



OREGON CHILD DEVELOPMENT COALITION

Contact

Anthony Veliz

503.953.2128

aveliz@izomarketing.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cherry Festival Parade Honoree Opens Doors for Community Celebration

WILSONVILLE, ORE. – April 22, 2011 – The Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), a nonprofit organization, will welcome the community to the OCDC The Dalles Center on Tuesday, May 3, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. for an open house, 40th anniversary celebration.

“We are excited to open our doors and share with the community what our center brings to The Dalles. We are known for our children’s float in the Cherry Festival Parade and cannot wait to showcase the other projects our teachers, staff and families have worked on,” said Jennifer Ericksen de Heredia, Program Director, Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Hood River and Wasco Counties serve 486 children and provide a variety of programs and services. The Dalles Center provides Migrant Head Start, Seasonal Head Start and Migrant Education Preschool. In addition, the center initiates and continues to facilitate the RAMAS group, which ensures great community services for the families who come to pick cherries annually. RAMAS includes, local cherry growers, La Clinica del Carino, the Migrant Education program, the local Health Department, Food Bank and Salvation Army.

The Dalles Center is vital to providing services for children during the cherry harvest, which is a key element of this area’s economy. Every year the growing population of seasonal workers comes to the area for harvesting with some choosing to settle permanently for work in agriculture. The celebration will showcase the facility, classrooms, programs and staff. It is open to the public and located at 1300 W. 9th St. The Dalles, OR. A short program will begin at 5:30 p.m.

This is OCDC’s third facility to host and celebrate the organizations 40th Anniversary. Celebrations will continue throughout the 12 counties it currently serves over the next six months ending with a Gala event at the end of September to highlight the accomplishments of the past 40 years and each individual center.

OCDC specializes in providing quality early childhood education and care for children ages birth to five, who come from working families with incomes below or at the poverty level. The goal is to help these children become ready for kindergarten, and also to provide health, education, parent involvement, mental health, nutrition and social services.

For more information about the event please contact Anthony Veliz at aveliz@izomarketing.com.

For more information about OCDC please visit www.ocdc.net and “like us” at

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The Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) is an established private nonprofit corporation that serves children and their families through Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS), Migrant and Seasonal Early Head Start (MSEHS), Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) and Oregon Early Head Start (OEHS). As one of the largest education and early care networks in Oregon, OCDC is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through Preparing children for school, Promoting economic opportunities families and communities, Partnering and collaborating and Practicing inclusiveness.