



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDER AND CEO ELECTED TO ESTEEMED ZERO TO THREE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PHOENIX (May 25, 2011)** – Ginger Ward, Founder and CEO of Southwest Human Development has been elected to the Board of Directors for ZERO TO THREE, a national non-profit organization that informs, trains and supports professionals, policymakers and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Ward was selected due to her leadership and experience with Southwest Human Development – an Arizona-based non-profit serving more than 135,000 local families and children per year with comprehensive and innovative early childhood services.

“I am delighted Ginger Ward has been elected to ZERO TO THREE’s prestigious Board of Directors,” said Matthew E. Melmed, Executive Director of ZERO TO THREE. “We have much to gain from Ginger’s extensive experience in managing one of the nation’s leading early childhood development organizations providing services to very young children in Arizona. Ginger will play an integral role in helping ZERO TO THREE advance its mission of promoting the health and development of our nation’s infants and toddlers.”

Drawing on the full breadth of intellectual resources across the country, ZERO TO THREE’s board includes members from some of the nation’s best known and most respected universities, hospitals and research institutes. The organization operates the National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative, Coming Together to Support Military Families program and hosts the annual National Training Institute for professionals in early childhood development. The organization also supports the Early Head Start National Research Center. ZERO TO THREE is the nation’s leading authority on early childhood development, and its board consists of the brightest minds in neuroscience, research and clinical experience relating to infants and toddlers.

Under Ward’s direction, Southwest Human Development is a critically acclaimed leader for services in the early childhood fields of education, mental health, family support, disabilities services and training. Ward also sits on a variety of boards and committees charged with forming policy on, and improving services for, children and families. Her current community involvement includes: the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers; the Arizona State Department of Economic Security Child Care Advisory Committee; the Health Advisory Committee of Children’s Action Alliance; the Healthy Families Steering Committee; the Reach Out and Read Advisory Committee; the First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Council; and community advisor to the Junior League.

### **About 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](http://www.swhd.org).

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