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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Kids Hope United celebrates the Week of the Young Child** *Special events running from April 14 – 18*



*Children from Bridgeport Child Development Center hold a parade around the neighborhood in honor of Week of the Young Child.*

**CHICAGO (April 16, 2008)**—Bridgeport Child Development Center, a program of Kids Hope United, is holding several special events to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, which runs April 14 – 18.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of more than 300 local, state and regional affiliates.

“The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to increase awareness of the importance of early childhood education as well as honor all those teachers and organizations that make such a positive difference in children’s lives,” said Tameki Warner, child development center director.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth – age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life.

Other events this week at Bridgeport Child Development Center include Sock Hop Day; an ice cream social for parents and children; Leaders and Heroes Day, when a local police officer will talk to children about “stranger danger;” and Bridgeport Star Day, where each class will perform a song or poem.

Bridgeport Child Development Center is located at 3053 S. Normal Ave. in Chicago. Kids Hope United operates six child development centers in northern Illinois serving more than 1,000 children.

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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](http://www.kidshopeunited.org).

