



Drew Child Development Corporation

DREW'S NEWS

DREW EMPLOYEES

PARTICIPATE IN RALLY TO DEFEND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS...

By Alexandria Bland

On Saturday, April 14 Drew Child Development employees joined the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) and other community based organizations for a rally organized to defend the child development programs in California and oppose the Governor's child development realignment and cuts.

Over 3,500 people marched to the Governor's Spring Street office and many wore the color red to support the CCDAA's message of reform. Several speakers were invited to participate including the Los Angeles County Supervisor, Zev Yaroslavsky, Senator Carol Liu, and Assembly Speaker, John A. Perez.

In early January, Gov. Jerry Brown released a budget plan for 2012-13 that would cut \$517 million from child development programs. His plan would also realign all child care and development programs except part-day state preschool from the California Department of Education to county welfare offices. This is likely to result in thousands of state preschools and other child development programs shutting down throughout the state.



Dr. Mike Jackson, pictured above, during the rally.



Michelle Gleaton is pictured above, Tomorrie Cook and Veronica Aguilar are shown below.





Drew Child Development
Corporation

DREW'S NEWS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Dr. Mike Jackson



VOLUME 1

2

ISSUE 3

Springtime – A Time to Initiate Partnerships

The days are growing longer now, and the temperatures are easing into the 70s and 80s, and the Dodgers are in Spring Training. Springtime is sweeping over Los Angeles, and Drew Child Development Corporation is operating at full capacity to deliver its life-changing programs and services to our community.

It is springtime and it's a time of planting seeds that promise to bear fruit for the organization in the future, with proper nurturing. In this regard, I am happy to report that we continue to reach out to build partnerships with community organizations and influential people in anticipation we will receive their assistance and support to help us secure and sustain our programs. In recent weeks, the following relationships have been initiated:

I am working increasingly close with Dr. David Carlisle, the newly-appointed CEO of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and members of his team to explore areas of mutual interest and support.

We have submitted grant requests to three local funders – Weingart Foundation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and S. Mark Taper Foundation – seeking financial support for our programs and for core operating support. Additionally, we have approached The California Endowment, one of the state's largest foundations, to request funds.

As a team, we have created a map of political contacts – national, state, regional and local that are important to Drew CDC and invited them to visit us at our program sites and see firsthand the nature of our work and the young lives we touch each day.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year – June 30, 2012 – we can anticipate reporting to the community that we have served over 5,000 children and families this past year, and achieved a financial “break-even” – no easy feat in these times of economic recession.

We have accomplished great things this past year through teamwork – individuals and groups partnering to get results none could do alone. I thank you for the teamwork that has made such a difference this year, and that will be essential in the years to come.

It is springtime! Let's watch the seeds of partnership that we have planted grow so we can harvest their fruits.



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Corporation

DREW'S NEWS

SAFETY FIRST

Spring Cleaning Safety Tips

By Alexandria Bland

This issue's safety article is for those of us that have procrastinated long enough and decided to wait until the middle of April to start our Spring cleaning. Whether you're cleaning your home or office, be sure to keep these three tips in mind:

Be careful moving large pieces of furniture and appliances.

Use proper lifting technique, keeping your back straight and lifting with your legs. Be sure to wear closed toe shoes when moving heavy items so you don't hurt your toes. Lastly, if you feel it is just too heavy and you can't find someone else to do it for you, just don't move it. It won't be the end of the world to just clean around it.

Keep stairs and walkways clear of boxes, bags and other clutter.

You'll need to make sure all the boxes and bags of stuff you are getting rid of don't cause a safety concern to you or your co-workers. You can do this by making sure you place the items outside walkways and especially away from steps and stairs where someone may trip on them.

Wear a mask when cleaning dusty areas.

This may seem like you're going overboard to some, but if you are at all allergic to dust this tip is very important. Many believe that dust can cause sinus infections and even headaches. It's better to be safe than sorry!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We'll see you on Thursday, April 26th from 2pm- 4pm for the All Hands Meeting which will be held in the Courtyard at Corporate!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL
has been rescheduled for
Wednesday, May 16th... Stay
tuned for updates!

WELCOME TO THE DREW FAMILY (NEW HIRES)

Ayers, O'Neacka (Stage 1 AP)
Lee, Nia (Stage 1 AP)
Mitchell, Brooklyn (Stage 1 AP)
McClung, Alexandra (Mental Health)

Lopez, Antonio (Stage 2/3 AP)
Smith, Shanae (Stage 2/3 AP)
Romero, Sylvia (New Liberty CDC)

VOLUME 1

3

ISSUE 3



Drew Child Development
Corporation

DREW'S NEWS

WHO'S WHO AT DREW?

By Alexandria Bland

Tomorrie Cook is the Program Supervisor of the Stage 1 Alternative Payment Program here at Drew. She was kind enough to take time out of her busy day to answer my questions and reflect on her time here at Drew.

Q: How long have you worked at Drew?

A: I have worked in the Stage 1 program since April 2004 – so 8 years, but I left for about 6 months in 2007, but the other employment didn't work out so I came back to Drew. My mother was a Drew employee many years ago in the JTPA (Job Training and Placement Act) Program, so I would work at Drew during the Summers in the early 1990's and then when I was in college I also worked in the Adolescent Information and Education Department (we no longer have).

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I like knowing that the work that we do in the Alternative Payment Programs really makes a difference in the lives of parents, providers and children! What I like most is seeing parents who are striving towards self sufficiency, attain their goals because they have child care. I'm always proud when a parent tells me that they finished a program, made the honors roll or got a job.

Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?

A: The most challenging part of my job is making sure that all of our clients are assisted. There is a great need for child care assistance in our service area, and sometimes it feels like there aren't enough hours in

Q: List three words that you think describe you best

A: Three words that describe me best are: kind, tender-hearted, and honest.

Q: What is your favorite quote or saying?

A: "For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8: 6) This scripture just always seems to calm me down and help me get to a peaceful place.



Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: My hobbies are reading, relaxing and watching basketball – and it's playoff time! Go LAKERS. I also LOVE spending as much time as I can with my nieces, Marshall, 5 and Encore, 3. They are my heart's joy!

CONTACT US

If you have questions or comments, feel free to email the newsletter committee at NEWSLETTER@DREWCDC.ORG

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Newsletter designed by Alexandria Bland

VOLUME 1

4

ISSUE 3