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MetroAction Awards Grants to Improve Area Childcare

SCRANTON, PA, December 12, 2006— MetroAction, Inc. awarded five micro-grants totaling \$2,500 to improve the quality of childcare in northeastern Pennsylvania. Children’s Palace, Hallstead, Angela’s Child Development, Stroudsburg, Precious Ones Daycare, Greenfield Township, Little People Daycare School, Scranton and Endless Mountains Learning Center, New Milford received the grant awards through the MetroAction Childcare MicroGrant Program. MetroAction’s MicroGrant program, funded by Opportunity Finance Network, Philadelphia, aims to increase the supply of quality, affordable childcare available to northeastern Pennsylvania.

All of the awardees will be using the funds to improve their organizations. Lynette Ryman of Children’s Palace will create a science center, Angela Bayer of Angela’s Child Development will be adding an educational program on special needs and multi-cultural awareness, and Laura White of Precious Ones Daycare will be developing a hands-on learning center for school aged children. Also, Deborah Callahan of Little People Daycare School will be improving her infant care area and Christina Whitney of Endless Mountains Learning Center will be adding a library area to her center.

MetroAction, Inc., the community development arm of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, provides financing, training and development services to support start-up and expanding small businesses in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties. MetroAction has provided more than \$2 million in financing to small businesses throughout the region, including childcare providers.

“Since our inception, MetroAction has made its primary goal to be the continued success of small, locally owned businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania,” states MetroAction’s chair, Philip Condron. He elaborates, “Through a variety of programs and services, including our Childcare MicroGrant program, we are able to assist small business owners in keeping their doors open and continuing the entrepreneurial spirit that our region is known for.”

For more information on MetroAction’s programs and services, please contact Christina Hitchcock at 570.342.7711 or visit MetroAction’s web site at www.MetroAction.org.

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PHOTO ID: From left: Austin J. Burke, the Chamber, Laura White, Precious Ones Daycare, Lynette Ryman, Children’s Palace, Angela Bayer, Angela’s Child Development, Dr. Duncan Perry, The University of Scranton, and Deborah Callahan, Little People Day Care School.