



THE COLLECTIVE EXPRESS

A Non-Profit Corporation

Summer 2015

Caring for Kids Since '72

Locations Served

The Children's Collective, Inc. has 12 locations in the following communities:

- Greater Crenshaw
- Exposition/Los Angeles
- Manchester/Figueroa

We serve approximately 10,000 children, youth and families each year and have served the community since 1972.

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Executive Director

43 Years & We're Still Here

As The Children's Collective, Inc. (TCCI) celebrated its 43rd anniversary on July 2, the question was asked, "How did the company sustain itself to become the dynamic human services agency that it is today?" Four decades of continuous service is not to be taken lightly, considering the tumultuous financial times we have faced over the years. However, difficult times never deterred The Children's Collective Inc. from its primary goal of "Transforming People... Changing Lives."

This anniversary milestone is an opportunity to herald the organization's reach and share how TCCI's programs span the needs of South Los Angeles families, focusing on child development, youth development, family support and health. These programs include early childhood education and kindergarten readiness for children from infancy through preschool; outreach and support to African American women to promote healthy pregnancies and healthy mothers and babies; therapeutic services for children who are emotionally and behaviorally challenged; strategies that increase family income and youth academic achievement; resources to improve family self-sufficiency; mentoring youth on improving health through healthy food, healthy beverages and physical activity; providing children, youth and families with access to supervised sports, leisure and recreation programs; and helping families remain intact through parenting and anger management programs. Despite economic downturns, The Children's Collective, Inc. provides these and other programs to more than 11,000 clients at 12 locations across the city each year.

An example of how the company has weathered difficult financial conditions occurred in the Spring of 2015. TCCI's Rita Walters Learning Complex, which has served the Vermont Corridor since 2002, faced possible closure due to funding cuts. Steeped in the spirit of the legendary councilwoman and school board member Rita D. Walters, the Complex includes a child care center, a high school, a youth and family center and an emergent health clinic. One in four families in the community is impacted by services the RWLC provides. In response to the proposed closures, community youth, families, and other clients rallied to protest the potential loss of services and to urge public officials and key decision makers to restore funding to this underserved community. Because of their efforts, we are able to announce that funding was identified and services will continue. We want to give a special thank you to the community members, Councilmembers, key city leaders, and others who supported this effort.

Additionally, we proudly proclaim, "Hip Hip Hurray!" to the Founder and Director, Dr. Jackie Kimbrough, for her foresight and perseverance in creating an organization and movement that has significantly transformed the lives of people in the community for the past 43 years. And we proudly salute our clients, parents, friends and supporters who are the real reason for our continued growth over the past four decades!

Families interested in enrolling preschoolers ages 3-5 in Full Day or Part Day Preschool can call 213-747-4046.

Mission Statement: To provide high quality, comprehensive, educational and support services to children, youth and their families in South Los Angeles.



LIVING HEALTHY TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!



Efforts to improve child and family health led The Children's Collective, Inc. to host two Community Health and Resource Fairs. The first fair was held in conjunction with the opening of the **new Child Development Center at 255 East Maple Street** and the second was held during Culmination Activities at the Rita Walters Learning Complex. The fairs provided access to quality, affordable health care for child care center participants and the larger community. Participants were able to apply for Covered California health care plans, public benefits such as CalFresh, CalWorks, and MediCal, and low cost auto insurance. A mobile health van provided free health screenings, vendors provided give-aways, resources and referrals for medical treatment as needed.

The Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (NEOP) students proudly made Poster Presentations at the Rita Walters Learning Complex in August. The Posters displayed what the students had learned about Nutritious Foods, Healthy Beverages and Physical Exercise. At the Spring 2015 Youth Summit, the NEOP students created their own workout videos and delighted themselves and audience members with their success in improving their eating habits and increasing their exercise. **Congratulations to NEOP!!**

Young Girls Enjoy A Light Moment During RWLC Youth Camp



The Rita Walters Learning Complex offered a full day Summer Youth Camp through the middle of August. This comprehensive program offered youth an opportunity to gain insight into healthy food and the concept "Re-think Your Drink." NEOP provided alternatives to sugar filled and high calorie beverages and discussed how they affect teen bodies. In addition, the youth participated in physical exercise including dance.

In addition to the food demonstrations, they received basic skills training, literacy, math and science lessons, arts and crafts as well as an opportunity to participate in field trips.

The Summer Youth Camp is an excellent way to keep our community youth focused on positive activities. These life changing and skill building programs also promote high self-esteem and expose the youth to good sportsmanship.

BIH Excellence Honored

TCCT's Black Infant Health (BIH) Program was honored on April 25, 2015 by the Mu Chi Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, as a Community Service recipient during their 49th Awards Scholarship Luncheon at The Proud Bird Restaurant. The sorority's motto is "Service for Humanity" and their annual award scholarship was established to honor nursing students, sorority members, organizations and individuals for significant contributions to the community. The Chapter acknowledged BIH's significant work in reducing African American infant mortality in the Los Angeles community. BIH received an honorarium to be used to further its community service efforts. Staff member LaShawn Davis accepted the award on behalf of The Children's Collective Inc. Dia Hall is the Program Coordinator.



Celebrating 43 Years of Service

