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**SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AWARDED \$480,000 IN GRANTS TO ENHANCE
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Nonprofit Receives Statewide Support to Offer Services to More Arizona Families

PHOENIX (Dec. 23, 2010) – Arizona organizations and community groups are recognizing the importance of the work being performed by Southwest Human Development as evidenced by grants totaling more than \$480,000. These grants will help provide increased access to early childhood development programs for the more than 135,000 children and families Southwest Human Development serves in Arizona.

“We have a track record of showing a measurable impact as a result of the programs we operate,” said Ginger Ward, founder and CEO of Southwest Human Development. “These organizations have entrusted us with their support to continue our work in enhancing early childhood development.”

Southwest Human Development’s Assistive Technology program received a substantial \$100,000 grant from Humana, allowing for resources and technology to increase communication, learning and developmental opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Gila River Indian Community also awarded a \$150,000 grant to support early childhood services including child abuse prevention, early literacy programs and the Feeding Program for Infants and Young Children.

Additional community funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$78,000 was also received by organizations such as The Board of Visitors, and the Steele Foundation. This funding will help support programs such as the Birth to Five Helpline and Fussy Baby program, Feeding Program for Infants and Young Children, and Reach Out and Read.

For more information on Southwest Human Development and its early childhood and family support services, visit www.swhd.org.

About Southwest Human Development

Founded in 1981 as a nonprofit organization, Southwest Human Development provides comprehensive services for young children ages birth to five 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 Easter Seals affiliate for central and northern Arizona. Easter Seals Southwest Human Development provides services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. For more information, visit www.swhd.org.

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