



NEWS

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Innovative Stone Soup Child Care Opens New Programs At Four Schools In Central and Southern California

(ENCINO – August 30, 2005) Stone Soup Child Care Programs, an innovative, nonprofit organization providing affordable before and after school care in low-income neighborhoods has four new programs opening at schools in Ripon, Fillmore, Greenfield and Whittier.

The new programs are located in one of California's oldest school districts – Los Nietos School District, founded in 1862 – and one of the newest schools – Mountain Vista Elementary School, the first new elementary school to be built in Fillmore in 50 years and scheduled to open in January 2006. The new Stone Soup programs are opening as follows: Park View Elementary School, 751 Cindy Dr., in Ripon, Aug. 3; Mountain Vista Elementary School, which is temporarily operating at Sespe Elementary School, 425 Orchard St., until the new school building opens; Oak Avenue Elementary School, 1239 Oak Ave., Greenfield, Aug. 24; and Los Nietos Middle School, 11425 E. Rivera Rd., in Whittier, which will open Sept. 7.

“We’re very pleased to be able to offer Stone Soup programs at these new locations,” said Judy G. Brandlin, founder and president of Stone Soup Child Care Programs. “The after-school supervision, assistance with homework, enrichment programs and field trips that Stone Soup provides gives kids and their families the tools and support to help them do well in school and stay safe during the hours their parents are at work.”

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Brandlin noted that at a time when both school districts and families are financially challenged, Stone Soup creates partnerships between parents, schools and the community. The program relies on discounted fees paid by parents, the existing schools available in the district and grants and donations from governmental agencies, foundations, businesses and community members to create a program that is stable and continues to operate even when state school budgets are cutback.

Founded in 1987 to address the lack of affordable child care, Stone Soup provides homework assistance, field trips, sports activities and a diverse array of enrichment programs help children grow in confidence and enhance classroom performance. The program also provides childcare options in low-income neighborhoods where parents must work and have few affordable options for caring for their children after school.

Based in Encino, Stone Soup Child Care Programs is dedicated to assuring high quality, safe, dependable and affordable after-school care for 4,000 children in 82 schools located in low-income communities in Southern and Central California. Additional information about Stone Soup can be found at www.stonesoupchildcare.org.

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