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December 14, 2010

MEDIA ALERT

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For Immediate Release

Home Start Announces Major Funding from Sempra Energy Foundation

San Diego, CA – Home Start is pleased to announce major funding of \$7,000 has been granted by Sempra Energy Foundation for the Maternity Shelter Program (MSP). For over 38 years Home Start has been a key provider in San Diego County of home and center-based services addressing child abuse prevention within the context of healthy family relationships and good parenting. Sempra Energy Foundation's representative Eleanor Tamayo presented Home Start CEO Laura Mustari with the generous check.

"We are so thankful for our new partnership with Sempra Energy Foundation and their commitment to these vulnerable and deserving families in our community. Sempra is a role model for the entire business community." said Home Start Chief Executive Officer, Laura A. Mustari, LCSW, "Especially in these challenging economic times, we are extremely grateful for their support".

The Maternity Shelter Program expands the capacity within the San Diego region to prevent homelessness among under-served young women and their children by offering supervised housing in an urban region that suffers from an extreme lack of affordable housing for low-income renters. Without Home Start's support, these young women and children are at increased risk of developing physical or emotional health and safety problems including those related to substance abuse, child maltreatment, domestic violence, and becoming chronically dependent on the social service system. Home Start's educational programs help to give these young women the tools they need to rise above these risks.



Founded in 1972, Home Start, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit agency that provides services to children from low income families who require immediate, comprehensive solutions to ensure their safety and healthy development. Our mission is dedicated to child abuse prevention and family strengthening services. Today, Home Start reaches at-risk children right where it counts -- in the home, and then extends the helping hand to schools and the community. Some of our programs include: **Family Support Services** - Parents are taught accurate expectations of their children, how to interact with them and use positive, appropriate discipline. As a result, families are less isolated, more nurturing and cohesive. Parents are strengthened and are better able to protect their children in the future. **Therapeutic Counseling Services** are provided in the home or at our counseling centers. Services are provided on a sliding-fee scale or through the Victim Compensation Fund. **Family Self-Sufficiency Services** provide a "hand-up" rather than a handout by stabilizing families in crisis. Families are helped to move from welfare-to-work, many for the first time in their lives.

For more information about Home Start and our programs please visit us online at
www.home-start.org or call (619) 692-0727 ext. 144

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