



January 3, 2007

Dear Mayor Pulido & City Council Members:

KidWorks has been integrally involved with the Townsend and Raitt Street neighborhood since its inception. We recognize the unique challenges of this particular neighborhood which has been plagued by crime, gangs, drugs and neglect.

KidWorks has operated its Los Puentes Learning Center on Townsend Street out of a one bedroom apartment since 1996 and currently experiences a demand for its services at this location which exceeds the space available at the present location.

KidWorks is excited about the possibility of working together with Orange Housing Development Corporation and C&C Development to provide an additional Learning Center facility and foster further opportunities within the Townsend and Raitt Street Neighborhood. We have discussed using an enlarged facility at the 817-821 S. Townsend St. location to house additional space for the Los Puentes Learning Center. In addition to expanding the current facility, it is the developer's plan to redesign the building's courtyard area in a manner which will not only accommodate KidWorks' services, but also provide space in which to integrate additional social service providers to facilitate a long-term change within the entire neighborhood, not just for the benefit of the residents in their apartments.

In addition to providing additional space for our Learning Center, we are eager to see an affordable housing provider begin working within this neighborhood to strengthen families, stabilize the community and set an example for other property owners by providing safe and secure affordable housing. We look forward to partnering with Orange Housing Development Corporation and C&C Development to continue to change and strengthen the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Ava Steaffens
CEO, KidWorks