

# 2011 Letters From Home

## A forever home for our children and families!



Quality preschool – getting the fundamental skills that prepare a child for academic success.



Loving care in infancy – individual attention, stimulating play, nurturing physical contact and affection influence how a child interacts with the world.



Life after preschool - our doors are open for families to find the resources and encouragement they need to reach their goals.



Dear Friends,

These past 100 years in the Mission have proven to be a great blessing to the thousands of families that have attended Holy Family Day Home, going back to 1911. Through the generosity of Virginia Fair Vanderbilt, ground was broken here on the corner of 16th and Dolores Streets for a magnificent new home for the children. In 2011, we continue to break ground with new programs, thanks to YOUR commitment! I am asking for your support as we embrace our families . . .



. . . here at their forever home from infancy . . . through preschool . . . and now even beyond!

**Infancy:** With bittersweet anticipation, we are excited to announce the fall, 2012 relocation of our Infant/Toddler Program from the Minna Street site to our Dolores Street campus. While we are sad to leave the facility of our Episcopal Community Services' friends, the Day Home family looks forward to being united under one roof. Being excellent leaders and good stewards of your generous gifts, our Board of Directors concurred with the staff that the future co-existence of both programs will enhance the quality of education and also create cost efficiencies. Our work is cut out for us, and in order to get the job done, I am asking for your support. As with every other successful endeavor, it can't happen without YOU!

**Preschool:** As tradition goes, I shed tears of joy watching our 58 graduates accept their diplomas during my 14th year of commencement ceremonies. Each child was proud to share their accomplishments with their family members before they took their next steps off to kindergarten or first grade. As always, I smiled as I realized the development of each child and their families during their time, short or long, here and asked each to promise to remember that they always have this *home away from home*.

**Next Steps:** Home is forever. Thanks to the vision and commitment of **Richard and Elizabeth Fullerton**, we do not ever need to say "good bye" to our families! Yes, thanks to this wonderful young couple, we are able to expand our services into the early evening, allowing us to continue to partner with our alum parents and children.

We hope the sentiment of "**forever home**" is felt by you, our partners, as well. We look forward to celebrating with you at the festivities for the closing of our year-long 100th Anniversary in the Mission, and at the ribbon cutting of our new Infant/Toddler Center. Keep an eye on your mailbox!

Forever yours,

**Donna M. Cahill**  
Executive Director

## ALUMNI - IT'S TIME TO COME HOME!

### Did you, or someone you know, grow up at Holy Family Day Home?

More than 16,000 children and their families are part of the Day Home's history. Whether we were your "home away from home" four years ago or forty years ago, we want to bring you back "home". We will be hosting an alumni reunion in February, 2012 and we need committee members to help search for alums, plan the party with a special program for that day. We want to hear from you!

Let us know who you are, what years you (or someone you know) attended the Day Home, and the easiest way to reach you.

Please email: [khayden@holyfamilydayhome.org](mailto:khayden@holyfamilydayhome.org) or call (415) 565-0504 ext 201, or visit our web site: [www.holyfamilydayhome.org](http://www.holyfamilydayhome.org) and fill out the Alumni Form..

# A+ for School Readiness & Family Services in the 2010-2011 School Year

Your contributions are important and necessary to achieve the goals of our families and organization. *Thank you!*



*"When I grow up, I want to be a...."*



*"Dentist, just like my mom!"*

**Ellie**

Mission Prep Academy  
Kindergarten



## Quality early education - the foundation for academic success:

- **171** children received high-quality early childhood education.
- **58** graduates who advanced to kindergarten or 1st grade (1/2 to private schools).
- **30%** of our children had special needs that were met by individualized education plans.

## Diversity fosters strength:

- Family annual incomes range from over **\$200,000** to the majority of less than **\$25,000** per year.
- **20** of our families come to us from the homeless shelter system or inadequate housing
- Racial breakdown: 45% Hispanic, 23% Caucasian, 18% multi-racial, 11% African American, and 3% Asian/Pacific Islander.

## Partnering with parents/guardians in the Coming Home Family Support Center:

- **95%** of our families followed their case plans, as determined by our Case Manager.
- **15 formerly homeless families** obtained permanent housing.
- **98%** of our parents/guardians report that HFDH has allowed them to find or keep a job and **83%** were able to accept a better position due to our services.

## Parent Satisfaction Survey Outcomes:

- **100%** of our parents reported that they are very satisfied or satisfied with HFDH as a whole.
- **99%** of our parents feel their child is safe, happy and developing appropriately.
- **15%** improvement in program satisfaction since 2008.

## Quality of Life Enhancements for our families:

- Health, nutrition, parenting and immigration classes available to all parents in English and Spanish.
- Kindergarten preparedness and private school application tips workshop available to all parents.
- Children have breakfast, lunch and snacks **255** days per year at no extra cost.
- Weekly access to our free Farmer's Market for all families.—**70%** participate.
- Regular health, dental, vision, hearing and lead screenings for each child provided.



*"Soccer Player"*

**Martin**

San Francisco Friends School  
Kindergarten



*"Model"*

**Jackie**

Spanish Emersion  
Kindergarten

# Babies Come Home

**H**old onto your hats . . . a swirl of constant motion, giggles and joy is coming our way. Our Infant and Toddler program is permanently moving to the Dolores Street site in August of 2012, providing a new burst of energy and many anxious hands just waiting to hold an adorable baby.

The history of the Infant/Toddler Center began in 2002 when Holy Family Day Home was thrilled at the opportunity to open a separate Infant/Toddler Center for babies and toddlers three months to two years, at Episcopal Community Service's (ECS) Cannon Barcus Community House on Minna Street in the SOMA district. Executive Director Donna Cahill said, "It has been a beautiful partnership for the past nine years, as well as a comfortable and cozy 'home away from home' for our little ones. We are forever indebted to our friends at Episcopal Community Services for their hospitality and generosity. While we will be losing our space at Minna this summer, we realize that the changes to come will enhance and sustain our program."

As determined by the Holy Family Day Home Board of Directors, bringing the babies to the Dolores Street site will ensure the sustainability of the Infant/Toddler Program. Board President Marie Hurabiell said, "It makes so much sense fiscally and organizationally to operate our pre-kindergarten and infant/toddler programs side-by-side. It is wise decision with long-term programmatic advantages and financial savings."

After much discussion and examination of the future needs of Holy Family Day Home, the staff and board are in agreement about the benefits of providing care at one location:

- Provides continuity of care for the toddlers as they continue on to their pre-kindergarten classes on the same campus.
- Creates greater unification of the staff, parents and students, promoting better communication.
- Facilitates a more streamlined intake and social service process, creating efficiency of scale.
- Allows for more cohesive communication for the staff.
- Makes drop-off easier for parents with two or more children.



The new Infant/Toddler Center will be located in the older one-story building, which was constructed in 1985. Because infants and toddlers have different needs than pre-school age children, there will be a considerable amount of construction required to make the new home ready for our little ones. The scope of the work entails: reconstruction of two existing classrooms with modification of bathrooms and added sinks, modification of the playground, and the addition and conversion of staff offices.

Along with any change come inevitable challenges, inconveniences and expenses. Construction work will begin in January of 2012. We are asking for your support with this transition so we may continue our mission of providing a stable and nurturing environment to serve the youngest at their most developmentally critical age. If you have questions or would like to know how you can help with this project, feel free to contact Executive Director Donna M. Cahill at (415) 565-0504, ext 207.



# Holy Family Day Home Proposed Infant/Toddler Room



## Alexandra and Alexander's Story

Alexandra graduated from the Wizard's Class in July. She is a bright five-year old child who has endured emotional turmoil and disappointments. Her mother has never been in the picture and her father Alexander drifted in and out of her life because of addictions that had a strong hold on him. After Alexandra was taken away from him four times, it seemed his chances of gaining custody were beyond slim. He was homeless and jobless - two big obstacles to stability.

Holy Family Day Home has been a happy and steady influence in Alexandra's life. Her resilience has been tested many times, as she bounced back and forth from foster care to her father. Despite it all, Alexandra did well in school and enthusiastically participated in all of the fun activities, but many times her teachers comforted her when she cried for her daddy. Working as a team, Holy Family Day Home's social service team, mental health consultants and teachers responded to her needs appropriately and lovingly.

With the threat of foster parents filing for permanent custody, Alexander was motivated to do everything possible to regain custody of his daughter - weekly supervised visits, compliance

with the court judgment, 32-40 hours of groups and meetings, finding housing and career plans. In March, 2011 after several court dates, Alexander was reunited with Alexandra.

Alexandra is a happy kindergartener at Mission Dolores Academy, thanks to Holy Family's community partnership with Children of Shelters, an organization that stepped up to invest in Alexandra's future by funding her private school education. The family will be participating in the evening program one night a week. HFDH is here to support them in times of transition.



### MORE THAN A CENTURY OF EDUCATION AND CARING

Holy Family Day Home provides affordable, high quality, early childhood education and family support services in a stable and nurturing environment, thereby providing the children of working families skills and hope for lifelong development. This continues a tradition established in 1900 by the Sisters of the Holy Family.





## Coming Soon – HFDH Evening Program

**H**oly Family Day Home is launching a new evening program, an added component to our Coming Home Family Support Services for current and alumni families, which will utilize parent support groups in combination with classes to allow parents to relax, connect with others, learn coping skills, and continue to get the support they need to maintain stable, healthy lives. We want to reach out to those families who may find themselves with little or no support once their children leave HFDH and enter elementary school.

This program has been made possible by the generosity of Richard and Elizabeth Fullerton, a young couple with small children of their own. Elizabeth Fullerton said,

*“We believe in supporting children in need during their formative years. By starting early and making sure these children get the best educational opportunities possible, we stand a better chance of breaking the cycle of poverty.”*

Embracing the concept of an evening program, they want to help HFDH continue to provide wrap-around services for children and families who will benefit from an extended connection with the Day Home.

“From our very first tour of HFDH, we were struck by the enthusiasm filling the classrooms, and the dedication of the staff. The program’s mission of fostering self-esteem in each child -- while building their foundation for future learning -- resonates profoundly with us. HFDH is succeeding wonderfully in it’s aim, and we can not imagine supporting a better program. An investment into disadvantaged children’s education, and related family support services, will offer compounding returns for life.”

- Richard Fullerton

Initially, once a month child care will be offered to the parents between 5:30-8:00 pm with dinner being provided for the children and families that evening. In time the number of evenings of operation will increase. The foundation of the program is in place and plans are progressing, including hiring a manager with social service accreditations, planning for meals and scheduling classes.

Alumni families and current parents will be notified when the program will begin. If you are interested in learning more about this program or would like to offer your services to run a group or teach a class, please contact Susan King at (415) 565-0504, ext. 210. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support this new endeavor, please contact the development office at (415) 565-0405, ext. 201.



Mark Your Calendar:

5th Bi-annual  
*coming home*  
GALA

May 17, 2012  
**Bimbo's 365 Club**

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From all of us  
**Thank you!**

