



**southwest
human
development**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EASTER SEALS SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES STATE'S FIRST
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN**

Half-Million Dollar Grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Helps Fund Center

PHOENIX (March 15, 2011) – Easter Seals Southwest Human Development today announced it opened the Children's Developmental Center, the state's first comprehensive facility serving Arizona children ages birth to five with disabilities and behavioral challenges. A three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will help support the Center.

"Every child and family is unique and deserves a one-of-a-kind plan for coordinated disabilities support," said Ginger Ward, CEO, Easter Seals Southwest Human Development. "Our 'One Child, One Family, One Team' approach is a blended health, developmental and mental health model, and is the first-of-its-kind Arizona."

The critical need for establishing coordinated care as the standard is widely accepted and has been made a top priority of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Unfortunately, due to the challenges and costs involved with true coordinated care, it is largely unavailable in Arizona, especially for children with disabilities. The Children's Developmental Center's goal is to wrap services around the child and family by offering:

- Comprehensive developmental assessments
- A feeding program for infants and young children
- Autism services
- Occupational, physical and speech therapy
- Psychology and counseling services
- Assistive technology services.

Terrence Matteo, Ph.D., will serve as the Director of the Children's Developmental Center and will serve alongside Trudi Norman-Murch Ph.D., CCC-SLP, as Co-Director of Services for Children with Disabilities. Doctor Matteo will lead a group of specialists in providing integrated, coordinated care. The Children's Developmental Center is located at 2850 N. 24th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

About Easter Seals Southwest Human Development

Founded in 1981 as a non-profit organization, Southwest Human Development provides comprehensive services for young children and their families in several areas: disabilities, early literacy, child health and welfare, Head Start and professional training. Now serving 135,000 children and families each year, Southwest Human Development is the state's largest community-based organization of its type. In 2007, Southwest Human Development became the official Phoenix-area affiliate of Easter Seals. Easter Seals Southwest Human Development provides services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. In addition, CEO Ginger Ward was recently named one of the Valley's top 25 CEOs for 2010 by the *Phoenix Business Journal*. For more information on the non-profit's many services or donation and volunteer opportunities, visit www.swhd.org.

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