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**Kidango Receives \$150,000 Grant Award from United Way Silicon Valley to Provide Quality Early Education and Child Development Services to Children in Need in Santa Clara County**

Kidango is pleased to announce the continuation of our partnership with United Way Silicon Valley (United Way) to provide high quality early care and education and child development services to children ages 0-5 years in San Jose. In a competitive RFP process, Kidango was one of 36 programs run by local nonprofit agencies that received three-year grants, valued at \$50,000 annually from United Way.

The United Way funding will help support Kidango's San Jose child development programs. Kidango operates ten early care and child development centers where services are provided each weekday to nearly 900 children ages 0-12 in Santa Clara County. Eight of our Santa Clara County child development centers are located on the elementary school campuses in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District in east San José.

Our child development centers in San Jose provide full and part day programs, before and after-school programs, and preschool and school-aged programs. Our program goes beyond basic child care. Every day, our teachers work to provide a rich learning environment for the children they serve. Kidango teachers work closely with Alum Rock District teachers to ensure that the curriculum, social environments and child/teacher interactions in our programs prepare children to be successful in school and in life.

"The first five years of life are critical for brain development and future learning. Funding from the United Way is crucial to ensuring the success of our programs and that children from low income households in San Jose have the resources they need to be successful in school and in life" said Paul Miller, Kidango Executive Director.

Over the last twenty years, extensive research has shown that children from economically disadvantaged families benefit from participating in an early childhood program similar to the program offered at Kidango's Child Development Centers in San José. Early childhood programs were shown to significantly reduce the number of children assigned to special education, be instrumental in preventing children from being retained in an elementary grade and more likely to meet the educational standards set by schools. Additionally, but less well documented, were the benefits to children who received proper nutrition for the 2/3 of their day that they spend in a preschool program.

Kidango provides a stimulating, multi-lingual, cross-cultural environment, which fosters the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of all children. We encourage children to embrace all that makes them unique and special. Kidango is honored that United Way recognizes our expertise in the field of early care and education and supports our mission to inspire all children and their families by promoting their potential and diversity through quality services and nurturing relationships.

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### **About United Way Silicon Valley**

To drive positive change, United Way Silicon Valley helps people help themselves by identifying critical needs, mobilizing the caring power of the community, and aligning resources to achieve the best solutions. For more information about United Way Silicon Valley, visit [www.uwsv.org](http://www.uwsv.org).

### **About Kidango**

Kidango, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit children's agency. It began as Tri-Cities Children's Centers, Inc. in 1979 and at inception there were 90 children and families being served at one center in Fremont. 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 there are 36 centers throughout the Bay Area and the agency is continuously expanding to meet the growing needs of children and families. Today more than 2,500 children and families are served in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties each year.

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