Monday Morning Report

September 11, 2006
To submit comments or items (3 weeks in advance) for this e-newsletter, please contact Vivien Hao, public affairs officer, First 5 LA at vhao@first5la.org or (213) 482-7563.

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CALENDAR

September 15, 3 p.m.-12:30 a.m.: Fiestas Patrias at Plaza Mexico 3100 E. Imperial Hwy., Lynwood 90262. Call Christina Aguilar at (310) 631-4989 or visit www.plazamexico.com.

September 16, 9 a.m.-noon: Working 2 Change-Community Voices Advocacy Summit at the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center, 5761 Buckingham Parkway, Culver City, 90230. To make reservations, call (323) 421-1015 and leave your name, phone number and number of children who will need free childcare.

September 16-17, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.: Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Olvera Street, 845 N. Alameda St., LA 90012. Visit www.olvera-street.com.

September 20, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.: Community Health Fair at Platt Conference Center, 1500 E. Duarte Rd., Duarte 91010 sponsored by the City of Hope and the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. Call (626) 930-5489 or visit www.cityofhope.org.

KTTV FOX 11 PREVIEW

Mother Learns Important Lessons From Daughter with Spina Bifida

When mid-way through her pregnancy, Nicte Mack found out that her baby would be born with spina bifida, she was devastated. "I told my older daughter, Diana, that I had failed in my efforts to give her a playmate," Mack said. "I knew that my baby would never be able to run or jump or do many of the things that typical children do."

But today, more than 4 years later, Mack says Lourdes has proven not only to be a wonderful companion to Diana, but also an inspiration to everyone she meets. First 5 LA and KTTV Fox 11 introduce viewers this week to this extraordinary child and the challenges she and her family face.

The segment airs this Thursday, 8-9 a.m. and 10-11 p.m., and is followed on Friday by a studio interview about how parents can help their children cope with psychological effects of disabilities. This is part of a series of news reports each week on KTTV Fox 11 called "Good Beginnings," co-produced with First 5 LA on topics about children's health, safety, and early learning.

Active and determined, Lourdes' big smile hides the pain of multiple surgeries, reliance on a wheelchair or walker, and almost daily therapy. Her ordeal is shared by the 70,000 individuals living with spina bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the U.S.

Although her daughter's physical challenges are numerous, Mack says the emotional and social problems issues can be even more overwhelming. "It's been tough dealing with repeated stares and prying questions from people who don't understand what spina bifida is," said Mack.

An educational tool that she has found helpful to both Lourdes and other children, teachers, relatives, and friends, is Right Under My Nose, the first book in Spanish and English for children with spina bifida.

Produced by Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, the book and its websites (www.myspinabifidabook.org and www.milibrodeespinabifida.org), are part of a First 5 LA-funded educational and support program for children and families with spina bifida.
September 21-23, 7:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Training the Early Childhood Trainer Conference at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott, 5855 W. Century Blvd., LA 90045. Registration is $310 for members, $340 for non-members by Sept. 15. One day registration is $175. Visit pda.caeyc.org. (Click here)


September 29, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.: Nutrition/Fitness Fair at Queen Anne Elementary School, 1212 Queen Anne Pl., LA 90019 sponsored by Cedars Sinai Hospital, Queen Anne Ready For School and Queen Anne Healthy Start. Contact Nikki Dana at ndana@lausd.k12.ca.us or (323) 936-8506.

October 7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.: The 9th Annual Parent U Conference 2006 on positive parenting at the Hyatt Valencia 24500 Town Center Dr., Santa Clarita 91355, presented by the City of Santa Clarita. $25 registration by Sept. 29. Visit www.santa-clarita.com/seasons or call (661) 255-4965.

October 7, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.: Family Literacy Support Network’s 4th Annual Family Literacy Learning Luau at the Sheraton Cerritos, 12725 Center Court Dr., Cerritos 90703. Limited registration is available at $75 by Sept. 29. Contact Elida Garcia at (562) 922-6560 or Garcia_Elida@lacoe.edu. (Click here) for registration form.

October 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Third Annual Councilmember Wendy Gruel Child Health and Safety Fair at the Valley Plaza Recreation Center, 6451 Saint Clair Ave., North Hollywood 91606. Call Jackie Keen at (818) 352-3287.

Governor Signs $50 Million Preschool Bill on Visit to Los Angeles Preschool

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger went to a Los Angeles preschool last week for signing ceremonies for AB 172 (Chan), which will provide $50 million to expand preschool programs in California communities that currently have the lowest performing elementary schools.

AB 172 will invest $50 million to accommodate increased preschool enrollment in programs located in the attendance areas of elementary schools in deciles 1-3 on the Academic Performance Index. It will also fund a new family literacy component designed to teach parents the skills needed to help their children succeed in preschool and beyond.

In addition to the $50 million for preschool expansion, $50 million dollars in one-time funds for preschool facilities was also included in the final state budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.

Last June, California voters rejected Proposition 82, which would have funded preschool for all 4-year-olds in the state. In LA County, First 5 LA has funded a $600 million, five-year initiative through Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), to expand preschool seats and increase the quality of facilities and teachers.

The 10-year master plan calls for preschool to be available to all 4-year olds in LA County, creating the nation's largest preschool program by 2014. For information, visit www.laup.net.

Number of Children Living in Poverty Grows, Says Children's Defense Fund

Since reaching an historic low in 2000, the number of children living in poverty in the United States has grown by 11.3 percent to approach 13 million, according to an analysis by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) of U.S. Census Bureau data released recently.

A child's likelihood of being poor has increased by almost 9 percent.

The new census bureau report also showed that, contrary to recent trends, the number and percent of uninsured children increased in 2005. Children in poverty were more likely to be uninsured than other children.

In California, 1.7 million children, or 19 percent, live under the poverty level, and 15 percent of children are uninsured, according to the census data.

"Poor families and children are being left behind as the benefits of a steadily growing economy fail to trickle down," said Marian Wright Edelman, president and founder of CDF.

Edelman also pointed out that according to today's report, seven out of ten poor children in 2005 had at least one parent who is employed.
EVIE’S DESK
Partnering with Faith Organizations to Help Children and Families

As the song goes, “We get by with a little help from our friends,” and at First 5 LA, we’re committed to working with our friends in the community, business, and media to get help to children and families in the nation’s most populous county.

We have developed several key strategic partnerships, including new relationships with faith organizations, such as Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD). This LA-based organization works with 4,000 Korean American churches nationwide and other Asian American faith groups to educate the community and provide economic development opportunities.

It’s estimated that three out of four Korean Americans are affiliated with a church, and First 5 LA seeks to collaborate with faith leaders to educate parents and caregivers about services and programs available to children and families.

For example, we know that the Korean American community has one of the lowest rates of health insurance among any ethnic group.

Many are eligible for First 5 LA’s Healthy Kids program, which provides free and low-cost health insurance for children 5 and under, whose family income is under 300 percent of federal poverty level.

We look forward to working with faith leaders, and the opportunity to develop more partnerships that will enable us to improve the lives of LA County’s children and families. Thank you for all your support.

Evelyn V. Martinez
Executive Director
First 5 LA

“...working hard and playing by the rules is not enough to lift families out of poverty. We need action and leadership from Washington and across the country to start to address the root causes of poverty and the crying need for health and mental health care coverage for our children,” Edelman said.

For more information, click here.

CHAMPION PROFILE
Hyepin Im Leads Community Development Korean Community

Hyepin Im is founder and president of Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD), a national organization whose mission is to help faith-based and community-based organizations build capacity in economic development efforts.

KCCD has developed numerous initiatives, including one to educate 3,500 Korean Americans about how to purchase a home and another on youth workforce development through a $5 million U.S. Department of Labor grant.

The organization annually mobilizes 4,000 Korean American churches in the U.S. at conferences with key policy makers, including those at the White House and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Im was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a commissioner for the California Service Corps.

Her professional experience includes her work as a venture capitalist for Renaissance Capital Partners and senior analyst at Ernst & Young. She earned a BS from UC Berkeley, MBA from USC and a master of divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary.

What book has most influenced your life?
The Bible

Which historical figure do you most admire?
Joseph in the Bible, an immigrant and slave who overcame incredible adversity and betrayal to rise up in the ranks of society to serve his adopted country and his family.

What is your favorite way to spend time with an important child or children in your life?
Camping-- there’s just something about being in nature and doing the basics together -- such as building a fire, putting up the tent, cooking a hot dog, and seeing the excitement in the children’s eyes.

What is your idea of a perfect world?
Where everyone has found their place and makes a contribution.

What is the greatest challenge facing LA County children and families?
Marital health, which is directly linked to physical health, work productivity, juvenile delinquency, longevity, financial well-being, and many other issues.
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<td>Which living person do you most admire?</td>
<td>Bono, who uses his gifts and celebrity power to bring interesting people together to address many problems.</td>
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<td>What is your motto?</td>
<td>&quot;Let's create win-win-win partnerships!&quot;</td>
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