



News Release

For Immediate Release

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S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION GRANTS \$75,000 TO URBAN EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PARTNERSHIP'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

Program Addresses Barriers to Learning For Children from Low-Income Families By Educating Children and their Parents In Child Development, Home Safety and Child Health

LOS ANGELES (February XX, 2006)—The Urban Education Partnership (the Partnership) today announced that the S. Mark Taper Foundation has awarded the Partnership a \$75,000 grant for the organization's health initiative program, according to **Peggy Funkhouser**, the Partnership's Interim President and CEO. The grant will reinvigorate the Partnership's health program by allowing the organization to hire new health promoters, train them in substantive areas of health, child development and health insurance enrollment, and monitor and support their work in the community.

"The S. Mark Taper Foundation's grant not only is important to the Partnership's health initiative, it also enables us for the first time to add the highly-respected S. Mark Taper Foundation name to our list of funders," said Ms. Funkhouser.

Using a collaborative model to further school readiness, the Partnership's health program mobilizes health promoters to serve families in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles in support of the Partnership's School Readiness Initiative and Healthy Start programs in those communities. Program services include healthcare workshops, health insurance outreach and enrollment, wellness information and childcare.

"The S. Mark Taper Foundation is pleased to support the Partnership's comprehensive approach to strengthening families and improving children's opportunities to achieve academic success," said **Raymond F. Reisler**, Executive Director of the S. Mark Taper Foundation.

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The grant will enable the Partnership to increase the availability of health insurance enrollment and health workshops to families in its target communities. Workshops are scheduled at elementary schools within the San Fernando 91342 and 91331 zip codes and South Los Angeles 90001 and 90003 zip codes.

Workshop calendars for this academic year are being finalized with parent centers at schools in these locations.

“The S. Mark Taper Foundation’s grant helps us equip low-income families with the tools they need to provide a healthy foundation from which their children can learn and grow,” said Ellen Pais, Executive Director of the Connected Communities division of the Partnership.

The School Readiness program provides participating families with weekly home visits, case management, screening of children ages 0 – 5 for developmental delays, and parent workshops focused on strengthening family support systems that further student academic success. Collaborative partners bring other supportive services including English as a Second Language, financial planning and vocational training, and literacy workshops. Health promoters support school readiness communities with targeted workshops, insurance enrollment and pre-school equivalent child-care, and are culturally trusted and linguistically appropriate members of the participating families’ local community.

In 2004-2005, 127 families participated in the weekly home visitation program, 57 families received intensive case management services, and a total of 906 home visitations, case management and workshop activities were conducted. According to the developmental assessment administered at the beginning and end of the home visitation year, 30% of the children entered developmentally behind. Almost 100% of the children met or exceeded their age appropriate developmental level by the program graduation.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people’s lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

Founded in 1984 as the Los Angeles Educational Partnership, the Urban Education Partnership became one of the first education improvement organizations in Los Angeles. The Partnership’s mission is to help students in high-need schools improve their academic achievement by partnering with educators, parents and the community. Each year, the Partnership serves more than 2,500 educators and 75,000 students from pre-kindergarten through high school in high-poverty, multicultural communities. For more information, visit www.urbanedpartnership.org.