



Improving the Lives of Families through Child Care Services, Research and Advocacy

www.crystalstairs.org

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crystal Stairs Opens Head Start Programs in Compton and South Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA – Yesterday Crystal Stairs welcomed parents, teachers and children, ages 3 to 5 years old for the first day of preschool at Head Start locations throughout the Compton and South Los Angeles communities. CEO Jackie B. Majors joined the Head Start students for morning activities, celebrating the start of a new year of learning with parents, children and teachers. The beginning of the Head Start program is exciting for children, their families and the entire community. “It was exhilarating to see the faces of children coming to their new preschool home to begin their educational journeys. We are proud to be able to provide this important service to our most vulnerable communities because we know that all children deserve the best educational opportunities,” said Mrs. Majors. The board and staff of Crystal Stairs are extremely enthusiastic about the new Head Start opportunity to expand services to children and to deepen relationships with parents and educators in communities throughout the Crystal Stairs service area that we have served for more than three decades.

Dr. Karen Hill Scott, Founder/Board Chair of Crystal Stairs, reflected on this milestone moment by saying, “Since our inception, Crystal Stairs has been focused on improving both access and quality, and the Head Start program provides an excellent opportunity to influence both of these aspects of early child education.” Dr. Scott added that “Crystal Stairs is equipped and prepared for our next phase of direct child care services for our children and their families. We are ready to usher in a new era that will allow us to implement our family services mission. We are eager to contribute to the preparation of a new generation of early learners.”

In July, Crystal Stairs was awarded a replacement Head Start grant to embark upon this incredibly important role of providing access to high-quality early childhood education to 819 children at 10 sites. The Head Start program continues the family service mission of Crystal Stairs to improve the lives of families through child care services, research and advocacy.

“Over the past two months since the Head Start grant was awarded, our staff have worked hard to make certain that all of the operations at the new locations were developed with the goal of providing quality services,” said Mrs. Majors. “It has been our primary goal to infuse our agency’s values of excellence, relationships, integrity and empowerment, into this new endeavor. Therefore, we have worked around the clock to get these programs operating, ensuring that quality is paramount in our Head Start program.”

In light of the national efforts to strengthen Head Start regulations to push for increased accountability for quality in the classrooms, Crystal Stairs has made every effort to widely recruit, interview and select those candidates with the strongest qualifications to ensure that all federal program standards for Head Start are met. “We intend to support the Obama Administration’s mandate to provide high-quality services for our most vulnerable families, and the quality of teachers has a direct correlation to the probability of success for our children,” said Mrs. Majors. Crystal Stairs hosted an extensive training session to review state and federal mandates and family engagement strategies to prepare the Head Start staff to serve children and families of our community. Additionally, significant efforts have been made to secure leases

and child care licenses that would protect and guarantee that children have safe and healthy environments that will be optimal for their learning.

“At a time when child care and supportive services for our most vulnerable families are under funding attack, entering into the Head Start program service is a testament to the quality programs we deliver,” said Mrs. Majors. “Building upon our 32-year history, we are known in the community for serving children and their families. Our entry into the Head Start program allows us to make a larger difference in early childhood education, family self-sufficiency and overall community empowerment. We are proud and grateful for this vote of confidence in our efforts to serve the community, and are appreciative of the numerous people and organizations that have supported our efforts to open the doors for our Head Start programs. This is our mission and we take our mission seriously. We, at Crystal Stairs, know how important early childhood education is. In fact, many of us have benefitted from a preschool education and it was an early educational start that helped us to reach where we are today – our success can be traced back to an early education environment.”

The Crystal Stairs Head Start preschool program has immediate openings for the half-day and full-day preschool sessions. For more information on Head Start, please call (323) 421-1100.

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About Crystal Stairs

Crystal Stairs is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of families through child care services, research and advocacy, continuing the legacy started in 1980 by Dr. Karen Hill Scott and Dr. Alice Walker Duff, two working mothers, to help connect families with desperately needed child care services. For more information, please contact Nicole J. Jones, Director of External Affairs at (323) 421-2631.

