



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Preschool for ALL Commends Senator Hutchison For Her Role In Preschool Expansion Effort**

Houston, Texas (January 12, 2004) – Today Rob Mosbacher, Chairman of Preschool for ALL recognized Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison for the instrumental role she played in helping Houston secure over \$395,000 in funding from the Department of Education over 2003 and 2004. The grant supports Preschool for ALL’s efforts to increase the quality of preschool programs in the greater Houston region.

During the event, which was held at the YMCA Child Care Center at the Texas Medical Center, Rob Mosbacher provided an update on Preschool for ALL’s progress in organizing the various sectors of the community into a strong force for positive change to improve the awareness of and access to quality preschool education. Mr. Mosbacher stated, “Preschool for ALL has the potential of reshaping the future of Houston. A solid preschool education is important to our children and their families, it’s important to our current and our future workforce, and it’s important to the future success of Houston. We are grateful to the volunteers who have been involved with Preschool for ALL, and hope to involve many more community leaders in the coming year.”

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison addressed the importance of early childhood education and toured a preschool classroom with 3- and 4-year-old children participating in center-based activity areas. During her remarks, Senator Hutchison noted, “I was pleased to help secure the funds for Preschool for ALL’s efforts because I believe that the foundation of a successful life is a quality education, starting right from the beginning. Through Preschool for ALL and the other efforts across the state, I hope Texas will become a national leader so that it’s possible for all children, regardless of income, to benefit from a high quality preschool program.”

Preschool for ALL, a partnership between the Center for Houston’s Future and the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children, is working to expand voluntary access to quality preschool programs to all three-and four-year-old children in the Greater Houston area. Preschool for ALL works with local school districts, Head Start and child care providers to

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expand partnerships between these entities and more efficiently utilize resources among these three preschool systems.

Scientific research documents the enormous capacity of 3- and 4-year-old children to learn and develop. If this capacity is not appropriately stimulated during these years, children miss a crucial opportunity to prepare for success in school and in life. A quality preschool program can help children develop reading, writing and math foundations, as well as social skills that prepare them for success in school and in life.

The funding from the grant is being used by Preschool for ALL to help develop a quality rating system to provide parents with valuable and easily accessible information on the quality of programs that they may consider for their children. Another key aspect of the Preschool for ALL effort is to identify the most promising opportunities for collaboration among the three systems of early care and education. The three systems include public Prekindergarten, Head Start and licensed child care. Developing mutually beneficial partnerships will maximize the use of existing financial resources and facilities and professional development opportunities in order to expand access to quality preschool education.

For more information about Preschool for ALL, please visit [www.preschoolforall.org](http://www.preschoolforall.org) or call 713-572-2211.

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**About Preschool for ALL:** Preschool for ALL is a partnership between the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children (GHCC) and the Center for Houston's Future (CHF) to expand access to quality preschool programs to all three-and four-year-old children in the greater Houston region. For more information, visit [www.preschoolforall.org](http://www.preschoolforall.org).

**The Greater Houston Collaborative for Children (GHCC)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working with partners in the community to make a measurable difference in the lives of Houston's youngest children from birth to age six and their families. GHCC and its community partners are working to improve the care and education of young children through two initiatives: Early Connections and Preschool for ALL. For more information, visit [www.collabforchildren.org](http://www.collabforchildren.org).

**The Center for Houston's Future (CHF)**, an affiliate of the Greater Houston Partnership, was created as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1999 to identify diverse, emerging business leaders and to engage them in addressing critical and strategic, long-range issues affecting the future of the city. CHF accomplishes these goals through two key areas of activity: its leadership development and engagement efforts and its strategic planning projects. For more information, visit [www.centerforhoustonfuture.org](http://www.centerforhoustonfuture.org).

The \$250,000 grant which Preschool for ALL received from the U.S. Department of Education in 2003 and the additional earmarked funding for 2004 is approximately \$149,115. This represents 33% of the total cost of the initiative during 2003 and 2004. The total budget for Preschool for ALL during 2003 and 2004 is \$1,197,029, approx. 67% which was financed by private donations.