



WHEDCo Home-Based Child Care Microenterprise Network Honors Local Child Care Providers Just in Time for Mother's Day

Bronx Entrepreneurs Honored as Part of National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

Bronx, NY – (May 8, 2008) - The Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDCo), a community based non-profit organization dedicated to building a more beautiful and prosperous Bronx, will honor the 180 local child care providers, members of WHEDCo's Home-Based Child Care Microenterprise Network, at a luncheon on Saturday, May 10, 2008. This celebration is part of National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, May 9, 2008.

These dedicated child care givers and businesswomen exemplify the commitment, patience and compassion required to care for children. Collectively, this network of micro-entrepreneurs has cared for nearly 2,000 children throughout the Bronx and generated over **\$8.1 million** in revenues last year alone.

“This Mother's Day, we celebrate the tremendous success of the women entrepreneurs in WHEDCo's Microenterprise Network as they continue to grow their businesses. These child care providers are generating astonishing revenues which are re-circulated throughout their neighborhoods,” said Nancy Biberman, WHEDCo Founder & President. “Home-based child care microenterprise creates opportunity for women and their families, keeps children educated, well-nourished and safe, and enables parents to secure or maintain employment. This is a community development Grand Slam, in the tradition of the Bronx.”

For the past 13 years WHEDCo's Home-Based Child Care Microenterprise Network, directed by Diana Perez, has been offering women training, technical assistance, education and support to start and grow child care businesses. Many women attend regular workshops to learn how to incorporate fitness, nutrition and active play into their home-based programs. Others work with WHEDCo to develop business plans, prepare taxes and secure state licenses. Supported by the WHEDCo Network, the children in their care receive high quality services that promote healthy mental and physical development and establish a solid foundation for learning.

In conjunction with the National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, events and other celebrations are planned across the country to show appreciation for the unsung heroes who help raise our nation's children. By honoring the Bronx home-based child care micro-entrepreneurs, WHEDCo joins with many others in calling for high quality child care for all children and families.

###