THANK YOU TO OUR 2004-2005 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all those who have supported The Parent-Child Home Program’s national center, as we strive to ensure that all children have the opportunity to enter school ready to learn.

T H A N K  Y O U  T O  O U R  2 0 0 4 - 2 0 0 5  S U P P O R T E R S

In honor of the 40th anniversary

The Parent-Child Home Program began its 40th anniversary celebration in the spring of 2005. A special 40th anniversary newsletter showcased important people, places, books, and toys throughout the history of The Parent-Child Home Program. The 2005 Annual Conference celebrated the creation of the Program. Dr. Phyllis Levenstein, program founder, spoke about the early days, inspiring Coordinators, home visitors, and educators from across the country. The national center also hosted a 40th anniversary reception on the first evening of the conference attended by over 200 Program staff, funders, scholars, educators, and friends.

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Dear Friends:

This has been a year of great celebration and great sorrow. In May 2005, we kicked off The Parent-Child Home Program’s 40th anniversary with a wonderful reception for site staff, friends, and funders during our national conference. Celebrating 40 years of helping parents prepare their children for school, we honored our founder, Dr. Phyllis Levenstein, and our Long Island philanthropists, who were the Parent-Child Home Program National Center’s founding funders. The Hauch Foundation, George and Abby O’Neill, Martha Gerry/The Parish Foundation, The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund, and Nate Berry/The Sandy River Foundation.

It was wonderful to have Dr. Levenstein at the conference and the anniversary celebration. She spoke passionately about the Program, its origins and its philosophy, both at the reception and at a workshop with site coordinators earlier in the day. At the workshop, Dr. Levenstein wowed both coordinators who had trained with her ten and twenty years ago and those who had never had a chance to meet her. She reminded everyone what is at the heart of the Program, concluding, “The goal of the Program is to enhance the wonderful bond between parent and child.” As one coordinator who attended the session noted, “Her infectious enthusiasm, passion and joy for The Parent Child Home Program, and for children and families, was inspiring.

The 40th anniversary of the Program was not the only significant anniversary this year. Our two oldest continuously operating sites, Pittsfield and Newton/Needham/Wellesley celebrated 35 years of home visiting and preparing families for school success. In addition, two sites celebrated 10th anniversaries, and 24 sites celebrated 5th anniversaries.

Our great sorrow was that shortly after celebrating the Program’s 40th anniversary, Dr. Levenstein passed away while visiting her daughter in Rome. We were so fortunate to have been able to mark the 40th anniversary with her presence and to honor her for developing and nurturing this wonderful program. Her loss is felt throughout the Parent-Child Home Program family and the home visiting and early childhood fields.

But the legacy she left us continues to grow. This year we have opened new sites and expanded existing ones. The highlights include:

- Two new sites in New York City;
- A doubling of our funding in Massachusetts;
- Two new sites in Florida;
- A site in Seattle, to be followed by three more the next year; and
- An agreement with the Philadelphia School District to open sites in five neighborhoods across the city.
- A total of 157 sites.

In celebration of 40 years, we also launched a new website, published a brand new 50-page guide to replicating the Program, held our first New York City fundraiser, and published a special 40th anniversary edition of our newsletter which looked back at some of the favorite books and toys that have been in use for 40 years, the history of the Program, and its impact on children, parents, and home visitors.

Most fittingly, in our 40th year, the Parent-Child Home Program elected to its national board of directors our first board member who participated in the Program as a child. Julian Gomez and his mother participated in the Program through the site sponsored by Westminster Jewish Community Services in Westminster. Julian went on to college and law school and is now an associate at a large New York City law firm. We are proud that he has joined our Board.

As we look to the beginning of our fifth decade of service, we are proud of the success of this wonderful program built by Dr. Levenstein, of our growing number of sites, of the families who complete the Program and send their children off to school ready to learn, and of all those Program graduates who have gone on to graduate from high school, college, and beyond.

Sarah E. Walter
Executive Director

Charles L. Butts
President of the Board