Focus on Children

Children Today's eNewsletter

Fall 2011

In This Issue

Focus on Families

Focus on Growth

Focus on Teaching

Upcoming Events

Focus on Fundraising

Announcement of New Board Members for 2011

Children Today
PO Box 16004
Long Beach, CA 90806
PH: (562) 432-1224
Dora Jacildo
Executive Director

The Play House North
1900 East South Street
Long Beach, CA 90805
PH: (562) 423-2018
Gina Guffy
Program Director

The Play House West
1301 West 12th Street
Long Beach, CA 90813
PH: (562) 951-1992
Marisela Villalobos
Program Director

Focus on Families

At first glance, Children Today's Play House Programs may appear to be another child care center among the myriad of providers in Los Angeles. Even those that recognize our organization may not be fully aware of the various facets of our programs. Our focus is not solely the child—it would be difficult for a family to achieve stable housing and employment if this was our only purpose. Studies have shown that children are more likely to become productive and successful if mom and dad are economically secure. Parental stability is vital to a child's development and having various resources available to them influences positive change. If they are having a particularly difficult time Children Today has a well informed staff, as well as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, to ensure that parent concerns do not go unacknowledged. If we are unable to meet any of their needs, we partner with a number of service providers that can.

Helping children learn and grow is essential, but if parents aren't learning and growing alongside them it becomes more difficult to break the cycle of poverty. It's extremely important that parents feel the same comfort and trust as their children in order for them to be able to approach life's challenges with confidence. We provide them with the peace of mind that their children are safe and happy, but we also provide them with an expansive support system. Simply put, we are not only offering our families child care, we are helping them build a foundation for success.

Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Mobile Clinic

Focus on Growth

As our organization continues to expand our staff must also grow to meet the changing needs of our families. Here is a profile of our newest staff member:

Marisol Ascencio
Administrative Assistant

A former substitute teacher, Marisol Ascencio joined Children Today to assist with communications, fundraising, and day-to-day office responsibilities. Inspired by the students she once worked with, Marisol has chosen to pursue a career where she can better help children in crisis. Marisol is particularly interested in fundraising and grant writing and hopes to one day use her writing skills to acquire funding for children in need.

For more information on Children Today, please visit our website at www.childrentoday.org.

Focus on Teaching

"Child care has a heavy significance, particularly for families that may be needing it for the first time."

Child care has a heavy significance, particularly for families that may be needing it for the first time. A combination of cultural and familial factors, as well as negative experiences with prior child care, may have parents struggling with the thought of leaving their child in the care of strangers. Many cultures are taught to be wary of outside caregivers and have been conditioned to believe that no one can care for their children the way family can. Sadly, many families experiencing homelessness lack support from relatives and are often left with limited to no options for child care.

At Children Today we understand this dynamic and we put forth much effort to duplicate the comforts of home. Children will always be cared for by a familiar face, providing consistency and stability during a time when these may be lacking. There is a fixed schedule so children know what to expect daily. Meals are freshly prepared and teachers eat alongside children in a "family style" setting. Children take naps, play games, and socialize as well as prepare for a lifetime of learning. Most importantly, children are nurtured and supported during a delicate time in their lives.

Our programs strive to be of the highest quality and give children a culturally sensitive environment to thrive in, regardless of their background. At The Play House children are safe from judgment and marginalization. Every last detail is considered, even the literature used in the classroom is carefully selected with the life experiences of our families in mind. We do this to ensure that every family is given the chance they deserve to establish a stable life.

Our Philosophy on Caring for Children

Children need to be able to trust adults

Believing in oneself is the basis of all growth

Solving problems gives children a sense of self-confidence

Play is the child's way of learning and understanding

Children are deserving of respect

Children are competent learners

Behavior must be understood, not labeled

Children do the best they can with the skills they have

Children learn to cope with feelings by being allowed to experience the full range of their emotions

Upcoming Events

Holiday Cheer 2011

Mix, Mingle, Lounge, Nosh, Bar Hop, Dance & Shop at our 14th Annual HOLIDAY CHEER!

Friday December 2, 2011

7:00 p.m. until last call

Arco Center in Downtown Long Beach

Visit www.childrentoday.org to purchase tickets!

Focus on Fundraising

Children Today's 3rd Annual Run/Walk

Children Today's 3rd Annual Run/Walk took place Saturday July 16th at the Marina Green Park in Downtown Long Beach. With over 600 participants, this year's event was our most successful to date thanks to our partnership with the Long Beach Sea Festival and Alfredo's Ultimate Beach Party.

In addition to a 5K and 10K race for adults, a half-mile children's "fun run" took place for the younger crowd. All three courses ran along the scenic shoreline of the Marina Green Park.

We are most grateful to our title sponsor FreeConferenceCall.com and our event sponsors Vons, and US Bank who helped make the run/walk such a success!

The Year in Grants

2011 has been quite a year for grants. Many of Southern California's most notable foundations have awarded us with funds for our programs. Below is a complete list of foundations we would like to thank for their very generous contributions:

Ralph M. Parson's Foundation

Crail-Johnson Foundation

Pacific Life Foundation

Cherese Mari Lauhlere Foundation

Long Beach Community Action Partnership

Weingart Foundation

Union Pacific Foundation

Orange County Community Foundation

Bess J. Hodges Foundation

Earl B. & Loraine H. Miller Foundation

Announcement of New Board Members for 2011

Jude Correa

Jude was born in Bombay, India before arriving in the United States in 1982. The majority of his young life was spent in a British boarding school where he received the finest education but lacked the familiar surroundings of a family home. "My parents strongly believed in education," he states, "And the boarding school offered the best education." Still, his education afforded him only two short months of family time per year and this left quite an impression on Jude.

Today, Jude works as a General Manager of TABC, Inc. and is a father of three. He has learned to lead a balanced life in order to stay involved with his children. As someone who did not have a family household experience he hopes to work toward providing this opportunity to other children. He explains, "I have enjoyed the time with my kids and their friends and I would like to help some more kids." He has certainly come to the right place.

Erin Earlywine-Vince

Erin's involvement with Children Today started in 2003 when she was managing Smooth's Sports Grille. While working there she met her future husband, Barry Vince, a Children Today supporter and fundraiser. Seeing how his "party planning" skills could be useful to raise funds she was inspired. "I headed up the run/walk committee which was so awesome that I decided to make that event my main focus for years to come!" she explains.

Her athletic background and expertise as a personal trainer have made her the ideal candidate to take charge of the run/walk and we look forward to many more successful run/walk events under her leadership. We extend a warm welcome to Erin here at Children Today!