

## Child Care Resourcesâ€“COCAAN Completes Certification Program

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

Agency successfully submitted the required action items from the Quality Assurance Application Summary Report

Redmond, Oregon - Lisa Vasquez, Program Coordinator for Child Care Resources, announced today that it had successfully completed Child Care AwareÂ® Quality Assurance- a national voluntary certification program.

The Child Care Aware Quality Assurance system is designed to ensure that families across the country have access to consistent, high quality services that support them in making informed child care choices.

Flor Philips, Child Care Awareâ€™s Manager, explained, â€œThe child care market is a complicated one to navigate. Families want to know what good child care looks like and how to pay for it.â€• â€œLocal child care resource and referral (CCR&R) services provide families with expert help.â€• â€œChild Care Resources has met national practices for service delivery, and is the best resource for information on local child care availability, licensing laws, quality indicators, scholarships and subsidies, and other parenting resources.â€•

â€œChild Care Resources is very proud and excited to have achieved Quality Assurance for our child care resource and referral services,â€• stated Lisa Vasquez, Program Coordinator. â€œWe have always strived to provide excellent child care consumer education services-having a national seal of approval proves we are succeeding.â€•

Child Care Resources was the first of 17 Resource and Referral programs to achieve Quality Assurance in the state of Oregon. Douglas County is currently in their renewal process as they were a pilot in 2002. Currently there are 200 programs in the nation that are quality assured or in the process of becoming validated. Our validation status will remain active until November 30, 2008.

In addition to helping families find child care and other parenting resources, Child Care Resources also provides technical assistance to child care providers and employers on quality child care, business and marketing and tax credits. They currently house a database with just under 460 providers in Central Oregon.

Child Care Aware is an initiative of NACCRRRA, the nation's network of child care resource and referral. You can reach Child Care Resources at 548-2380 x113 for Parents or x118 for Providers or x 119 for employers.

COCAAN seeks to change the course of each family's future by giving them the tools they need to succeed. COCAAN's tool box includes Head Start, weatherization, home repair, energy and rent assistance, financial skills building, savings programs, assisting parents to find child care, tutoring homeless children, providing emergency and transitional housing to homeless families, home buyer education and feeding the hungry.

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