



Contact:

Marc Baker
Ph: 510/897-6913
mbaker@kidango.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tri-City Health Center and Kidango Announce New Partnership
New partnership to provide vital oral health services to children and families in the Tri-City Area

Fremont, CA – July 8, 2011—Through grant funding provided by Every Child Counts/First 5 Alameda County’s Community Grants Initiative, Tri-City Health Center (TCHC) will implement their “Bright Smiles” dental program at twelve Kidango Child Development Centers in Fremont, Newark and Union City.

TCHC’s Bright Smiles is a dental health promotion and preventive services program that aims to reduce the burden of dental disease through efficient integration of health promotion, preventive services, and access to disease management and treatment services to underserved children ages 0-5 years and their parents/caregivers in Southern Alameda County. Through this new collaboration, TCHC will provide dental health promotion and preventive services to over 900 low-income children ages 0-5 years from families that are most likely to experience dental disparities. Additionally, TCHC will provide access to dental services through referral/enrollment into Medi-Cal/dental insurance and follow-up care through their dental office for Kidango families.

The Bright Smiles program emphasizes prevention, early identification and treatment of dental disease in children before they enter kindergarten. Through the Bright Smiles program, Kidango preschool age children will learn how to properly care for their teeth and the importance of properly caring for their teeth. Kidango children may also participate in a “low-tech” non-invasive dental screening by a licensed dentist to assess the state of the child’s oral health and to help the child overcome any fears that may have previously prevented the child from having a pleasant experience at a dental appointment. Their parents/caregivers will attend workshops to gain understanding of the need to maintain good oral health, both for them and for their children, as well as the best ways to prevent dental decay and cavities.

“Kidango is excited to partner with TCHC to provide families with children enrolled in our centers with additional resources to help them lead healthy lives. Without this service, many of our families would not have access to quality dental services and educational opportunities to promote their children’s oral health” said Paul Miller, Kidango’s Executive Director. “Our Bright Smiles program bridges the gap in knowledge of good oral health practices by focusing not just on children, but their families who have a great influence on the health behaviors of the child. TCHC and our community appreciate Kidango’s partnership and support,” said Juliana Schirmer, Development Director, TCHC.

About TCHC:

Tri-City Health Center (TCHC) is a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center, providing high-quality medical care to over 22,000 low-income, uninsured, and homeless residents living in southern, central, and eastern Alameda County, California. Originally founded in 1970 as a family planning clinic for low-income, minority women living in the tri-cities area (Fremont,

Newark and Union City), TCHC has expanded its services and now offers primary medical, dental and behavioral health services for the entire family.

About Kidango

As a leader in early education and child development, Kidango offers a wide variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of children 0-5 years of age and their families. Currently, Kidango operates 46 child development centers and serves more than 2,500 children and families in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Please visit the Kidango website at <http://www.kidango.org/>.