

# The Power of Two

## Welcome Home

Mothers' Club opens the doors of its new Family Learning Center at 980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue.

On October 30, nearly two hundred friends and supporters gathered for a short ceremony before entering the new Mothers' Club Family Learning Center. **Board President Judy Smith** welcomed our guests and expressed gratitude for their critical support in making our vision a reality. **Mayor Bill Bogaard**, Honorary Co-Chair of our Capital Campaign commended the Board of Directors for their vision and their drive to accomplish it. **City Councilman Chris Holden** welcomed us to his district, stating that he looked forward to working with Mothers' Club to strengthen families in Northwest Pasadena. And former participant **Maria Juarez**, on behalf of all the families served by Mothers' Club, expressed her gratitude for the wonderful new learning center.

**Capital Campaign Chair Judy**

**Wilson** spoke of the dedication of board, staff, and volunteers who worked tirelessly to achieve our \$6.5 million campaign goal by our challenge deadline of November 1. She proudly announced that we had raised \$6.6 million, thereby qualifying for the Kresge and Weingart challenge grants. She expressed our gratitude to all the individuals and foundations who shared in our dream and helped make that dream a reality.

Mrs. Wilson went on to acknowledge the bold, creative vision of **John Dale** from architecture firm **Harley Ellis Devereaux** and landscape architect **Ronnie Siegel**; the incomparable project management of **Jaylene Moseley**, and the craftsmanship and dedication of our general contractor, Andy Kaplan of G. L. Kaplan Construction Company.

In closing, Judy Smith and **Executive Director Sue Kujawa** presented hand crafted pendants to Judy Wilson and Mary Lois Nevins, acknowledging their embodiment of our campaign's theme - "The Power of Two."



*President Judy Smith and Executive Director Sue Kujawa honoring Campaign Chair Judy Wilson and Mary Lois Nevins at the grand opening on October 30.*

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## Mothers' Club Family Learning Center

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Visit our website at  
[www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org)

# Mothers' Club is Awarded Validation for its Exemplary Family Literacy Program

The Pasadena-based Family Learning Center is one of only three programs in the greater LA area to receive this designation from the Los Angeles County Office of Education and First 5 LA.

When the **Family Literacy Support Network (FLSN)** - a department established within the **Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)** to support family literacy programs funded by **First 5 LA** - invited Mothers' Club to seek validation as an "Exemplary Family Literacy Program," the non-profit organization immediately accepted the challenge.

For one thing, the invitation itself was an honor.

"FLSN considered all 24 programs in First 5 LA's Family Literacy Initiative," explains **Susan Kujawa**, Executive Director of Mothers' Club. "There were certain criteria, however, that the programs had to meet in order to take part in the Exemplary Program validation process. Ultimately, only four were invited to participate. We're extremely proud that Mothers' Club was one of them."

As it turned out, only three of the four organizations invited - Mothers' Club, Hawthorne School District and Rowland Unified School District - opted to embark upon the rigorous eight month long journey to validation. For Mothers' Club, this involved amassing an almost 100 page portfolio of evidence documenting the array of "best practices" utilized by the agency

throughout its family literacy program.

**Barbara VanHorn of the Goodling Institute** at Penn State and **Chris Dwyer from RMC Research and Evaluation Corporation** then reviewed the program's best practices, to verify that they indeed lead to "exemplary outcomes" for young children and families.

One of the objectives of the validation process is for programs to demonstrate how program activities influence child school readiness, increase family involvement and family goal achievement. After reviewing the portfolios, Ms. VanHorn and Ms. Dwyer recorded many observations about best practices at Mothers' Club and in the other programs, including:

- o "These programs use a number of well known curricula as the basis for instruction. However, each program has early childhood education staff that understand how to individualize, and supplement curriculum based on child needs and interests."

- o High-performing programs "understand the broader literacy needs of families require not only isolated assessment of basic reading and writing skills, but attention to the cultural and social knowledge needs of families."

- o "Goal setting, both long and short-term, has become a more sophisticated process as demonstrated by the programs."

On October 11, 2007, LACOE - with support from First 5 LA - formally **See Validation, page 5**

## DID YOU KNOW?

**What's Good for K-12 Schools is Good for Preschools Too!** The following is testament to the reasons Mothers' Club opted to build the first "green" preschool of its kind in the nation.



A national report from October 2006, **Greening America's Schools**, reveals that building energy-efficient schools results in lower operating costs, improved test scores and enhanced student health. The report, produced by **Capital E** and co-sponsored by **The American Institute of Architects (AIA)**, concluded that schools that are designed to be environmentally friendly would save an average of \$100,000 each year - enough to hire two additional full-time teachers.

The report includes a detailed analysis of 30 green schools built in 10 states between 2001 and 2006, and demonstrates that the total financial benefits of green schools are 20 times greater than the initial cost, and include energy and water savings, and improved student health and test scores. With over \$35 billion dollars projected to be spent in 2007 on K-12 construction, the conclusions of this report have far-reaching implications for future school design.

"This study underscores the enormous cost of poor design and the critical impact that good design and operation has on the quality of our children's education," said **AIA President Kate Schwennsen, FAIA**. "The findings indicate that there are tremendous benefits from energy-efficient school design, not only from an economic standpoint, but from increased student test scores and far healthier environments through improved indoor air quality."

If all new school construction and **See Green Schools, page 3**



Mothers' Club staff with representatives from LACOE and First 5 LA

# From the President

Dear friends,

What a glorious opening we had! As I stood in front of the crowd for the grand opening of the new Mothers' Club Family Learning Center, I was overwhelmed by gratitude for everyone who made our home at 980 N. Fair Oaks possible.

We continue to honor and recognize those people and organizations that helped us raise the \$6.5 million that paid for the wonderful facility. We are also grateful for the many, many people who over the past 46 years have kept Mothers' Club in their hearts, nurturing our program into the model that it is today.

## An Exemplary Model Program

The Mothers' Club program and its best practices have developed over the last four decades in direct response to the changing needs of families in our community. To use a more trendy term, it developed organically. And this organically-grown program is getting results that are unprecedented among other similar centers: we have some of the highest retention rates for families (average length of stay is 2 years), and some of the highest evaluation results for increased parenting and literacy skills.

Last month, we were one of only three organizations to receive an Exemplary Program Validation Award from First 5 LA and LA County Department of Education. The award recognized Mothers' Club as a model for other family literacy programs. When I spoke with the judges (researchers in adult education and early childhood education) they both gave glowing remarks about the unique program we have for educating both mothers and children, and integrating that education to the benefit of both groups.

## A Model Building

In somewhat the same way, our new building developed from an organic approach. The design for the building began with an intense exploration and description of what was needed by mothers, children and teachers. Our architects, Harley Ellis Devereaux, landscape architect, Ronnie Siegel, and green con-



sultants, GreenWorks Studio, took those instructions and created the incredible building and grounds we have today.

The use of natural lighting, solar panels, and flexible space that allows for large and small gatherings is stunning. The building mirrors our program in creating separate spaces for both mothers and children to learn, as well as spaces that bring parent and child together. It allows for us to train others in our best practices, with large glass walls and doors.

The outdoor learning center deftly flows from one area to another, incorporating many natural elements such as sand, water, wood decks and more -- areas suitable for various stages of development in children, from infants to pre-kindergartners. It is truly a place for all to play, explore, inquire and imagine.

For those of you who have not yet toured our new home for yourself, be sure and join us for one of our open houses starting in 2008. You will be able to access open house information on our website ([www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org)) or in this publication. Or call us and schedule a time to come for a site visit.

In closing, I want to share a greeting that Sue shares with all the mothers, "All of us have something to give and something to learn." How true this is for every one of us. We have given and we have learned so much in this journey to our new home. Thank you!

Warm Regards,  
Judy Smith Asbury

## Green Schools, cont. from page 2

school renovations were designed to be environmentally conscious starting today, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next 10 years. Major benefits documented in the report include:

- Green schools use an average of 33% less energy and 32% less water than conventional schools.

- Green schools typically have better lighting, temperature control, improved ventilation and indoor air-quality which contribute to reduced asthma, colds, flu and absenteeism.

- A study of Chicago and Washington, D.C. schools found that better facilities can add 3 to 4 percentage points to a school's standardized test scores.

- Greening all school construction would create over 2000 additional new jobs each year from increased use of energy efficiency technologies.

Study author and Managing Principal of Capital E, **Greg Kats**, a former Director of Finance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the US Department of Energy, has worked with dozens of corporations, developers,

state agencies and organizations to arrive at conservative cost/benefit comparisons of different environmental and building strategies. Kats stated that, "The financial benefits of green schools are substantially broader than those quantified in the report and include the creation of new educational opportunities, improved equity in education and insurance savings. Building green schools is more fiscally prudent and lower risk than continuing to build unhealthy, inefficient schools."

- Scott Frank, AIA

## Recent Grant Awards

Our sincere gratitude to these grantors for their support of our programs for children and their parents in Northwest Pasadena:

The Angell Foundation  
Confidence Foundation  
Crail-Johnson Foundation  
Majestic Realty Foundation  
Target  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
Whitecap Foundation

Thank you to the following donors, and all the individuals, who helped us meet our Kresge Challenge Grant in these final months of our capital campaign:

Adams Fund  
Ayrshire Foundation  
H. N. & Frances C. Berger Foundation  
Western Asset

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## Thank you to Our Guardians

*Individuals who sustain our programs with annual giving of \$1,000 or more:*

Ann Kelsey Babcock  
Gwen & Guilford Babcock  
Carole & Mike Babcock  
Ann & Olin Barrett  
Renu Bhat-Hansen & Alex Hansen  
Paula & David Blacher  
Claire & Bill Bogaard  
Jeannine Bogaard  
Marie Campbell  
Nancy & John Carlton  
Joan & Michael Cathcart  
Jinny Cobey  
Mary Anne Cunningham  
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Jean & Louis Fleming  
Susan Futterman & Arnold Siegel  
Mary Genis  
Jennifer & Mark Giles  
Stephanie & Dale Harvey  
Adelaide Hixon  
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Ellen & Harvey Knell  
Valerie & George Leiva  
Kathy & Tony Magistrale  
Judy & Stephen McDonald  
Betty & Charles McKenney  
Patricia McLaughlin  
Margaret & David Mgrublian

# Halloween Fun for All



*Children decorate pumpkins at Mothers' Club's first family event in its new home.*

National Charity League (NCL), led by Teri Davis, helped transform a normal Saturday morning into a ghoulish Halloween carnival for the little witches, Power Rangers, Spidermen, and princesses of Mothers' Club. More than 90 parents, children and volunteers came to celebrate the first event held in our new site.

Our outdoor learning center accommodated every one - from infants to grandmothers - very comfortably. NCL teen volunteers offered a pumpkin toss, face painting, pumpkin

decorating and much more. They provided cupcakes with spooky spiders and lots of other yummy Halloween treats.

The Mount Wilson Vista Council Girl Scout Troop 960 also helped to make this a great time by bringing books for the children. They set up a reading corner for the little goblins who needed a break.

A great big thank you to NCL volunteers and troop 960 - you helped make our 2007 Halloween festival safe and spooktacular!

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Norah Morley  
Richard & Janice Morris  
Wendy Munger & Leonard Gumport  
Henry & Nanette Nevins  
Mary Lois Nevins  
Beth & Christopher Orndorff  
Kathleen & Donald Orth  
Claudia & Ramon Pack  
Sue Parilla & Theodore Krontiris  
Teresa Payton  
Marsha Rood  
Aty & Howard Rotter  
Michael Schneickert &  
Karen Leiko Otamura

Fran Scoble  
Carol & Carl Selkin  
Judy Smith Asbury & Greg Asbury  
John Tongish  
Maxine Tongish  
Heather & Michael VanMeter  
Lori & David Watson  
Maria Low Way  
Julie & Stephen Webber  
Judith & John Whiting  
Cindy & George Wiley  
Judy & Randy Wilson

# Our Dream Came True



*Toddlers enjoy their new play yard in the S. Mark Taper Foundation Outdoor Learning Center*

It was October 30, the day before Halloween, but the Mothers' Club Grand Opening was our Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and every other holiday wrapped into one glorious celebration! Many of us were still in a state of disbelief. It seemed like yesterday that we had walked through the cavernous shell of our building trying to imagine its future shape, and now we were celebrating its transformation into a vibrant, welcoming learning center.

As I looked out over the assembled guests I saw many, many familiar faces. It has been a long journey to arrive to this new beginning and seeing our faithful friends reminded me again that it was a journey shared by many - without their deep commitment and support we would not have accomplished this.

Judy Wilson, our fearless Capital Campaign chair, wowed the crowd when she unveiled our latest financial thermometer to reveal that we had met, and surpassed, our challenge goal set by the Kresge Foundation. In just about two years we had raised \$6.6 million!

The Kresge Foundation awarded their challenge grant to Mothers' Club because they understood that we were undergoing a transformation beyond the construction of a building. Those of us who worked so hard to meet our challenge goal witnessed this greater transformation first hand. Board mem-

bers thought long and hard, examining their commitment to the organization, and gave generously, and then gave again. Our long time supporters were, thankfully, ready to step in and help us. And, we were humbled to watch as people who were new to Mothers' Club listen and then, quickly grasping the importance of this moment, make their own generous commitment.

The Kresge Foundation was right.



*Preschoolers create art projects from recycled materials.*

**Validation**, continued from page 2 recognized Mothers' Club as an Exemplary Family Literacy Program. The ceremony took place at First 5 LA's headquarters in Los Angeles.

"It's been a long journey, but it's definitely been worth it to document the strategies and programs we've implemented so successfully for nearly

As individuals and as an organization, Mothers' Club has been transformed by "The Power of Two." As Board President Judy Smith eloquently stated as she acknowledged Judy Wilson and Mary Lois Nevins for their leadership of the campaign, "Success took two - a person to ask and a person to listen."

As our guests entered the building, I was aware that they might be surprised by what they saw, especially those who have had a long history with Mothers' Club. Those who have admired us for the way we "made do" might even think that we have been extravagant in the design of our new space. But investing in children and families is not extravagant. Beautiful, inspiring space in which to learn and grow is something that we're all entitled to. One of our moms, when she first came into the new building, said to me, "Oh, we don't deserve this." I told her, "Yes you do!"

It is so right that Northwest Pasadena is home to the first LEED certified pre-school. We are so pleased that Mothers' Club will remain a vital part of this community. All of you have made this possible. You should be very proud of what has been accomplished and you can be confident that, years from now, Mothers' Club will be here - strengthening families and the community.

- Sue Kujawa

*Executive Director*

50 years," says Kujawa.

- Jenine Baines & Sarah E. Orth with excerpts from "Focusing on Quality: Lessons Learned from the Exemplary Validation Program (EVP) Pilot & Preliminary Recommendations for the Field" - a report prepared by Michelle Perry, President of Perry & Associates for FLSN in September 2007.

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**The Power of Two**

November 2007

Editor, Sarah E. Orth

Mothers' Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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**About Mothers' Club**

Founded in 1961, Mothers' Club prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life. We promote strong parent/child relationships and encourage friendship and mutual support among mothers through our educational programs and social services, thereby creating a stronger community for all families. Since our inception, we have evolved in direct response to the needs of families in our community. Today we are a model family support and education center.

Learn more at [www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org)

## A Quick Look at What's Inside...

**Mothers' Club has a new address - 980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue.**

Board President Judy Smith and Executive Director Sue Kujawa reflect on the grand opening of the new Mothers' Club Family Learning Center.

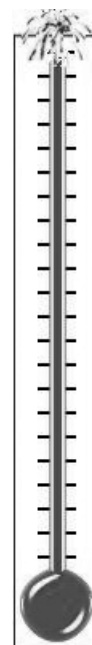


**Mothers' Club receives honor as an "Exemplary Family Literacy Program."**

On October 11th, the Los Angeles County of Education and First 5 LA awarded the Mothers' Club Family Literacy Program for its best practices, which lead to exemplary outcomes for young children and families.

**Did You Know?**

Study shows energy-efficient school design lowers operation costs, increases test scores and improves indoor air quality.



\$6,630,000!!  
\$6,500,000

**Mothers' Club  
meets its  
Kresge Challenge  
& exceeds  
its capital  
campaign goal!**



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