

Spring/Summer 2011

Challenges of First 5 Funding

Through the California Children and Families Act, also known as Proposition 10, First 5 California was born. When voters passed this act in 1998, they approved adding a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes sold to create First 5. All 58 counties in California have created their own First 5 Commissions, and are allocated a percentage of the tax revenue based on the birth rate for that county. First 5 California, and every local commission, is dedicated to improving the lives of California's young children, ages 0-5, and their families through a comprehensive system of education, health services, childcare, and other crucial safety net programs. First 5 Sacramento provides critical funding to the Sacramento Children's Home Crisis Nursery Program and Family Resource Centers. Without this funding, it is likely that we would have to either reduce or eliminate portions of these programs.

Governor Brown's original budget proposal planned to use \$1 billion from First 5; \$50 million from the state commission, and \$950 million from the county commissions. This would have a devastating impact on children's services across California and could leave many local families without the support and help they need to keep their children safe, happy and healthy.

On May 16, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown released his May Revise budget proposal. The Revise only added to the confusion surrounding the state

of local First 5 commissions, and the future of Proposition 10 funds. AB 99 was passed in March with a 2/3 vote, which mandated that local First 5 commissions redirect a total of \$950 million from their budgets to the state's general fund to assist in closing the budget gap. Originally, this meant that \$48.5 million would need to be cut from First

release the \$950 million to the state. It is clear that many state lawmakers do not understand that even though the Prop 10 revenues were eliminated from the state budget, county First 5 commissions are still in jeopardy. What this boils down to is \$950 million in First 5 funds are not available to meet local needs, even though the Prop 10 revenues of \$950 million are not being recognized as revenue in the state budget.

Until the courts or the Legislature overturn AB 99, First 5 Sacramento, and every other commission across the state, as well as the critical programs it funds, will remain in limbo.

As it stands, the Crisis Nursery Program will lose 25% of its funding in fiscal years 2013 and 2014. While this seems far off, the cuts represent a total of \$700,000 over those two years.

Right now we need your help. Please help us reach state lawmakers and urge them to repeal AB 99. The May Revise proves it is not necessary to take precious Prop 10 funds away from our community in order to balance the state budget. Continue sharing the work of the Crisis Nursery Program with your friends, families and networks; \$700,000 is a big gap to fill, but with your help it can be done. If you have any questions regarding this funding source or what you can do to help, please contact Chris McCarty at the Children's Home at (916) 452-3981.

Funding provided by:



When you see this logo, you know that First 5 Sacramento has been involved to help young children.

5 Sacramento, the commission providing significant funding to both the Crisis Nursery Program, and our Family Resource Centers.

In an effort to fight back, many county First 5 commissions and boards of supervisors have challenged AB 99 on the basis that it violates fundamental premises of Proposition 10. Among the charges: the bill was enacted by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature rather than a ballot initiative; it uses Prop 10 funds to supplant state General Funds, which is explicitly prohibited by law; and it removes local control over local revenues.

The confusion results from Governor Brown's May Revise eliminating Proposition 10 revenues from the state budget, but continuing required compliance by local commissions through AB 99 to

President's Message

Suzane Henderson, President of the Friends of Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

Before I bid adieu as President of the Board of the Friends of the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries', I want to share a recent experience. In April, the board members prepared a lunch meal for the children at the North Nursery. Nothing fancy, just grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit salad, veggies and dip and cupcakes for dessert. We set the tables with tablecloths and fresh flowers. When the little ones came in from the playground, they washed their hands, then sat down and put napkins in their laps. Each course was served in large bowls for passing so that each child served himself, and then passed the bowl on. During the meal, they were reminded of good table manners, saying "please" and "thank-



you", etc. This might not seem that unusual, but remember, many of these toddlers come to the Nurseries from situations of stress, homelessness and potential abuse. Most rarely sit down to dinner with an intact family. Yet, here they sat like little angels, eating everything on their plates and cheering for joy when the cupcakes were served.



Friends past president, Ruth Fields-Messersmith and current president, Suzane Henderson help to fix lunch for the kids

After lunch, one of the little guys who appeared to be about three years old took me by the hand and said, "You come with me!" I said "OK, but where are we going?" He led me to the carpeted nap area and said "Lie down!" "OK", I said and I lay down on the floor. "Now close your eyes!" he said

authoritatively. I closed my eyes and felt him cover me gently with a blanket. Then I felt him lie down next to me, snuggle up and say, "Night, night" and we both pretended to go to sleep. It was one of the sweetest, most memorable moments I've had. The experience allowed me to see first-hand how comfortable and safe these children feel during their stays at the Nurseries. Whether they are there due to homelessness, potential abuse or because parents are facing health issues, this is a haven where trust, love and laughter abound.

Now, like many of you, I'm hooked for life in my support of this wonderful program. Of course, the program is only as good as the people running it and we applaud the staff of both Nurseries, especially the managers, Barbara Nolan and Suzi Dotson. They can always use help whether it be preparing and serving meals, tending to the infants, doing craft projects or just playing with the darling children.

As I turn over the reins to the capable hands of Marty Opich, I am proud and honored to have served as President during the 15th anniversary of the program. Thanks to the efforts of a stellar Board of Directors, we held three great events that generated significant funds for the Nurseries. They included two Gifting Grandmas Luncheons; the Teddy Bear Tea (a new event that will be repeated in December 2012) and 4-the-Babies, our annual fundraising campaign held in April during Child Abuse Prevention Month. I'd also like to thank the Sacramento First 5 Commission, local businesses and faith groups for ongoing support of our Nurseries. And last, but not least, thank you, members of the Sacramento community. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.

2010-2011 Friends of Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

Board of Directors

President - **Suzane Henderson**
Past President - **Chris Weske**
President Elect - **Martha E. Opich**
Recording Secretary - **Carole Jacoby**
Correspondence Sec. - **Joanne Fletter**
Treasurer - **Cindy Slagle**

Committee Chairs

Community Outreach - **Carol Luery**
Fund Development - **Chris Weske**
Gifting Grandmas - **Diane Cooper**
Membership - **Linda Canfield Scott**
Newsletter - **Stephanie Cripe**

Members at Large

Ruth Fields Messersmith, Molly Harcos,
Robin Miotke, Suzanne Ray



SACRAMENTO
CRISIS
NURSERIES

North Nursery

4533 Pasadena Ave., Sacramento
Phone: 916 **679-3600**

South Nursery

6699 South Land Park Dr., Sacramento
Phone: 916 **394-2000**

www.crisisnurseries.org

To volunteer call

Judy Schefer 916 452-3981



SACRAMENTO
CHILDREN'S HOME

Investing in our children & families since 1867

2750 Sutterville Road
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) **452-3981** • www.kidshome.org

Funding provided by:



Funding for the Crisis Nursery program is provided by the First 5 Sacramento Commission which uses Proposition 10 (tobacco tax) funds to support the healthy development of children ages zero through five. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at www.first5sacramento.net or by calling 916-876-5865.

Manager's Report - North Crisis Nursery

Barbara Nolan, Program Manager of the North Sacramento Crisis Nursery

There have been a lot of exciting things happening at the North Nursery! A wonderful nursery supporter, Ruth Foster, called to ask if she could have a monthly birthday/seasonal party for the children. Ruth has been such a treasure and the children love the parties. Ruth and Russ Foster are having a fundraiser on June 25th at the Dante Club called Function at the Junction. It is going to be a great party with all the proceeds going to the North Nursery and the birthday/seasonal party and special events fund. For more information please contact Ruth at ruth.albers@yahoo.com or call her at 916-213-9984.

Polly, one of our cherished volunteers, has been working with the children and putting in a beautiful garden of fruits and vegetables. I was watching them do the planting and a little girl was planting strawberries. She said, "I have never touched dirt or planted a plant before". What a wonderful experience for her. The Nursery received a grant from the Natural Food Co-op's Sacramento Cooperative Community

Fund for garden tools and a wheelbarrow. I am really excited for their donation so we can get more tools for the children and support Polly and the children's gardening.



The Sacramento Crisis Nursery was chosen to be the featured non-profit at the CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference). I went to several workshops on building natural outside play environments for children. I got really excited about the idea and asked a friend to draw up plans, which were submitted for a grant to the Point West Rotary Club Benevolent Foundation. Tom Slagle, the Foundation Chairman came to tour the Nursery and look at my plans. Shortly thereafter, I received a letter in the mail saying that the Foundation has granted the Nursery money for an outside natural play area and the Club is going to install the outdoor nature area. What a wonderful gift to

all the children who use the Nursery. Thank you Point West Rotary Club. And another thank you goes to our Neighbors "The Mission Oaks North Neighborhood Association" for supporting the North Nursery with a check for \$1000.00.

Kitty O'Neal took a tour of the North Nursery on April 14th. Kitty was so impressed with the Nursery that she mentioned the Crisis Nursery several times during her show that evening. Thank you Kitty, for supporting the Nursery with your voice!

I am so thankful to all the wonderful people, companies and organizations in Sacramento who are so supportive of the Nursery. We could not do the work that we do without your support.

Please call if you would like to tour the Nursery and see some of the changes that are taking place. I look forward to hearing from you.



**Sacramento
Crisis Nurseries**

Manager's Report - South Crisis Nursery

Suzi Dotson, Manager of the South Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

Every day the South Crisis Nursery is a hub of activity as we work hard to provide the nurturing, stable environment the children in our care so desperately need. Since July 2010, we have cared for 1,072 children from 814 families. The need is great, as unfortunately we turn away an average of 50 children per month due to lack of available space. However, the community continues to amaze us with their ongoing generous support.

Just recently:

- We received a grant from the American Academy of Derma-

tologists for permanent shade structures and they have been installed!

- Our staff receives ongoing trainings thanks to generous donations like the National Council of Jewish Women (Sacramento) who donated over \$3,000 for our staff to receive specialized training in working with children who have experienced trauma and neglect.



- We have a beautiful vegetable garden thanks to our partners, Health Education Council, where our children are learning about growing their own healthy food!
- Many groups volunteer here at the Nursery. In the last month we have had Elk Grove Baptist Church, Faith Presbyterian Church and numerous others!
- We often have teens helping us at the Nursery. Alex Mitchell renovated our playhouse recently as part of his Eagle Scout Project.
- Check out pictures on page 4.

Having Fun Serving the Kids



left: Preschoolers gardening with volunteer Polly Caple and preschool teacher Andrea Kelley at the North Nursery.

right: The Friends Board fix lunch for the children at the North Nursery



left: a grant from the American Academy of Dermatologists made permanent shade structures possible at the South Nursery.



above: Robin Miotke presents a check for \$4,000 to Nursery Directors Barbara Nolan and Suzi Dotson on behalf of Los Amigos, an auxiliary of the Sacramento Children's Home.



left: The Folsom Lions Club Baby Shower was a huge success again this year!

Alex Mitchell renovated the South Nursery's playhouse recently as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

right: the playhouse before Alex went to work.

far right: the Playhouse when Alex was finished.



April Showers Fashion Show

The April Showers Fashion Show and Luncheon to benefit the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries on a rainy April 13th was a sensational success! The North Ridge Country Club



Diane Cooper, Lillie Saab, Cindy Slagle, Abby Hewitt

Women, Friends of the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries Gifting Grandmas and their guests were treated to a tasty lunch, the latest spring attire from Chiccos at Pavilions, Chochos at Quail Pointe, and North Ridge Pro Shop; and Crisis Nursery updates from Friends' Board President, Suzane Henderson. The ladies brought numerous shower gifts 4-the-babies from the nurseries' wish list and the event earned over

\$3500 for the Friends' 4-the-babies April fundraising campaign. The room was cleverly decorated with umbrellas overhead, children's brightly colored rain boots, garden tools, terra cotta pots, and garden seeds as centerpieces which were all donated to the nurseries for the children. Each place had a colorfully packaged packet of seeds as a favor and everyone left with hope for May flowers, prosperity for the Crisis Nurseries and a Fashion Show redo for next year. Many thanks go out to Cindy Slagle, Lillie Saab, Diane Cooper, Abby Hewitt, and their committees for

their time and talent and the 150+ ladies who came and supported this event.



The North Ridge Country Club Women, Friends of the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries Gifting Grandmas and their guests were treated to a tasty lunch.



4-the-babies

"As the purse is emptied the heart is filled."
- Victor Hugo

Creativity, energy and determination best describe the good will displayed by those individuals, businesses and community groups that *"thought outside of the crib"* for the 4th annual 4-the-babies campaign by creating a fundraiser to showcase their support of the crisis nurseries.

The nursery is grateful for the generous donation from the Terra Family Foundation that has traditionally put the 4-the-babies fundraiser in motion. The loyal members of the Folsom Lions Club hosted their annual baby shower for the nurseries collecting critically needed items from the nursery wish list. Members of the Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast partied with family and friends at their Fiesta de Mayo with proceeds earmarked for the nursery program. Local businesses like Gatherings, Finderskeepers and Chico's at the Pavilions not only created unique shopping opportunities that benefited the nurseries but educated customers about the importance of the nursery program and the benefit to the community and the families served.

Pushing our donors to new creative heights, thousands of diapers were collected for the nurseries: The Sacramento River Cats sponsored the first "Baseball Babies" diaper drive at a home game against the Tucson Padres; Tony's Fine Foods realized its goal to fill a sausage truck with over 10,000 diapers; one thousand diapers were delivered to the nurseries in response to a Facebook posting by Friend's Board member, Molly Harcos.

This is just a sampling of the generosity and support in our community for this year's campaign. Whether it is a congregation like the Advent Lutheran Church who responded to a presentation on the nurseries with donations of diapers, cash and items from the wish list, or Bernadette Opeka, a sixth grader from Folsom, who raised \$80 to replace worn bedspreads in the nurseries, our donors come in all shapes and sizes with a willingness to empty their purses and give their time in order to fill the heart of the nurseries.

Why We Are Here – Tammy’s Story

So often we hear the stories of children in danger with “not-so-happy-endings.” We forget to celebrate all our successes, such as the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries. As you may know, the Sacramento Children’s Home operates the only Crisis Nursery Program in Sacramento County with two nurseries, one in the north area and the original in the south area.

Families seek support from the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries program for a whole slew of reasons, including seeking treatment for mental health issues,

Youth Supporting the North Nursery

We are lucky & grateful to see so many young people interested in doing community service work at the North Nursery!

- Lauren from Sacramento Country Day is doing a power point presentation at the Nursery for her Senior Project.
- Carly, Mimi, Karly, Caitlyn, Amanda from Saint Francis High School came to the Nursery and played with the children.
- The Rio Americano Interact Club brought in supplies from our Wish List.
- Girl Scout Troop 1524 brought in blankets they had made.
- A UC Davis Law Student had a workday at the Nursery.
- Faith Community Church Youth Group made lunch for the children.
- Saint Michael’s Episcopal School students brought items from our Wish List and made “My Stuff Bags”
- Create Frontiers School sold pickles as a fundraiser for the Nursery. It was so cute to have pennies, nickels, and dimes brought to us in ziplock bags.

Thank you! You all make a big difference in the lives of the children!

homelessness, employment issues, hospitalization, substance abuse... the list goes on. We would like to share with you the story of one mom who had nowhere else to turn, Tammy.

A developmentally disabled mother with a 5-year-old son, Tammy needed the Sacramento Crisis Nursery’s help during a time of transition in her life. She needed overnight care for her son so that she could prepare to move into an assisted living facility. Overwhelmed by the prospect of her move, she felt she could not handle having her son with her while she made this change in their lives. She knew the Crisis Nursery would keep him safe.

The staff and case managers provided comfort and reassurance to her son, explaining that his stay at the Nursery was going to be very short and that soon he would be reunited with his mother. Tammy’s son

stayed at the Nursery for two nights and was extremely happy when his mother came to to pick him up and take him to his new home. Because Tammy knew that her son was being cared for in a safe, loving environment while she made her transition, she was able to focus on what she needed to do in order to provide the very best home for both of them.

In fiscal year 2009-10 the Sacramento Crisis Nursery Program served 2,372 children from 1,567 local families, still having to turn away nearly 60 children each month. The Crisis Nursery Program provides critical safety net services to families in crisis and their children. The program is preventing and reducing cases of child abuse and neglect every day and is keeping children out of CPS and the foster care system, and back together with their families when their crisis has been resolved.

Aren’t We Lucky!

On Saturday, May 21st our very own Ruth Fields-Messersmith was honored by the Junior League of Sacramento at the annual Community Stars Celebration. It is fitting that Ruth’s ongoing passion and commitment for the well-being of children in our community has been duly recognized. Ruth, who never gives up when faced with challenges, has gone to battle for our Nurseries on many occasions and was largely responsible for leading the charge to secure First 5 funding to reopen the South Nursery. She was also instrumental in landing one of our biggest fundraising events: Frank Fat’s 70th Anniversary Celebration. Though she will be leaving our Board this year, we hope to keep her connected as a special consultant and advocate for future projects.

And that’s not all, the Junior League also recognized Linda Scott for her



Linda Canfield and Ruth Fields-Messersmith

ongoing outstanding community voluntarism. Congratulations to both of our Stars. You are very special women and we are proud of your accomplishments, especially your contributions to the Friends and the Nursery Program.

Another Reason to be Thankful

The National Council of Jewish Women Sacramento gave the North Nursery a grant so that Dr. Claude Arnett, a psychiatrist who specializes in child development, could train the staff from the North and South Nurseries on how to more effectively work with children who have suffered from trauma or stress. Dr. Arnett taught us that children come to



Dr. Arnett taught us that children come to the Nursery with a variety of different temperaments.

the Nursery with a variety of different temperaments and how we can recognize each child's temperament. He also taught us how important it is for staff to adapt themselves to each child's temperament, to respect the child's temperament and how to most effectively soothe and guide that child. The staff thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Arnett's training and hope there is more opportunity for training in the future. The staff realized

in the past that we had mostly treated all the children the same when they entered the Nursery. We recognized how valuable it is to look at each child individually and treat them in a manner that best suits their individual temperament for a more secure adjustment.

Thank you NCJWS and Dr. Arnett!!



Be Charitable When You are SHORT ON CASH!!

In the current economy, everyone is looking for ways to cut costs, increase cash flow and still feel like they are supporting the people and causes they care about. Making a planned gift to the Sacramento Children's Home is an attractive alternative for many. There are three options to choose from:

- **A Gift in Your Will**
- **Retirement Plan Assets**
- **Life Insurance Policy**

A gift in your will allows you to decide that you would like to make a gift to the Sacramento Children's Home now, and part with your assets later. Making your bequest a percentage of your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate even with market value fluctuations in the future. A gift of this

kind allows you flexibility, versatility and tax relief.

Retirement plan assets designated to the Sacramento Children's Home allow you to keep your cash AND protect your beneficiaries from taxes later. Normally, up to 35% of the value of your retirement plan assets can be eaten up by income taxes. With a donation to the Sacramento Children's Home, you will have a legacy of supporting your chosen charity instead of the IRS!

Life insurance policies can be charitable assets when the designated beneficiary is the Sacramento Children's Home. They allow you to make the Home a beneficiary of all or a portion of the policy's death benefit when you no longer need it.

Save these Dates!

- **Function at the Junction**
Saturday, June 25
at the Dante Club
Contact: Ruth Foster @ 916-213-9984 or ruth.albers@yahoo.com
Benefits Nursery Birthday Fund
- **Wine Social**
Tuesday, August 2
at Casa Restaurant
Reservations: 916-452-2809
- **VoCALs Return Engagement**
Tuesday, August 9
at Casa Restaurant
Go to: casagardenrestaurant.org
for details & reservations
- **Luxe for Life**
August 13 at Aerospace Museum of California, McClellan Park
Visit www.kidshome.org for information & tickets
- **Los Amigos Fashion Show**
September 24
at Del Paso Country Club
- **Los Amigos Tennis Tournament**
October 8th
at Gold River Racquet Club
- **SCH Golf Classic**
Monday, October 10
at Catta Verdera Golf Club
Information: www.kidshome.org
- **Gifting Grandmas Members' Fall Gathering**
Friday, October 28
at North Ridge Country Club
- **2nd Annual Teddy Bear Tea**
Saturday, December 3
at Del Paso Country Club

It's Time to Renew!

As our fiscal year 2010/2011 draws to an end, please consider renewing your Friends membership using the enclosed remit envelope. It's a perfect way to support the Nurseries!

Sacramento Crisis Nurseries Wish List

We suggest that you clip or copy this wish list and bring it with you when you shop. If you see good deals on wish list items, you can take advantage of them. *Without your generosity the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries could not exist. Thank you!*

Food

- Juice (100%) apple, grape, mixed
- Canned peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple
- Canned green beans, corn, mixed
- Canned chicken, beans, enchilada sauce
- Crackers- whole grain, saltines, graham
- Macaroni, egg noodles, potatoes
- Baby snacks
- Formula – all kinds plus EnfaCare (Enfamil), Enfamil AR, Enfamil Lipil, Prosobee, Gentlease

Household

- Laundry detergent, bleach
- Lysol spray, vinegar
- Garbage bags - 13 & 33 gallon
- Paper towels, roll & tri-fold
- Liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer

Hygiene

- Baby wipes
- Diapers & Pull-ups, sizes 2-6
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste (infant & child)
- Desitin
- Aquaphor Healing Ointment
- Eucerin Moisturizing Cream or Lotion
- Eveeno Baby Body Wash & Shampoo

Crafts

- Construction, tissue & clear contact papers

- Craft sticks, felt, feathers, pom poms
- Paper plates, glue sticks, ice trays
- Tempura paint, food coloring
- Potters Clay

Gift cards

- Costco, Raleys, Winco, or Safeway
- Gas Cards
- Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club

Special Needs

- Books with cassettes
- Shoes & socks (preschool sizes)
- Underwear - boys & girls sizes 2-12
- Shade structure for infant play yard
- Art drying racks
- Doll clothes
- Kitchen set

All Donations are Needed and Appreciated • Thank You!

North Nursery: 4533 Pasadena Avenue • 916 679-3600
South Nursery: 6699 South Land Park Dr. • 916 394-2000

Monday – Friday 8:30-5:00 • Closed Holidays

For safety reasons, stuffed toys and used car seats cannot be accepted.



**Friends of
Sacramento
Crisis Nurseries**

2750 Sutterville Road
Sacramento CA 95820

If you no longer wish to receive *Nurseries News*, or would prefer to have it sent via email, please send your request to: FriendsofSCN@aol.com

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 983
Sacramento CA



**SACRAMENTO
CHILDREN'S HOME**

Investing in our children & families since 1867

The Sacramento Crisis Nurseries is a program of the
Sacramento Children's Home.