

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Work Source CCS recognizes NAEYC Accredited Centers

Austin, TX – WorkSource Child Care Services welcomed the City of Austin and the surrounding area to the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), Week of the Young Child Awards Banquet. The reception was held to recognize NAEYC Accredited centers, NAFCC Accredited Homes, Texas/Austin Rising Stars, advocates, and scholarship recipients. A special Proclamation from the City of Austin Mayor’s office was on display.

The award banquet is held to honor those Centers who work to improve professional practices and working conditions in early childhood education and to build public support for high quality early education programs.

“This is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to all young children,” stated Cynthia Gamez-CCS Assistant Program Director and current President-Austin AEYC Chapter.

The following recipients of the 2008 AAEYC Awards were recognized: Edna Hayes – **Sallie Beth Moore Award** (Given to a member who is directly involved with young children and has demonstrated outstanding service); Ruth Ann Lostracco – **Mabel Pitts Award** (Given to a member for outstanding service and contributions on behalf of young children); Larry Elsner – **Madeline Sutherland Award** (Given to a person for service to children who have special needs or disabilities); **Jeannette Watson Award** – Dr. Timy Baranoff (Given to a public policy maker, official, or others who have contributed to the enhancement of the quality of life for young children).

The reception was held at the Hyatt Regency. Sponsors included Austin AEYC, City of Austin HHSD, FamilyConnections, Lakeshore Learning Materials and *WorkSource*. The recipients of the Austin AEYC Awards will be submitted to the Texas AEYC to compete for the Texas AEYC Annual Awards.



Left to Right – Kim Kofron, AAEYC President-Elect, Ruth Ann Lostracco, Mabel Pitts Award Winner, Larry Elsner, Madeleine Sutherland Award Winner, Dr. Timy Baranoff, Jeannette Watson Award Winner, Edna Hayes, Sallie Beth Moore Award Winner, and Cindy Gamez, AAEYC President and CCS Assistant Program Director.

Background

NAEYC encourages state and local affiliates (i.e. Texas AEYC and Austin AEYC) to plan Week of the Young Child events that bring the community together. This awards and recognition banquet is one of those events. CCS recognizes all child care centers, Head Start programs, preschools, elementary schools and early childhood advocates who are providing high-quality education and care for the young children of the Greater Austin Area.

WorkSource - CCS issued \$100 Lakeshore Gift Cards for all TRS/ARS and NAEYC Accredited Centers.