



ANDA CHU/STAFF

SHARON RONEN, an early intervention specialist at Kidango's first and largest site, walks a group of toddlers across the playground Thursday in Fremont. Below, two children make their way across balancing domes. The nonprofit organization provides early childhood education and mental health services to low-income families in the Bay Area. It is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Innovative preschool celebrates 30 years

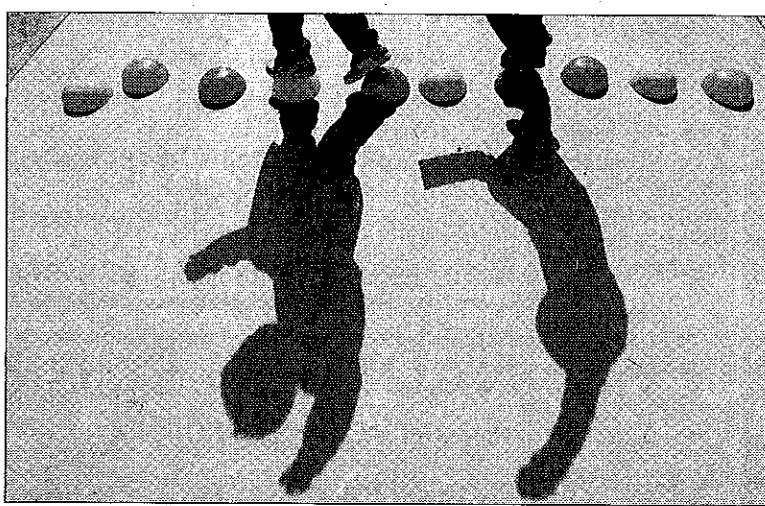
By Linh Tat
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — Eight preschoolers bent over a box of colored puff rice, using their hands and cups to dig around for lettered blocks hidden inside. One girl collected the blocks for the group while two youngsters helped fill each other's containers with the rice.

Sure, it was only playtime at the Kidango site on Isle Royal Street in Fremont. But by working in teams and feeling around for the blocks, the activity gave the classmates an opportunity to develop their social and sensory skills.

The activity also turned into a color recognition game, with the teacher asking the students to identify the various hues of the puff rice.

Across campus, a younger group of children up to age 3 was seated in a circle, singing songs. Like the preschool, the day care



program was structured with activities to aid in the children's cognitive and social development.

"Our main focus is on the quality of care, not just baby-sitting. The misconception is we're just baby-sitting. But through interactions, through play, ... every activ-

ity we have, there's a purpose for it," said Sandy Silva, one of three Kidango directors in Fremont.

It's that quality of care that has kept Kidango thriving for three decades.

Launched in 1979 under the name Tri-Cities Children's Cen-

ters, the early childhood care and education program started out serving just 90 kids at one Fremont site. Over time, it began providing mental health and early intervention services as well as home visits, and, in 2003, changed its name to Kidango.

Today, the nonprofit organization serves 3,300 children out of 60 sites in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Francisco counties, with plans to expand in Hayward, San Jose and Livermore. The program is staffed at a lower adult-to-child ratio than other programs, Kidango workers said.

The children receive free medical, dental and vision screenings, as well as breakfast, lunch and a snack each day at no extra cost. Free parenting workshops are offered, including ones designed for teen mothers. One campus in San Jose provides tutoring through an

... alongside several of the area's major traffic inter-sections.

"We have signs and flags and we've even had people stop, talk to us and then go home and come back with their spouse and join the protest," Tierney said.

The Tea Party protest may get a lot more popular come Tax Day. As of late Monday, TeaPartyDay.com reported that Tax Day events were scheduled in 1,817 cities, including Pleasanton and the Capitol in Sacramento.

In another measure of the tea party's populist appeal, a

April 16
■ **WHERE:** Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton
■ **DETAILS:** www.pleasanton-teaparty.com or for nationwide information, visit www.teaparty-day.com.

Web site that aggregates conservative blogs, NetRightNation.com, contained dozens of entries about the movement.

Reach Lisa Vorderbrueggen at 925-945-4773, lvorderbrueggen@bayareanews-group.com.

Preschool

FROM PAGE 3

after-school program for youngsters up to age 12.

Executive Director Paul Miller, who joined Kidango just months after it formed, said it's been exciting to watch the program grow.

"I'm really proud of the quality of services. ... I see shortly a day when we're serving single adults and teenagers, particularly in the area of mental health," he said.

While some families pay for the services provided by Kidango, 91 percent of the children come from low-income households and enroll in the program for free, said Camille Llanes, development and communications manager. For some, the meals they receive at Kidango — which adhere to federal nutrition guidelines — represent their only nutritional intake during the week, Kidango employees say.

"We do find that the children are much more hungry Monday mornings," said Llanes, adding that the program is in such high demand that there's a long waiting list for families to enroll.

Kidango would love to expand its services, but like most nonprofits, the scope of its operation depends on

funding.

In addition to government subsidies, Kidango relies on grants, money it raises, and contributions from private donors. It welcomes in-kind donations from individuals and businesses, but what it's most in need of is unrestricted funds — monetary donations with no requirements on how it must be spent, Llanes said.

That's why those who work for Kidango are hoping their largest fundraiser each year will prove to be a hit once again. The annual Taster's Showcase, a food-and-wine festival featuring dishes and spirits from local restaurants, will take place April 19 at the Fremont Marriott.

The Taster's Showcase will kick off a series of events planned throughout 2009 to celebrate Kidango's first 30 years. And if those who work for the organization get their way, they'll be back in another 30 years with more to celebrate.

It's been a lot of fun," Miller said. "A lot of people go to work and don't enjoy their jobs. I've had the luxury not only of having a lot of fun, but enjoying the mission of Kidango."

Reach Linh Tat at 510-353-7010 or ltat@bayareanews-group.com.

Clinics

FROM PAGE 3

tions about where to seek care, Hoegh said. It can form a basis for discussions with surgeons and medical center officials.

The statistics fail to take into account Washington's status as a cardiac receiving center for hospitals in southern Alameda County that do not perform open-heart surgery, said Chief Executive Officer Nancy Farber in a prepared statement. As a result, many of the hospital's cases involve unplanned emergencies and

By JARON WILLIAMS
CORRESPONDENT
A Burlingame-based company that helps businesses lower electrical costs by utilizing green technologies has been honored by Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, with an environmental leadership award.

Intraline provides products and education to businesses ranging from small auto body shops to major corporations such as Cargill. The company seeks out ways for their clients to cut their energy, water and waste costs, and then implements those changes.

"For 19 years Intraline has focused on environmental stewardship not only in their own business but within their clientele, community and schools," Hill said. "They have worked with other firms to allow them to meet and achieve environmental goals.

Hill has been giving monthly environmental leadership awards since February to entities within the 19th Assembly District that demonstrate environmentally sound and sustainable practices.

Intraline's involvement in environmental sustainability ranges from manufacturing eco-friendly goods such as garbage bags made from recycled water bottles to providing new technology that reduces the energy used in street lights.

Intraline recently donated a lighting retrofit to Early

"For 19 years Intraline has focused on environmental stewardship not only in their own business but within their clientele, community and schools."

— Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo

Bird Pre-School in San Mateo that helped it reduce its energy bill.

Intraline, which is a certified Bay Area Green Business, was founded in 1989. Co-owner Jennifer Varma said she was inspired to create her company by Al Gore's campaign to fight global warming and her own desire to create a healthy environment for her children.

From those inspirations Varma and her husband Pete have grown a business based on what she calls the "three E's" of sustainability: environmental health, social equity and local economy.

"We work so hard, and we don't get recognition a lot of times," said Varma. "Creating sustainability is so important, and to receive acknowledgment for getting it done and educating others is truly an honor."

Please note that the 1 deadline to submit obitu photos is noon Monday, Friday, for all Bay Area News Group publications.



Lucila M. Camberos
Sept. 16, 1917 - Apr. 4, 2009
Resident of Livermore

Lucila Margarita Cortés Horta was born on the anniversary of Mexican Independence Day on Sept. 16, 1917 in Ciudad Guzman, Jalisco to Agapito Cortés Vargas and Petra Horta Mendoza de Cortés. She admitted that in her 90 years she was convinced everyone in the Mexico celebrated the birthday of and her identical twin sister Lucila enjoyed needle work, she was an expert stress and an avid gardener including rock gardens. She married Miguel Camberos Fitch in Mazatlán, Sin. Mex. April 29, 1937. They made their home first in Hayward then in Oakland where they raised their family. Lucila preceded in death by her mother in 1992, by her beloved grandchildren Edwin Hicks in 1996 and J. Jas Goltz in 2000, in addition 7 siblings. She is survived by her twin, Maria R. Cortés Horta of Guadalupe, Jal. MX and her sister Lucila Cortés de Bingham Blackfoot, ID. She is survived by her children Flora M. Hicks, John Ric Camberos & wife Carole, Maria Elena Stoner & husband Phil Stoner, and Antonio Goltz & husband Larry Goltz. Grandchildren, Robert Hicks & wife Michelle Jardines, Peter T. Hicks, Martha C. Hicks, Monica Hicks, Matthew V. Hicks, Michael J. Camberos, Daniel Camberos, Christopher Camberos Rapp & husband Brian Rapp, (twin) Rayn A. Stoner & wife Adriana, (twin) Michael D. Stoner, wife Deborah Siler Stoner, Sherry Stoner Decker & husband Kurt Decker, John Stoner Straley, Suzanna Goltz. Great-Grandchildren, Matthew J. Hicks, Cody Stoner, Jazmine M. Stoner, erra Nielsen-Stoner, Tara B. Stoner, Michael P. Stoner, Milena A. Iacisty-Stoner, Stephen W. Decker, Bryana

FD-1610

Grissom's

Cremation & Burial Centers
And Casket Showroom

Family Owned
& Operated Since 1957

Immediate Cremation Including Urn

\$995

(County fees additional)

9130 B Alcosta Blvd. San Ramon 925-560-0800

NAUTILUS SOCIETY

of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

COMPLETE CREMATION SERVICES

Lic. #FD-1432
Visit us online:
www.NautilusCremation.com

Serving Concord, Walnut Creek, Danville, Contra Costa, Martinez, San Ramon, and the entire East Bay since 1981.