



NeighborImpact

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'NATIONAL PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY': CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECOGNIZED

Bend, Oregon – Around the world, the Friday before Mother's Day (May 11th), child care organizations and children's parents will celebrate 'Provider Appreciation Day'. It is estimated that nearly 12 million under age five in the United States are in some type of child care every week.

Locally, NeighborImpact's Child Care Resources program hosted an appreciation day for Central Oregon child care providers last Saturday. At an all-day special provider appreciation day, child care providers from around Central Oregon came for recognition, training, and a free lunch. Deschutes County Commissioner Tammy Baney also attended, sharing her own experiences with finding quality child care as well as offering encouragement to those attending.

"The day offered an opportunity for Child Care Resources to show appreciation to the child care providers," Lisa Vasquez Program Manager of NeighborImpact's Child Care Resources. Additionally, "It takes a special person to work in the child care field and these individuals are often unrecognized."

Karen Pautz, a former mentor and trainer in Central Oregon, now residing in California, returned to present two important training sessions: 'The Brilliant Caregiver' and 'Hear Children Through Songs, Games and Finger Plays.' The providers were also acknowledged through citation of their years in the field, years of training taken to improve programs, and enrollment numbers in the Oregon Registry (a voluntary program recognizing achievements of caregivers). Prizes donated by local businesses that wanted to share in the event, including a one-hour massage and a trip to Kah-Nee-Ta – were the type of gifts caregivers really appreciate.

"Every day, child care providers care for nearly 4,000 children under the age of 5 in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties," added Vasquez. "The children and parents of Central Oregon depend on our child care providers so they can go to work every day."

“By applauding the dedication of child care providers on May 11, we remind our communities of the importance of high-quality child care, and let providers everywhere know that we recognize and value their important work,” said Linda K. Smith, Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), the lead sponsor of Provider Appreciation Day. “It is important that the care a child receives during the first five years of life be of high-quality because 90 percent of brain development occurs during those years.”

BACKGROUND: In recent years, local governments across the United States have joined multiple State governors in making this day of recognition. Across the world, Department of Defense installations celebrate Provider Appreciation Day by recognizing those who care for the children of military parents living both at home and abroad. The celebrations this year promise to carry on and strengthen Provider Appreciation Day. Efforts are underway to ask child care organizations, public officials, and parents to honor their child care providers for their hard work and commitment to children through events such as luncheons, parades, dedications, and other recognition celebrations. To learn more about Provider Appreciation Day or for ideas on how you can thank your child care provider, contact NeighborImpact Child Care Resources at 541-548-2380 or by email at ccr@neighborimpact.org or at their website www.neighborimpact.org . For additional information, visit www.providerappreciation.org.

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation’s leading voice for child care. We work with more than 800 state and local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to high-quality, affordable child care.

MISSION: NeighborImpact seeks to change the course of each family’s future by giving them the tools they need to succeed. NeighborImpact’s tool box includes Head Start, weatherization, home repair, energy and rent assistance, financial skills building, savings programs, assisting parents to find child care, tutoring homeless children, providing emergency and transitional housing to homeless families, home buyer education and feeding the hungry.

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