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No Photo Enclosed

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MetroAction Awards Micro-Grants to Improve Area Childcare

SCRANTON, PA, July 6, 2007— MetroAction, Inc. awarded five Micro-Grants totaling \$2,500 to improve the quality of childcare in northeastern Pennsylvania. MetroAction's Micro-Grant program, funded by Opportunity Finance Network, Philadelphia, aims to increase the supply of quality, affordable childcare available to northeastern Pennsylvania.

The recipients of these grants are Freckles and Frills, Keystone College Oppenheim Family Children's Center, Tiny Treasures, Tobyhanna Kids, and Watson's Day Care. The centers will use their funds in the following manner:

- Freckles and Frills, located in Scranton, will bridge the language gap for second language preschoolers.
- Keystone College Oppenheim Family Children's Center, located in La Plume, will promote language and literacy opportunities for 3-5 year old children by creating a read-along listening center.
- Tiny Treasures, located in Mayfield, will improve their personal care routines with their infant and toddler age children by purchasing a portable sink and changing table.
- Tobyhanna Kids Day Care, located in Tobyhanna, will expand their selection of manipulatives in their toddler and preschool programs.
- Watson's Day Care, located in Pleasant Mount, will purchase play area equipment to improve learning through play.

MetroAction, Inc., the community development arm of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, is a non-profit community development organization that provides financing and training to small businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania. MetroAction serves entrepreneurs in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties who may not be able to obtain financing at traditional lending institutions. Entrepreneurs can obtain up to \$50,000 for working capital, equipment and machinery purchases or leasehold

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improvements. To date, MetroAction has helped 162 small businesses obtain over \$2.3 million, 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,” stated MetroAction’s president, Philip Condron. He elaborates, “Through a variety of programs and services, including our Childcare Micro-Grant 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 contact Desiree Ranella at 570.342.7711 or at dranella@metroaction.org. For more information on MetroAction’s programs visit www.MetroAction.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION (from left):

Micro-Grant winners: Patricia Watson, Watson's Day Care, Eleanore Shields, Freckles and Frills, Danielle Wallace, Tiny Treasures, and Carol Davis, Keystone College Oppenheim Family Childcare Center. Absent were representatives from Tobyhanna Kids.