

## Center of Excellence, Catalyst for Change

### Educare Receives \$150,000 Grant from Arizona Community Foundation

On Wednesday, January 20th the board and staff of Educare Arizona were thrilled to host representatives from the Arizona Community Foundation at the Brunson-Lee Elementary School, future site of Educare Arizona, for a check presentation celebrating ACF's \$150,000 contribution to the Educare capital campaign. Said Jim Pitofsky, Director of Education at ACF, "ACF is not only excited for the outstanding early education services that Educare will directly provide to children, but we are also excited for how Educare will impact the state regarding professional development for early childhood educators and public policies effecting the youngest of our state's children."



From left, Ginger Ward, John Whiteman, Jessie Rasmussen, Joyce Medina, Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Jim Pitofsky, Denise Higgins and Irene Jacobs.

### Partnership with ASU's College of Teacher Education and Leadership Takes Shape



Starting in the fall of 2011, Educare Arizona will be home to a cohort of 16 undergraduate ASU early childhood education students who will work in the Educare classrooms as teachers' aides and take their courses on site and online. Students selected for this program will commit two years at Educare Arizona to ensure continuity of care. This integrated partnership will be a model early childhood professional development effort that ensures each new class of ASU graduates can take the best practices learned at Educare Arizona into their own classrooms.

## The Value of Collaboration

The Educare model is built upon partnership and collaboration, and each site is an exercise in shared governance. Each partnership consists of an “anchor” philanthropist or philanthropists, a Head Start/Early Head Start provider, and a school district. Anchor funders for Educare Centers in other communities include the Buffett family in Omaha, George Kaiser in Tulsa, the United Way of Miami-Dade in Miami, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle. In Arizona, the anchor funders are the Whiteman Foundation, the Steve Nash Foundation, the Ibis Foundation of Arizona and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Each of these visionary philanthropies recognizes the value of pooling their resources to make the greatest impact on our community. The center will be located on land donated by the Balsz School District. This close link between early learning and elementary education is a central component of the Educare model, and a key to sustaining the gains made in the first five years. Head Start and Early Head Start services will be provided by Southwest Human Development, which has received national recognition for program quality.

Collaboration is also critical to the successful operation of the Integrative Health Center, which will offer both western and naturopathic medicine, dental health care, and behavioral health services. While Scottsdale Healthcare will manage operations, the Educare health center will provide a unique opportunity for health care providers who may not have had traditional partnerships to collaborate and bring to bear each of their specialties to serve a population which has traditionally not had this level of access to medical care.

Each of the Educare collaborators believes that they can accomplish more together than they could as individual entities, and that the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.



### In Their Own Words...

*As Educare Arizona's local anchor funders, the Whiteman Foundation, the Steve Nash Foundation and the Ibis Foundation of Arizona all recognize the value of pooling their resources to make the greatest impact on our community. Particularly in our current economic climate, collaborative philanthropy plays a critical role in ensuring that investments in our community are made and sustained.*

Doing what's best for children isn't just about funding issues. It's about finding meaningful solutions, investing in them in integrated and sustainable ways, and teaming up with others that are committed to the vision.

**- Jenny Miller, Executive Director  
Steve Nash Foundation**

After the health and welfare of its citizens, there is nothing more important than the way a society nurtures and educates its children. The first five years are the most important in the educational continuum and "blueprint" a child for life. Change how children learn

and you change the future. That is what Educare is all about and that's why the Whiteman Foundation is involved in this collaborative effort .

**- John O. Whiteman, President  
Whiteman Foundation**

The Ibis Foundation of Arizona places great value in collaboration. By working together with diverse stakeholders and melding our resources, we are taking an approach to system-wide changes that yield benefits to the community, far beyond the scope of a single initiative. By sharing a common mission and vision, collaboration provides an opportunity to look at societal problems with others so that together we can make a greater impact on long-term solutions to these problems.

**- Denise Higgins, Vice President  
Ibis Foundation of Arizona**