



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kidango Receives \$10,000 Grant Award from Western Digital Charitable Foundation to Enhance Early Intervention Services for Children**

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant provided by the Western Digital Charitable Foundation, Kidango, a Bay Area leader in early care and education, will enhance the services provided through the agency's early intervention and mental health services programs. Through the funding provided by the Western Digital Charitable Foundation, Kidango early intervention and mental health specialists will provide services for families with children ages 0-3 years identified as "at risk" for developing a developmental delay or disability. Kidango's specialists will offer support, information, and guidance in areas such as understanding the child's delay/disability, reading the child's cues, dealing with the challenges of parenting, providing activities to enhance development, and accessing community resources.

Due to state budget cuts, children aged birth to three identified as being at risk for developmental delay or disability will no longer be receiving California Early Start services. "The funding provided by the Western Digital Charitable Foundation will help our agency continue to provide services to our most vulnerable population. This funding couldn't have come at a better time" said Karen Baas, Kidango's Director of Early Intervention Services. "Many children who once qualified to receive early intervention services funded through the State no longer qualify for those services and are not receiving the specialized support they need" said Baas.

For over 30 years, Kidango has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to inclusion by serving children at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities in our early childhood education classrooms. Kidango's specialized programs are designed to enhance the child's development while maximizing the family's capacity to meet the special needs of their child. Developmental specialists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists collaborate with families, focusing on all aspects of development: cognition, speech & language, social-emotional, self-help and motor skills.

The Western Digital Charitable Foundation, a California non-profit benefit corporation, was created in 1997 to support Western Digital's philanthropic activities that contribute to the economic, social, educational, and health needs of the communities where they are located. Western Digital recognizes a responsibility consistent with its business objectives to respond to the needs of the communities in which it operates and where its employees live. The quality of life and education, the well being of our employees and their families, and the economic health of our society are of vital interest to Western Digital, its leadership and staff.

A representative from Western Digital will present Kidango with a check for the grant award on Friday, February 12 at 1:00 pm at Kidango's Rix Child Development Center in Fremont located at 43100 Isle Royal St. Members of the press are welcome to attend. Please contact Marc Baker at 510-897-6913 for further details or to confirm attendance.

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**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.

For more information on Kidango please contact Marc Baker at 510-897-6913 or at [mbaker@kidango.org](mailto:mbaker@kidango.org)