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MEDIA ALERT

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Home Start Wins Grant to Create Jobs with Sustainable Wages**

### **The San Diego Women's Foundation Welcomes Home Start as 2009 Community Partner**

San Diego – May 20, 2009 – Home Start is pleased to announce that it has received a \$65,000 grant from the San Diego Women's Foundation (SDWF) and becomes one of their 2009 Community Partners. The Home Start grant will be used to fund a program called (H-SEED) Home Start Economic Employment Development that will provide a link for people with low to no incomes towards a career in accounting, business and/or tax preparation through intensive training, internship and career development. Home Start has formed a unique collaboration with San Diego City College, IRS (Internal Revenue Service), San Diego EITC Coalition and Jobing.com, with the goal of participants obtaining their California Tax Education Council (CTEC) license, resulting in employment with a sustainable wage greater than \$14 an hour.

“We were so impressed and touched by the work that is being done by Home Start and feel privileged to help them expand those efforts,” said SDWF President, Carol Chang. “We reviewed the work of so many worthwhile organizations and Home Start made a profound impression on us.”

Home Start CEO, Laura Mustari, said “We are so very grateful to the San Diego Women's Foundation. This grant will change the lives of many deserving people, giving them the education, training and skills development leading to careers that will enable them to support themselves and their families.”

Home Start will be recognized at the SDWF Grants Celebration on June 2nd at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall at 5775 Morehouse Drive, Sorrento Valley where members and guests will hear about this year's recipients as well as the ongoing work of previous grantees. Other 2009 Community Partners include Alliance for African Assistance, East County Economic Development Council Foundation, and International Rescue Committee. For more information about the event, contact Tracy Johnson at (619) 814-1374.

#### **About the San Diego Women's Foundation**

The San Diego Women's Foundation was established in 2000. SDWF's mission is to educate and inspire women to engage in significant and sustainable philanthropy to strengthen the San Diego region. Made up of 240 members who contribute \$2000 each year for a minimum of 5 years, the SDWF has granted \$1.74 million to 49 non-profit community partners since its inception and created an endowment of \$1.3 million. For more information, please visit [www.sdwomensfoundation.org](http://www.sdwomensfoundation.org) or call (619) 235-2300.

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#### **About Home Start**

Home Start was founded in 1972 with the mission "to promote the safety and nurturance of children by fostering healthy families and communities". Since then, Home Start has become a key provider of home and center-based services addressing child abuse prevention within the context of healthy family relationships and good parenting. Last year, Home Start served more than 19,000 individuals and reaches out to isolated, over-burdened families who cannot access counseling and supportive services because of such barriers as extreme poverty, mental or physical health issues, domestic violence, language or cultural barriers, homelessness, inflexible work schedules, and lack of transportation or child care. Home Start currently offers evidence-based parenting skills training, mentoring, mental health counseling, budgeting/financial literacy, children's health insurance application assistance, nutrition and health education, youth development, links to job training resources, and other case management services.

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

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