



County of Santa Cruz

175

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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AGENDA: 5/18/99

May 11, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTER FUNDING REQUEST

Dear Members of the Board:

When the County and City of Santa Cruz first purchased the Loudon Nelson Center, the agreement between the two agencies provided that half of the building would be for social programs supported by the County and half for parks and recreational programs desired by the City. The Community Children's Center was located in the Center when it first opened. Initially, it received operational funding from the County as well as free rent, based on the County's ownership and participation in the Center. During a time of severe funding problems, the County eliminated its funding for operational costs. The City picked up program costs and the rent remained free. Now, with the termination of County ownership and participation in the Center, the City Council has indicated an unwillingness to cover the rental costs for the Children's Center. Attached is a letter from the Director of the Children's Center requesting \$7,000 from the County in the 1999/00 budget to cover rental costs for the next fiscal year.

The Community Children's Center has provided high quality child care services to primarily low income children from both the City and County areas for many years. The attached letter indicates that 75% of the families served are low-income and almost 30% reside outside of the City's jurisdiction. I think the request from the program for rental assistance is very legitimate and appropriate. This is not a new funding request but a request for continuing funding in a new form.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
May 11, 1999
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Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Administrative Office to analyze the 1999/00 budget request by the Community Children's Center for \$7,000 to cover rental costs, and to include in her proposed budget a recommendation providing an appropriate level of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mardi Wormhoudt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARDI WORMHOUDT, Supervisor
Third District

MW:pmp
Attachment

cc: Ellen Richter, Director, Community Children's Center

1045H3

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTER
301 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(631) 425-6666

May 4, 1999

Ms. Mardi Wormhoudt
 Board of Supervisors
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Supervisor Wormhoudt:

As the director of Community Children's Center, I am writing to request a social service program grant **from** the County of Santa **Cruz**. As you may know, our center has been providing quality, affordable child care for the Santa **Cruz** community for twenty-five years. We are located in the **Louden** Nelson Community Center and serve children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years. We operate Monday through Friday, year-round, from 7:30 – 5:30.

Community Children's Center serves predominantly low-income families and the majority of our children are from ethnic groups other than Caucasian. At the present time, 75 percent of our families are low-income and almost 30 percent live in Santa **Cruz** County outside the Santa **Cruz** City jurisdiction.

Currently, we receive a Social Service Program grant **from** the City of Santa **Cruz**. Early in our history, Community Children's Center also received funding from Santa **Cruz** County. After County funding stopped, a portion of it was taken over by the City of Santa **Cruz**. As part of our original agreement with the County, our Center was permitted to operate rent-free at the **Louden** Nelson Center. When the **funding from** the County ceased, the agreement continued to be honored and was viewed as the County's support of our program.

This year, as you know, the County ceased its support of the **Louden** Nelson Center, and the City of Santa Cruz bought out the County's share. In order to meet increased expenses, the City of Santa Cruz voted to charge Community Children's Center rent beginning in September of FY 99-00. The rent will most likely be increased over a **three-**year period. In order to meet this additional expense, Community Children's Center would need to increase its rates substantially, which would adversely affect our ability to serve the needs of low-income families.

Therefore, we are requesting \$7, 000 from the County of Santa Cruz to cover the cost of rent for FY 99-00. This amount represents \$700 per month over a ten-month period from September 1999 to June 2000. Since almost 30 percent of the families we serve live in

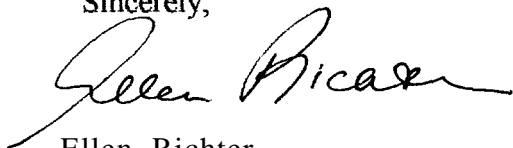
the County, we believe that the County of Santa **Cruz** should meet its obligation to its low income residents who use our program by contributing funding to cover the Center's cost for rent.

Community Children's Center in the past year and a half has worked hard to reduce its expenses without affecting the quality of the services offered. Our administrative budget has been cut substantially; we have been successful obtaining grants and raising funds to improve the physical facility and purchase curriculum materials; and parent and community volunteers are used whenever possible to enhance our program.

Community Children's Center is committed to providing both quality and **affordable** child care while paying teachers a living wage. Since any additional expenses to our program would make our commitment to both parents and teachers more **difficult** to meet, we urge you to support us by approving our grant request.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions or would like me to provide additional information, please contact me at 425-8668.

Sincerely,



Ellen Richter
Director

Cc: Susan Mauriells
County Administrative Officer

Dannettee Shoemaker
Recreation Superintendent
City of Santa **Cruz**, Parks and Recreation Dept.

Mayor Katherine Beiers
City of Santa **Cruz**