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Improvements to Begin at San Jose Day Nursery ***New Smart Start San José center will provide enhanced quality child care***

San José --- Expanded and improved child care services in downtown San José will be the result of the renovation of the San Jose Day Nursery where the start of construction was celebrated by Mayor Ron Gonzales, Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez and the downtown community today.

“This project will help us give our youngest children a smart start to success in our growing downtown neighborhood,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “I’m proud that we can be partners with a visionary child care center that is preparing for the future of our community and meeting the needs of low-income families.”

The renewed facility will provide improved quality childcare and preschool services to low-income families in a facility that meets today’s safety and health codes. After the renovations, the Nursery is expected to increase the children-in-care capacity by 56 percent.

The Nursery will become part of the Smart Start San José program, the Early Care and Education initiative established by the Mayor and San José City Council to expand and improve preschool opportunities for young children.

"This joint effort with the City and Redevelopment Agency and other partners to rebuild the Nursery marks the beginning of a new era for the Nursery," said John Carlson, Executive Director, San Jose Day Nursery. "The Day Nursery has cared for children for more than 89 years. We hope that we can continue to provide the same quality care and service to serve this community."

Currently, the Smart Start San José program is managed by San José Public Library. The program is a collaborative effort of the City, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, schools, parents, early childhood development professionals, corporate foundations, businesses and community-based organizations.

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Smart Start San José assists in supporting students so that they enter school with the foundation for academic and social success.

The renovation of the Nursery consists of comprehensive physical improvements to the Nursery's existing 69-year-old building, including updates to the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems; earthquake retrofitting; disability access, and the replacement of an existing infant care center with a new facility.

Improvements to both buildings will include revised floor plans to facilitate child development in accordance with standards established by Smart Start San José, reflecting current knowledge and practices in the field.

The growth of Downtown San José has had a direct impact on the neighborhood. With the new City Hall and increasing number of working parents, there is a corresponding need for quality childcare. The Nursery will be able to deliver this service to the families who live and work in the area.

“San Jose Day Nursery serves the diverse needs of Downtown incredibly well,” said Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez. “They have and will continue to play a major role by providing valuable child care services to our limited income working families and a diverse learning environment for your children.”

The project consists of two phases funded by SJDN. Phase one consists of the rehabilitation of the existing building at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million, of which SJRA will be funding \$599,200. Phase two of the project is the replacement of the existing infant care building with a new facility and the projected costs are estimated at \$400,000. The SJRA will be funding \$256,800 in phase two. Phase one is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2006.

The Nursery's hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the infant center opening from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call 408.288.9667 or go to www.sjdn.org.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City's Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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