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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OCALA WOMAN RECEIVES NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 11, 2009)**- The National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) announced Linda Foy as this year's recipient of the Sandra Skolnik Public Policy Leadership Award. The award distinguishes the accomplishments of one outstanding individual who contributes to realizing NACCRRA's vision of a nation that supports the development and learning of all children by leading efforts to improve public policy. Foy, who is the CEO of Childhood Development Services in Ocala, received the prestigious award March 11 at NACCRRA's National Policy Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Throughout her 40-year career, Foy has embodied the qualities of effective public policy leadership. Among her recent achievements, Foy transformed a child care resource and referral agency from a struggling organization serving five counties in central Florida to a highly functioning accredited agency offering families a variety of needs in 44 counties throughout the state. She changed the high-risk Head Start program administered by her agency to a program of distinction and ultimately a program of excellence. In addition, Foy addressed a lack of resources in her community for foster children and started the Genesis House, a shelter for at-risk youth. She also learned that children in child care centers and schools were going hungry on the weekends and began a program whereby nonperishable nutritious food items are donated and distributed in back packs to children each Friday to last throughout the weekend.

"Linda is most deserving of this recognition and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of others through her public policy efforts as well as her personal commitment for change," said Phyllis Kalifeh, president and CEO of the Children's Forum who nominated Foy for the award. "Her passion and advocacy for early care and education is unbridled; the kind that our friend Sandy Skolnik embodied and would be proud to bestow."

The Sandra J. Skolnik Public Policy Leadership Award was established in 2008 to honor the life and work of Sandra J. Skolnik. Skolnik was a recognized leader at local, state, and national levels and was a passionate visionary and a dedicated advocate for quality child care and education for young children.

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