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Early Head Start Services Expand in Utah County

New collaboration between local nonprofits allows for 100 additional children to be served.

OREM, UT—December 17, 2009 – Beginning in January 2010, Early Head Start (EHS) services for low-income families with infants and toddlers under 3 years of age and pregnant women are expanding throughout Utah County, for the first time in over 11 years.

U.S. Census statistics show that over 6,000 children, age 5 and under, in Utah County live in poverty. Until now, only 64 children at any one time (100 or so annually) received Early Head Start services. Now, with this new announcement, an additional 100 children and families in the county (164 total) will now receive services.

EHS services include activities and information on Child Development, Health & Safety, Nutrition, and more delivered through Home Visits countywide and Center-based services in Orem and Genola.

“This is an exciting announcement for low-income families with young children who now have more home-based and center-based services available to support them in their parental roles and goals of self-sufficiency,” said Stuart Collyer, Executive Director of Kids On The Move, a nonprofit that has served Utah County families for over 23 years.

A new collaborative partnership of two local nonprofit organizations – Kids On The Move & Centro de la Familia de Utah – recently received notification that their proposal to expand Early Head Start services to an additional 100 children in Utah County was successfully granted funds from the federal Administration for Children & Families (ACF). This new funding was part of the federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. Its mission is simple: to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, to enhance the development of very young children, and to promote healthy family functioning. While many may be familiar with Head Start, a national program which promotes school readiness for eligible children ages 4-5, the Early Head Start program serves infants and toddlers ages 0-3.

“We are excited to expand our center-based Migrant and Seasonal Head Start competency in this exciting new partnership which will provide new classrooms in our Genola facility in Southern Utah County as well as in Orem,” said Gonzalo Palza, CEO of Centro de la Familia de Utah.

Interested families should apply now, before the program is full and a waiting list is necessary. To receive an application (available in both English and Spanish) individuals may contact Kids On The Move at (801) 221-9930 ext. 131 or go to www.kidsonthemove.org to download an application.

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Kids On The Move

Kids On The Move is a nonprofit organization serving families with young children ages birth to three, including children with disabilities, developmental delays and/or children in a low-income situation. Founded in 1986, the organization supports the development of young children and families in Utah County by providing Early Intervention services, Early Head Start services, and through The Noorda Family Resource Library. Recently, Kids On The Move was named the “Nonprofit of the Year” and received the 2009 Watkins Award from the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce. More information is available at www.kidsonthemove.org.

Centro de la Familia de Utah

Founded in 1975, Centro de la Familia de Utah works toward its mission of “Developing educational opportunities that empower Latinos” economically, socially and politically and addressing the community’s social, cultural, and linguistic needs. Centro de la Familia provides Head Start and Migrant Head Start services in communities throughout Utah. More information is available at www.cdifu.org.

Available for interviews:

Stuart Collyer, Executive Director, Kids On The Move

Katie Ricord, Early Head Start Program Coordinator, Kids On The Move

Gonzalo Palza, Executive Director, Centro de la Familia de Utah

Julia Barrientos, Deputy Director for Head Start, Centro de la Familia de Utah

Contact Scott G. Snow, Development Director, Kids On The Move at 801-358-8424 (cell) to arrange an interview.