



# HEAD START of Greater Dallas, Inc.

3954 Gannon Lane Dallas, TX 75243

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2008

Media Contact: Rob Massonneau: Cell: 214.707.1516/Off: 972.283.6472

TO: All City Editors, Assignment Editors, Education Reporters

**RE: NEW PRESCHOOL IN FRAZIER COURTS BRINGS BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR KIDS AND COMMUNITY**

**Who:** Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) and Head Start of Greater Dallas (HSGD). Key Speakers include Ann Lott, DHA President, Brett Kirstein, HSGD Board President and Wanda J. Smith, HSGD CEO. A two-year old Early Head Start student will give greetings and a four-year old Head Start student will read for the guests. Tours of the center will follow.

**What:** A special ceremony celebrating the newly built early childhood development center located in Frazier Courts, one of Dallas' most historically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

**When:** Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** 2919 Troy St., at the corner of Troy and Hatcher, Dallas, 75210.

**Why:** Since 1990, the Margaret H. Cone Center has been the hidden gem of Frazier Courts – but not anymore, thanks to the DHA who built a new center that looks as good as it works. The Margaret H. Cone Head Start Center is a nationally recognized model preschool program, the product of a 17-year partnership between HSGD, Texas Instruments and Southern Methodist University. Research conducted at the center demonstrated that even children from the most challenged environments can look forward to success in school if they attend a preschool program with the right elements. The program outgrew the original center and DHA constructed the new facility. The Margaret Cone Center is part of a major revitalization of the entire Frazier Courts neighborhood, which includes \$60 million of new homes, town houses, apartments and neighborhood amenities.

**The media are invited to tour the new center and see a sampling of the Head Start difference.**

HSGD has improved the government-based program to better reflect the needs of the city and its children by providing parent training classes, a strong educational curriculum, and a comprehensive program entirely free for qualifying families. How do we do it? Speak with Head Start parents, staff, directors and community partners from Texas Instruments and Southern Methodist University who were involved in the ground breaking model programs from day one. Then visit with the children who are directly impacted by this school and the community behind it.

Background: Head Start of Greater Dallas is a non-profit organization in Dallas that provides children with the foundation of skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and life and fosters self-reliant families and communities. The agency currently serves 4,259 children at 37 full-day centers located throughout low-income communities in Dallas County. ([www.hsgd.org](http://www.hsgd.org))

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