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Kidango Receives Play Space Grant Award

Head Start Body Start Grant Spotlights the Importance of Exercise and Physical Activity For Children

Fremont, CA –January 31, 2011—Kidango, a nonprofit child development agency, has received a Head Start Body Start (HSBS) Play Space Grant Award for its Ruschin Center in Newark. The grant will enable Ruschin Center to refurbish its playground and promote physical education to the center's 98 preschool children.

Enhancing physical activity and exercise is essential, given the alarming rise in childhood obesity across the country, a condition which the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has likened to an epidemic. Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years in the United States.

Head Start/Early Start programs provide early childhood education and other services to low income children and families through center-based programs and partner agencies such as Kidango.

With its award, Rushin Center will install a climbing structure in its playground for use by its preschool children, aged 3-5 years old.

“These deserving kids will be delighted to have a new play structure and we are thrilled to be chosen to receive a HSBS grant,” said Kidango Regional Director Kathy Rose. “This award is symbolic of the efforts of both Kidango and HSBS to stress the importance of exercise and physical activity at an early age. We look forward to working with HSBS in the future to inspire and motivate our children to lead healthy lives, prevent obesity, and alleviate other health related problems.”

“The benefits of daily exercise are both psychological as well as physical, positively impacting self-esteem and self-confidence in children and promoting feelings of health and wellness,” said Sue Story of Child, Family, and Community Services, on behalf of HSBS. “We are happy to support Kidango’s mission in encouraging physical activity to young children.”

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About Head Start Body Start

Head Start/Early Start programs provide early childhood education and other services to low income children and families through center-based programs and partner agencies such as Kidango. The Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play serves to increase physical activity, outdoor play, and healthy eating among Head Start and Early Head Start children and families. A major annual activity of HSBS is to provide grants of up to \$5,000 each to selected local Head Start Centers nationwide to improve their outdoor play spaces.

About Kidango

As a leader in early care and education, Kidango offers a wide variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of children 0-12 years of age and their families. Currently, Kidango operates 41 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/>.

For more information on Kidango please contact Marc Baker at 510-897-6913 or at mbaker@kidango.org.