



## ECRTC Agency Background

Early Childhood Resource and Training Center (ECRTC) was established in 1973 as a resource to support families and communities to ensure the healthy development of all children. Previously known as Child Care Resource Center Southside, the agency was the brainchild of a parent group in Minneapolis that was in need of a place to gather and share parenting information and issues. The space was later expanded to include a lending library and resource information on child care.

In the mid 70's, the agency added a teen mother program and in 1985 launched its Impact Project moving staff of color in childcare centers into lead positions including Assistant and Head Teacher's. This was designed to improve early childhood services to African American children in south Minneapolis.

In 1989 the agency expanded its reach and defined its mission to serve families

from economically disadvantaged communities throughout the Minneapolis area. During the fall of 1994 the name was changed to The Early Childhood Resource Center and developed rapidly as a unique resource to communities of color. Despite the many changes and transition periods, the agency maintained its exclusive role as a grassroots agency that had the competence and capacity to address the early childhood and care giving needs of children from communities of color.

The agency assumed its current name, Early Childhood Resource and Training Center, in the year 2004. ECRTC now offers a variety of other unique culturally appropriate programs and plans to add even more in the near future while extending its services statewide.

The Early Childhood Resource and Training Center strives to bring cultural awareness and support to people of all backgrounds across the state of Minnesota. ECRTC continues its grassroots efforts working for all people and promotes education and information for all.

## School Readiness Forum Huge Success

This past June the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center held its first annual School Readiness Forum with amazing results. The goal of the forum was to bring together a diverse group of participants that had previously not had an avenue to meet. Participants included home daycare providers, early childhood center educators, community leaders, college students, professors, state agency representatives, and parents.

Participants came from across the state including White Earth Reservation, Mankato, Rochester, Duluth, Red Earth Reservation, and the greater metro area. Many languages were being spoken but all participants were working toward the same goal, to ensure that children from all backgrounds were coming to kindergarten with the right skills so that all children had an equal opportunity to learn. (continued on page 2)



## (Continued) School Readiness Forum

The two day School Readiness Forum was put on in partnership with the Center for Urban Excellence of Hamline University. Students from both Hamline and Mankato State University attended in large numbers to better understand the needs of the community in regards to education.

**“My students and I feel this forum will offer an in-depth look at cultural issues at work within our education system, it is an honor to bring my students to such a groundbreaking event.”** -Hanh-Huy Phan, Professor of Ethnic Studies, Mankato State University

Many community leaders and childcare providers attended the School Readiness Forum from the Somali community bringing with them concerns and issues that



have prevented some children from being ready for kindergarten in the past. Somali PTA President and community activist Ayan Ismail presented needs and ideas to overcome these barriers to a receptive crowd.

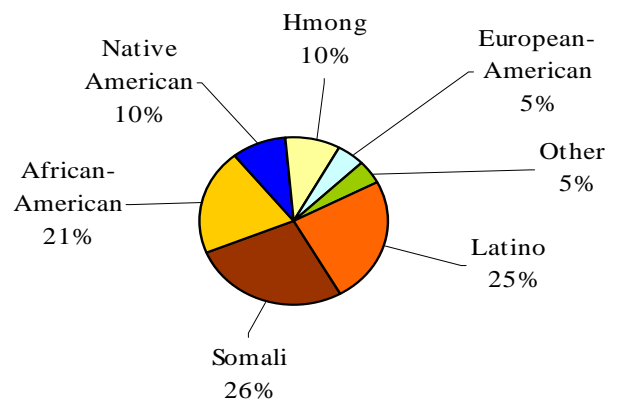
**“It was so empowering to hear women from such diverse backgrounds taking action and creating change in education, I have met so many key people that I should have known years ago.”** -Katie Edwards, Community Leader

Due to the enormous success of the School Readiness Forum, ECRTC will be hosting another forum in 2006. Once again we hope to have the funding to offer the forum at no cost to participants and make available stipends for those who provide home or center based childcare to cover loss of wage.

### Forum Participation Statistics

Childcare Providers	30%
Childcare Agency Workers	30%
Community Advocates	30%
Government Employees	10%
Metro Participants	70%
Greater MN Participants	30%

### Forum Participant Ethnic Background



# ECRTC Programs

The Early Childhood Resource and Training Center houses 10 programs that address the needs of parents, childcare providers, and children: Teen Parenting, Parents and School Readiness Forum, Home Visiting HIV/Aids and STD's training, Home Visiting School Readiness Training, Impact Entry Level Child Care Workshops, Impact Stage 1 College Courses, English Language and citizenship classes, Community Based Training workshops and Cultural Specific Leadership Models.

## Impact Entry Level and Stage 1

The Entry Level Program is a six week, 42 hour training program which provides courses on topics including behavior, child development, first aid, and business management. Impact Entry Level trains students to become Teacher Aids in a family child care setting.

Impact Stage I is a Child Development Certification Program that partners with Minneapolis Community College and St. Paul College offering college credit for completed work. The primary objective of the Impact Program is to provide training for communities of color and coach individuals on how to navigate through entering and completing higher education.

Number of Participants	30
College Credits Received	12



## Early Literacy Home Visiting Initiative

The goal of HVIP is to provide training and support to family, friend and neighbor childcare providers state-wide. Some of the training topics include CPR, First Aid, Curriculum Development, Record Keeping & Tax preparation, and licensing procedures.

HVIP enables unlicensed providers to become eligible for licensing and provides in home consultation services to discuss issues including: increasing school readiness

and literacy, behavior management, nutrition, and safety. Benefits of participation in HVIP include enhanced quality care and improved knowledge of the child care business.

Home Visits Completed	176
Hours of Training	325
Languages Available	6



## Teen Parenting Support Group

The teen parenting support group provides outreach and leadership to teen parents in the twin cities metropolitan area. The program provides weekly group meetings, home visits, and trainings on key issues including: school readiness through early literacy and mentoring, leadership skills, drug and alcohol prevention, food and nutrition, understanding healthy relationships, and mental health.

Average age of Mothers	16
Number of Teen Moms Participating	20

# Cultural Leadership Models

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The cultural models consist of groups of 15 – 20 childcare providers and community leaders. The groups meet on a monthly basis to discuss child-related issues, school readiness, and early literacy. Training opportunities are provided on topics such as; Leadership, advocacy and community building, etc. These training opportunities aim to provide increased participation from voices of diverse communities being represented on committees and meetings regarding the discussing of child-related issues. The group's focus is to acquire the leadership skills necessary to establish a functioning "Support and Leadership group", advocate

for communities, increase their capacity to access community resources, and strengthen their abilities to be leaders. Each model is designed according to the needs in their community. These cultural models are in a pilot phase.

- African American Providers Support Group
- Somali/Oromo Women's Leadership Group
- Latino/Chicano Support Group

## Success Stories

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"Through the Impact classes we have been able to train many unlicensed childcare providers on necessary skills such as First Aid, Shaken Infant Syndrome, and CPR. These skills may seem obvious for people native to the US but many new comers do not have these skills and do not realize their importance. Here we give them training, here we give them life skills to protect our future."

*-Malyun Duale, Early Literacy Coordinator*

"The Latino Cultural Leadership group has opened doors for so many people including me. Before I felt powerless to make change in my community but now I feel empowered and pass this feeling on to other childcare providers in the Latino community."

*-Sonia Velez, Former Community and Curriculum Manager*



"The ECRTC Lending Library has provided many of our clients with a safe source to borrow children's books from. Many people from different cultures fear applying for library cards because they have to sign a form they don't understand and they fear Immigration even if they have a green card. Before, children of these families were missing out on the joy of reading but now, parents are coming in weekly to exchange books for their children."

*-Maiya Thao, Teen Parent Support Coordinator*

"The English Language Learning classes offer instruction in reading, writing, listening and speaking, as well as basic computer skills for adults interested in the childcare field. Course curriculum is designed towards child care terms and vocabulary. Students are from the Twin Cities and surrounding community's representing different countries, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Laos and Mexico. Citizenship classes and job training are also provided for eligible students.

*-Sara Gille, ELL Coordinator*

# The Future of ECRTC

# The ECRTC Board of Directors



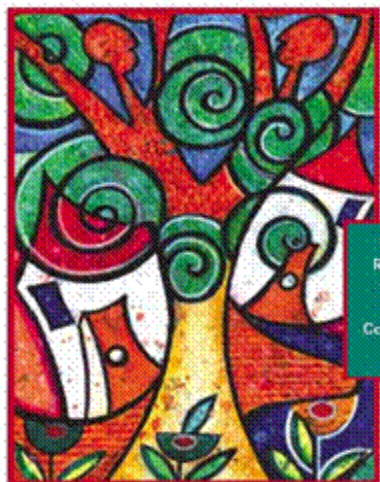
- Sharon Oswald
- Jose Schimming
- Vincent Okonkwo
- Elizabeth Erredge
- A Yang
- Sandra Heidemann
- Sameerah Bilal-Roby, Exec. Director



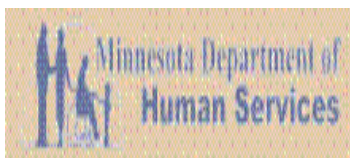
## Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board

*Established 1985*

THE JAY AND ROSE PHILLIPS  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



SHARING  
RESOURCES  
TO BUILD  
STRONG  
COMMUNITIES



ST. PAUL TRAVELERS FOUNDATION





**Early  
Childhood  
Resource  
and Training  
Center**

*Challenging communities  
to embrace the healthy  
development of children.*

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**Challenging communities to embrace the healthy development of children.**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTER  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

**For the Year Ended May 31, 2005  
With Comparative Totals for 2004**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2005	2004
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Government Grants	\$ 577,104		\$577,104	\$444,284
Contributions	100, 144	\$ 31,250	131,394	140,988
Interest Income	510		510	22
Training Fees	5,270		5,270	6,488
Other Income	491		491	7,400
<b>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</b>				
	<u>27,911</u>	<u>(27,911)</u>		
<b>Total Revenue &amp; support</b>	<u>711,430</u>	<u>3,339</u>	<u>714,769</u>	<u>599,182</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program Expenses	511,058		511,058	472,697
Supporting Services				
Management & General	172,861		172,861	250,229
Fundraising	<u>40,015</u>		<u>40,015</u>	<u>16,950</u>
Total Support Services	<u>212,876</u>		<u>212,876</u>	<u>267,179</u>
Total Expenses	<u>723,934</u>		<u>723,934</u>	<u>739,876</u>
Change in net assets before gain on sale of property				
	(12,504)	3,339	(9,165)	(140,694)
Gain on sale of property				<u>270,349</u>
<b>Changes in net assets</b>	(12,504)	3,339	(9,165)	129,656
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>				
	<u>249,903</u>	<u>27,911</u>	<u>277,814</u>	<u>148,158</u>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$237,399</u>	<u>\$ 31,250</u>	<u>\$268,649</u>	<u>\$277,814</u>