today.

The 2009 Farewell Celebration was attended by 115 children and their families; children filled with the promise of their high quality preschool experience that included preparation for Kindergarten and a lifetime of learning and parents filled with hope for their children's bright future. All things have been possible for 25 years and will be possible for another 25 with the help of our many partners and supporters. Thank you to all of you.

Imagine preparing over 450 children at a time to succeed in today's Kindergarten where they are expected to be able to negotiate with their peers and teachers, all of whom represent the variety of backgrounds, learning styles and languages evident in today's classrooms. Imagine children being able to build on a base of knowledge acquired in a high quality

Progressive Dinner Party Event

On Sunday, May 17th, the sun shone brightly on the patio and play areas at the CCD child development center at the Villages at Cabrillo. The classrooms were open and inviting for forty guests of the Progressives Dinner Party to tour and learn more about the center. CCD Board members were on hand to discuss the mission of CCD in assisting low-income working families to have affordable high quality early childhood education and care. Many of the infants, toddlers and preschool children at Cabrillo are from families experiencing homelessness and living in transitional housing.

For five years the PDP group has provided an inspiring event every other month to benefit selected local nonprofit agencies,



CCD Board Member Edwin Sundareson and wife Sue sample the special CCD cupcakes.

especially those serving children. Each of the guests donated a minimum of \$35 – the cost of a dinner out, instead being donated for program support. This amount can feed nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks to a child for one month. CCD was very proud to have been selected as a recipient of this group's generosity. Sophy Kut of Sophy's donated the delicious Thai food and Mia Natsume of Ticings donated the cupcakes. Over \$2,500 was raised by this event.

23rd Annual Festival

CCD's long time annual fundraiser, **The Long Beach Bayou and Mardi Gras Festival** was held June 27 and 28th at the Rainbow Lagoon Park in partnership with Rainbow Promotions, LLC. The two stages – Club N'Orleans and the Bayou Stage entertained thousands of enthusiastic fans. A variety of food vendors provided delicious offerings, and the Mardi Gras Parade was the big hit as it has been for many years. This year the festival added more family fun with Ronald McDonald performing on the Children's Stage along with other entertainers who enthralled children and adults during the weekend. Craft booths and games attracted throngs of fun-seekers. Children made parade umbrellas and pranced along the parade route with the band. CCD extends heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this year's Festival so successful. Watch for news of next year's event June 26 and 27, 2010.



From the President - Richard Stember



I recently had the great pleasure of speaking with many CCD supporters at our 25th Anniversary open house event. It was a wonderful evening at our Pacific Center in Long Beach with excellent food and interesting conversation. And of course it was validation for the important work that CCD and its staff do every day – especially during these hard times.

economy. Recessions come and go and this one will also eventually end. But we get only one chance to educate our children; only one chance, during their relatively brief childhood, to nurture and prepare them for success as adults.

Did you know that even a small donation of just \$ 35 is enough to feed seven (7) children a full breakfast, lunch and dinner at one of our centers? Every day of the week the staff of CCD’s Food Program makes sure that hundreds of children at our centers and contract child care provider homes get well balanced meals.

Even a small donation can make a big impact. Please donate today in the enclosed envelope. There are hundreds of children in your own community who need the help that CCD provides. You can give these children a day or more of balanced meals and education - and a chance at success at a time when they need it most. On behalf of the families of CCD, thank you for your generous support.

We may be in a recession but the need for high quality child development programs has not diminished. One could argue that in fact during hard economic times more of it is needed. Low income parents are working extra jobs, or are unemployed, out looking for work. All are struggling to make ends meet. The children in our community are the last people any of us want to suffer during this down

Staff Development Day: On September 4, 2009 the sixth annual Staff Development Day, a collaboration of CCD, Long Beach Day Nursery, and Young Horizons, all agencies providing subsidized early childhood education programs, was held at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. This day-long training gave staff a concentrated day of workshops, a wonderful luncheon, a chance to be playful and to celebrate everyone’s efforts throughout the year. Workshop sessions included understanding infant social-emotional development, the development of speech and language through play, a session on promoting teamwork and one on building mindful partnerships with families, presented by professionals in their respective fields. The day ended with individual agency sessions honoring staff for years of service.



These boys of Long Beach Campfire Fire Dragon troop held a book drive for the children at CCD’s Pacific Avenue Center. Thank you!

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 share a fun learning experience with their children? We need friends to help plan and plant this garden, and support it by volunteering as well as via donations. Soroptimist International of Long Beach has donated \$2,500 to get the project started and an appeal campaign is underway to fill in the rest of the needed support.

Each of the four classrooms will have their own planting area. There will also be semi-dwarf fruit trees just outside the fenced children’s garden area. The project will be a learning experience for children and adults: planting, harvesting, cooking, sharing with others and more. Donating \$100 plants a fruit tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. A gift of \$50 provides seeds and plants, and \$25 helps provide garden tools and supplies for the children and their families to use in the garden. Call: 562-427-8834 Louise Cunningham.

Parents working together

at CCD’s Hill Street center recently held a fundraiser to purchase a digital camera. A new laundry basket was donated and filled with cleaning supplies, assembled and wrapped by teachers and parents. The goal was \$140. Parents and friends purchased tickets for \$5.00. The winner was Kelly Macedo, who has two children enrolled at Hill Street. Because of everyone’s help and enthusiasm they raised \$155. The Center now has a digital camera to record the wonders of children’s work and play.



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CCD thanks the following for support during 2009*

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**Please let us know if we neglected to add your name for 2009—we apologize for any omissions.*

Donors in 2009—In Kind Thank you for your time, talents and services

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