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News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2005

**SENIORS 4 KIDS SEEKS VOLUNTEER S
TO HELP PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN
NEXT ORIENTATION MEETING JUNE 22**

Nobody loves kids exactly like grammas and grandpas do, and that dynamic is put to use to the best advantage of both age groups at Grossmont College.

The program is called “Seniors for Kids,” and it brings together volunteer seniors with kids in the college day-care program and at nine other sites in San Diego and East San Diego County. The next opportunity for seniors to learn more is Wednesday, June 22. Additional orientation sessions are scheduled during the coming months.

Professor Lorraine Martin of the Grossmont College Child Development Center is the project director. To learn more, contact Martin at 619-644-7398.

The program’s goal is to let seniors of 55 and over become mentors for kids five and under. The mentors work to promote literacy and school readiness, and to work with children with disabilities, children traumatized by domestic violence, and children from international cultures.

Some of these contacts require special skills, which Martin teaches in 12 hours of orientation. Volunteers are taught about issues such as the qualities and expectations of a senior mentor, stages of child development, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse.

The program sponsors monthly support group meetings on the Grossmont College campus. According to Martin, many of the volunteers are former teachers.

From there, they work to fulfill the program's motto, which is, "When over 55 meets under 5, there are high fives all around. Volunteers are asked to commit at least seven and one-half hours per week or 30 hours per month. They receive a stipend of \$225 every two months and chose their work schedules and the site where they will work.

According to Grossmont College President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., "It is a privilege for Grossmont College to host this helpful and innovative program to enrich the lives of children in our local child care centers. I also wish to commend our Grossmont College Child Development faculty leaders who are always thinking ahead of the curve."

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