

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Episcopal Community Services Appoints New Director of Head Start and Early Head Start

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (November 20, 2009) – Episcopal Community Services is pleased to welcome Ms. Elizabeth “Buffie” Boyer as ECS Director of Head Start and Early Head Start.

Ms. Boyer offers extensive experience within the Head Start program, having served twelve years as Head Start Manager for the Sacramento Employment & Training Agency, followed by her role as Associate Vice President of Neighborhood House Association in San Diego. Since May 2009, Ms. Boyer has acted as Interim Head Start Director at Episcopal Community Services.

“Episcopal Community Services and its Head Start program will benefit greatly from Ms. Boyer’s expertise and leadership,” announced Executive Director Lesslie Keller. “During her tenure as Interim Head Start Director, she served a critical leadership role during the preparation for and successful completion of our triennial federal review. I am excited about her vision to further shape ECS Head Start and Early Head Start into one of our community’s most innovative child development resources.”

Among her responsibilities Ms. Boyer will oversee the management, monitoring and contract compliance of the Head Start program. Her duties will include overall development, planning, operation, direction and evaluation of all components of the program, as well as fostering community support, volunteer recruitment and ensuring budget compliance.

Episcopal Community Services is a delegate agency of Neighborhood House Association and operates 17 Head Start centers, providing services to 1,795 children and their families. Head Start is the largest ECS program, employing 250 staff members and operating with a \$14 million budget.

Ms. Boyer holds a Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis in Teaching and advanced coursework in Business Management and Labor Relations from the University of California at Davis. She also received an Associate of Science in Math and Science with highest honors.

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Episcopal Community Services was founded in 1927 to provide chaplaincy and social services to people confined to hospitals and public institutions. Today, Episcopal Community Services continues to respond to the increasing social services needs of the community and is currently responsible for providing over \$19 million of services in the areas of homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, mental health, children and family services and substance abuse. For more information about ECS please call (619) 228-2800 or visit www.ecscalifornia.org.

ECS Head Start is a comprehensive child development program serving children from birth to age 5, pregnant women and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Program benefits include a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; and parent involvement.

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