



PARENT/CHILD INCORPORATED... GROWING SAN ANTONIO'S TOMORROW... TODAY!

A Message From The CEO Of Parent/Child Incorporated

This year, Parent/Child Incorporated selected a theme for our back-to-school Convocation. This year's theme is "Surfing the Wave of Excellence as we Grow San Antonio's Tomorrow," and I think it is such an appropriate message of accountability for this Agency, which services 6,789 Head Start children and 128 Early Head Start children in 91 locations. Underlying this theme is the message that there is greatness within each of us. It may take courage and perseverance to uncover it, but it's there... waiting to be discovered.

The PCI Insider is a publication about PCI and departments and recognition of PCI children, parents and staff. As you read the Insider, I hope you find it's also about having a clear vision, a positive mindset, and the unwavering commitment to the children and families of San Antonio and Bexar County.

It's about believing that anything is possible. It's about giving our children a "Head Start."



I'm looking forward to even greater things in store for PCI and Head Start and hope to report back soon with more good news and accomplishments!

PCI – We're Growing San Antonio's tomorrow... Today!

Dr. Sharon M. Small
CEO

PCI Conducts Annual Program Self-Assessment

At least once each program year, Parent/Child Incorporated's Head Start and Early Head Start programs conduct an Agency Annual Self-Assessment of the effectiveness and progress in meeting program goals, objectives and Federal regulations.

The Agency's Self-Assessment process is currently underway. Twenty-four (24) Head Start and Early Head Start Centers were randomly selected to participate in this year's Self-Assessment.

Five teams composed of PCI Board members, Head Start Policy Committee members, Parents, City of San Antonio staff, City of San Antonio Policy Council members, and community members will collect information about program practices and will compare that information with the goals and objectives established in the Agency's program plans, the Head Start Performance Standards and other relevant Federal, State, and local regulations.

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Loving Care Helps Head Start Children Reach Maximum Ability

Ability HomeCare Inc., has provided Speech and Occupational therapy to children who qualify in PCI's Head Start Program since March of 2007.

Ability HomeCare completes evaluations for speech and/or occupational therapy with permission from the child's parent through a referral. If the child qualifies for special services, his/her doctor is contacted and orders are received to provide the needed speech or occupational services.



Adrienne Frapart of Ability HomeCare shares pieces of a nature puzzle with an enrollee as part of a therapy session at the West Hutchins Head Start Center.



According to Ability HomeCare co-owner, Pam Goble, Speech Language Pathologist, the building blocks of speech and language are critical to a child's success in learning and life. A child is most teachable between the ages of 2 and 5 and, it is extremely important that therapy be started prior to Kindergarten.

Therapy activities involve the therapist playing, talking and practicing skills with the child. Pictures, books, objects, and games are used to stimulate the child's development. The child has fun while learning throughout each session, the therapists change activities to keep the child interested and to meet the therapy goals.

"Many families of the children that we provide services to would not have known that therapy services were available in the community if they had not been enrolled in PCI's Head Start program. Children receiving these services will truly have a head start when they transition to public school", said Pam Goble.

Ability HomeCare currently has over 50 therapists providing speech and occupational therapy in San Antonio. Co-owners Pam Bales and Pam Goble have a combined 43 years experience in Speech and Language Services.

Their mission is based on "helping children reach their maximum ability" by serving up healthy doses of encouragement, motivation, nurturing and love as part of every child's therapy.

PCI Early Head Start Awarded Certificate of Compliance

Parent/Child Incorporated is proud to announce that on March 24, 2008 our Early Head Start Program received its Certificate of Compliance from Patricia E. Brown, Acting Director of the Office of Head Start, Department of Health & Human Services.

Based on information gathered during a follow-up review by the Administration for Children and families (ACF) January 31 - February 1, 2008, it was found that all previously identified findings had been corrected and that no corrective action was required.

We would like to extend our thanks to the PCI Board, PCI Policy Council, staff and parents for your cooperation and assistance during this review process.



Growing San Antonio's
Tomorrow...
Today!



PCI Lauds First Ever Head Start/Early Head Start Teachers Of The Year

Teachers are a critical component in ensuring the highest quality education for our youngest learners and are the most important and influential part of Head Start. They have the most interaction with the children, and they see the child progress through each lesson taught and have the ability to bring our children to the level that they need to be before heading to elementary school.

Since teachers have such a significant role in the development of each child enrolled in Head Start, Parent/Child Incorporated wanted them to know how important they are and hosted its first-ever Head Start/Early Head Start Teacher of the Year Recognition Awards on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 in the Head Start Operations Building. Mr. James Keith, Anchor/Reporter for KABB News at Nine served as the Master of Ceremonies.

This was one of the most exciting and rewarding events as PCI honored each teacher nominated from every Head Start Center! Through a selection process, two (2) exemplary teachers were announced as the Head Start and Early Head Start Teacher of the Year for School Year 2007-2008. The honors went to Rosio Romero of New Westwood Early Head Start Center and Dina Castillo of Imperial Head Start Center. Each teacher received a digital camera with printer and a \$125.00 gift card.

We offer our congratulations to all of the teachers that were nominated.



Rosio Romero (left) and Dina Castillo were awarded the first ever Parent/Child Incorporated Teacher of the Year Awards for Head Start and Early Head Start

Port San Antonio Poster Award Goes To PCI



Mrs. Leticia Peralta of PCI's Mirasol Head Start Center with her winning Port San Antonio Contest poster.

Port San Antonio, the local authority in charge of the development of the former Kelly Air Force Base, held its Fiesta Medal Art rendition contest for their Annual 2008 Fiesta de los Niños. Several Head Start Centers participated in this contest and, Mrs. Leticia Peralta, Teacher at Mirasol Head Start Center, was chosen the winner. Mrs. Peralta's classroom was treated to the unveiling of her winning poster, and a goody bag full of delicious treats.

Mrs. Peralta's artwork is being used to promote the 2008 Fiesta de los Niños festival to be held on April 19, 2008 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on the grounds of Port San Antonio. There will be a children's parade, rides, games, food and live music for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to Mrs. Peralta and Mirasol Head Start Center for such an honor.



PCI Kicks Off 2008-2009 Head Start Recruitment Campaign

Balloons flying, children laughing, motorcycles revving and parents learning were all key ingredients of Parent/Child Incorporated's Head Start 2008-09 Recruitment Kick-Off held Saturday, March 8 on the grounds of the PCI Head Start Operations site in San Antonio.

Amidst all the excitement, PCI staff was joined by representatives from 20 community service agencies throughout San Antonio and Bexar County to provide valuable information on the available services to eligible families and children. Participants in this annual event included the Food Bank of San Antonio, WIC, Medicaid, CHIPS, New York Life Financial, Alamo Community Colleges, Alamo Community College District, Westside Community Education Centers, SAC-Seguir Adelante, VITA, Citi Bank, Komen Breast Cancer, Project Quest, Precious Minds, San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation, East Sub-Division Police Unit, UTHSC- Dental Hygiene, Consumer Credit Counseling and the Guardians of Children Motorcycle Club.



Balloons released at the PCI Head Start Operations Building on Brady Blvd. mark the beginning of the 2008-2009 PCI Head Start Recruitment Campaign.

Head Start Family Service Workers were available inside the Head Start Operations location and at each Head Start center throughout San Antonio and Bexar County to greet interested parents and help them with the new enrollee applications for Head Start School Year 2008-2009.

State Senator Carlos Uresti and volunteers joined in the festivities as he led a Blue Ribbon Task Force Block Walk. Volunteers, lead by Senator Uresti, made door-to-door contact with families in the 78207 zip code area. Along the way, Senator Uresti and volunteers gave out bags filled with information on parenting tips to strengthen families, child abuse prevention and, bringing awareness to the Child Abuse Parent Support phone number 211.

Head Start's full recruitment effort is now underway and families are encouraged to continue to register their children 3 years of age to compulsory entrance into public school that meet the Head Start eligibility criteria.

We encourage the community to assist in this effort by spreading the word to family and friends to become part of the Head Start experience by asking them to call 475-5077, visiting our website www.parentchildinc.com, or by simply stopping by the nearest PCI Head Start Center to place their child on the waiting list.

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