



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event Details

December 5, 2009 | 6PM – 11PM
Hilton Newark
39900 Balentine Dr., 94560
\$75/ticket or \$600/table of 10

Kidango to Celebrate 30 Years at *A Wishful Winter's Night Gala!*

(Fremont, CA). Kidango announced today that it will end the year-long celebration of its 30th Anniversary, by hosting a community gala, *A Wishful Winter's Night!*

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, Kidango will celebrate its 30th Anniversary by recognizing the hard work and contributions of 30 individuals who have accepted Kidango's distinguished honor of being an *Influential Leader* in the lives of children and families in our community.

"As Kidango celebrates its 30 years and reflects on the countless lives that we have touched, we recognize that it truly does 'take a village' and we are honored to have relationships with so many influential leaders and their agencies. Our communities are stronger because of our collaborative efforts, thus in celebrating the success of Kidango, it is important to celebrate us all," said Executive Director Paul Miller.

Kidango's 30 honorees represent a diverse group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to various fields, including education from pre-Kindergarten through college, mental health, early intervention, and public service.

"Kidango is an outstanding program that recognizes that children are our greatest resource," said Senator Ellen M. Corbett. "I am very proud of the work that they do and am honored to be one of their 30 champions."

In 1979, Kidango opened its first doors in Fremont and provided child care and early education services to just 90 children. Today, Kidango has grown to serving 2,500 children daily in 9 cities and now offers a variety of early education and family support services.

Join Kidango in celebrating its successes and the successes of other community leaders on Saturday, December 5th. The evening will include dinner, entertainment, a keynote address, a recognition ceremony and so much more.

Tickets are \$75 each or \$600 for a table of ten. Ticket proceeds will go to Kidango's *Gifts from the Heart* fund, which will provide our children with classroom materials and field trips.

Be sure to spread the word about this celebration and invite your family, friends and colleagues to share in this special occasion with Kidango.

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30 Influential Leaders Honored by Kidango

Kidango shares its 30th Anniversary with these influential leaders in the fields of education, mental health, early intervention and public service.

Catherine Atkin | Preschool California
Jim Beall, Jr. | California State Assembly
James Burton | Regional Center of the East Bay
Judy Chirco | City of San Jose Council
Ellen Corbett | California State Senate
Mayra Cruz | DeAnza College & Local Planning Council
Rocio de Mateo Smith | Area Board 5
Howard Doi | San Andreas Regional Center
Delaine Eastin | California Department of Education (Retired)
Guy Emanuele | New Haven Unified School District (Retired)
Janice Fonteno | Ohlone College
Mark Friedman | First 5 Alameda County
Margie Gutierrez-Padilla | BHCS Alameda County
Bill Harrison | Fremont City Council
Glen Harvey | WestEd
Marie Claire Heffron | Oakland Children's Hospital
Hattie Hyman Hughes | Fremont Bank Foundation
Carole Leigh Hutton | United Way Silicon Valley
Camille Maben | California Department of Education
Kari McVeigh | New Haven Unified School District
Jack O'Connell | California Department of Education
Nancy Peña | Santa Clara County Mental Health Department
Dawn Perry | Smart Start San Jose
Rona Renner | Childhood Matters, Inc.
Deborah Roderick Stark | First 5 Alameda County
Suzanne Shenfil | City of Fremont
Jolene Smith | FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
Alberto Torrico | California State Assembly
Ana Trujillo | Santa Clara County Office of Education
Charles Weis | Santa Clara County Office of Education

About Kidango

Kidango, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit children's agency. It began as Tri-Cities Children's Centers, Inc. in 1979 and at inception there were 90 children and families being served at one center in Fremont. As a leader in early care and education, Kidango offers a wide variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of children 0-12 years of age and their families. Currently there are 38 centers throughout the Bay Area and the agency is continuously expanding to meet the growing needs of children and families. Today more than 2,500 children and families are served in the Alameda and Santa Clara counties each year.

For more information on Kidango please contact Camille Llanes-Fontanilla at 510-897-6912 or cllanes@kidango.org.