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MetroAction Awards Grants to Improve Local Childcare

SCRANTON, PA, November 8, 2007— MetroAction, Inc., the community development arm of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce 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 in Philadelphia, aims to increase the supply of quality, affordable childcare available to northeastern Pennsylvania.

The recipients of the Micro-Grants are Little People Daycare School-West in Scranton, Stepping Stones Play and Learning Center in Gouldsboro, The Ann Street School in Milford, The Sutton Playhouse in Scranton, and United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA-Bellevue Center in Scranton.

As part of MetroAction's initiative to improve the quality of affordable childcare in northeastern Pennsylvania, MetroAction awards five \$500 "Micro-Grants" to childcare providers in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties. The Micro-Grants can be used for projects that will improve the quality of childcare.

"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."

All of the awardees will be using the funds to improve their organizations. Little People Daycare School-West will use the grant to purchase "The Creative Curriculum" for infants and toddlers. Stepping Stones Play and Learning Center will use their grant to enhance their relationship with the children's parents and families by providing non-traditional supplemental activities such as field trips. The Ann Street School is going to use their grant to purchase age-appropriate portable gross motor equipment to enhance their physical education curriculum. The Sutton Playhouse is going to purchase "The Creative Curriculum" to assist in focusing on the individual needs of each child. And United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA-Bellevue Center is

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planning on establishing and maintaining a program focusing on teaching children about Science.

Along with winning a \$500 grant, all five winners will receive a free year's subscription to Highlights High Five magazine compliments of Highlights Magazine.

MetroAction, Inc., 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 helped 168 entrepreneurs including childcare providers obtain more than \$2.5 million in financing. For more information on MetroAction's programs visit www.MetroAction.org.

In May of 2008, MetroAction, Inc. will be awarding another \$2,500 in grants to Childcare Providers through the Opportunity Finance Network.

For more information on MetroAction's programs and services, please contact Desiree Ranella at 570.342.7711 or dranella@scrantonchamber.com. More information is also available at www.MetroAction.org.

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