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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kids Hope United unveils new child development center *Alderman James Balcer attends*

CHICAGO (March 5, 2008)—Bridgeport Child Development Center II, a program of Kids Hope United, held a special ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Feb. 28. Alderman James Balcer and others were on hand to welcome the center into the community.

The new child care program is the organization's second child development center in the Bridgeport community and will serve 56 children ages 2 – 5 years in three classrooms. The center is located within Kids Hope United's Annie Jo Dawson Service Center, 514 W. 31st St., in Chicago.

"I can't stress how important education is," said Ald. Balcer at the grand opening. "Learning begins at the earliest stages of life and I commend everyone here at the school."

Grace Didicher, who attended the original Bridgeport Child Development Center in the 1980s and enrolled her son into the new center, said, "We need more places like this making a difference in the community one child at a time."

The event featured facility tours; hands-on, child friendly activities; networking opportunities; and refreshments and snacks.

One of six child development centers operated by Kids Hope United, Bridgeport Child Development Center II provides affordable, high-quality child care that encourages the social, emotional, intellectual and moral development of children. It also offers a unique learn-by-doing approach.

The center offers child care and Head Start programs. It uses a sliding scale fee based on income and family size. Subsidized tuition is available to qualifying families through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more information, contact the center at 312.949.4015.



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About Kids Hope United

Kids Hope United is a private human service organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. Kids Hope United offers a diverse array of prevention, intervention and community-based programs. Kids Hope United also specializes in child welfare system management, reform, consultation and training. With principal offices in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida, Kids Hope United serves more than 15,000 children and their families across the country each year. For more information, visit www.kidshopeunited.org.

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