

## Harbor Interfaith Services



### **P R E S S   R E L E A S E** **For immediate release -- April 17, 2016**

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### **Harbor Interfaith Opens Children's Center to the Public**

SAN PEDRO, CA: For the first time since the Children's Center opened in 2003, Harbor Interfaith Services will make available five slots to the public. The Center is licensed for 80 children and offers childcare and education to young people ages 6 weeks through the school age years. The Center, located at 670 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro, long-limited its enrollment to children served through Harbor's Family Resource Center, which provides helping services for homeless and working poor families. But now, select-few slots have been opened at market rates for other children in the community.

"There are stigmas attached to the homeless and working poor that we'd like to erase," said Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director of Harbor Interfaith. "A four-year-old from a working poor family is no different than a four-year-old from a middleclass family. They hug you the same, they arrive in clean clothes with brushed teeth, and they learn things just as eagerly as any other child. We want the public to see that; we want the children of Greater San Pedro to realize that we're one community. Recognizing that starts at a young age."

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As a learning framework, the Center uses “Creative Curriculum,” an offspring of the Montessori Method. Montessori developed a curriculum based on her work with poor inner city and developmentally delayed children, putting the child in the driver’s seat of his or her education. Using this method, the teacher assesses the child’s interests, designs activities around them, and uses the discovery approach to propel the child’s education. Creative Curriculum adds to Montessori the deliberate inclusion of all of the senses and a level of instruction that includes story time, field trips, and activities designed around the child’s interests. Nutritional education is woven through the day.

The facility utilizes the entire second floor of Harbor Interfaith’s administrative headquarters and includes three classrooms, a 1,000 volume library, and a 1,500 square foot playground softened by artificial turf. The price per child for full-time care is \$131, and bus transportation is offered from area schools for the afterschool program. School age children receive a snack, tutoring if needed, and earn free time on the playground after their homework is finished.

To enroll a child, contact Bernadette Chase, M. A., Director of Education, at 310-831-0603 x249 or [BChase@HarborInterfaith.org](mailto:BChase@HarborInterfaith.org).

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### **What is Harbor Interfaith Services?**

Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) empowers the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support services including shelter, transitional housing, food, job placement, advocacy, childcare, education, and life-skills training. HIS is a non-profit organization serving the South Bay communities of Los Angeles County including San Pedro, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Lomita, Torrance, Wilmington, and Long Beach.