

WHO IS BETSY JONES?

The best description would be the following in her own words:

"It has always been my deepest desire to provide all children of low-income working parents in our community with equitable, high quality services that would enable them to compete for a place in college and offer to them access to avenues of postsecondary education and work of their choice."

Betsy lived and breathed the Mission Statement of ECCDC from the moment she was hired in 1995 as the Executive Director of the agency. She was so highly qualified the board of directors could not offer her a salary commensurate with her experience and degrees. She was willing to give all her energies to guide the growth of the agency and it's programs at the direction of the board. She even promised to fund her own salary. So began a new era of growth.

Betsy took a small non-profit agency from a 250,000 year budget to over a 5 Million/yr budget. Over 475 children and their families are presently being served. Betsy raised over 25 million in grants and Child Development Education Contracts. She established an early childhood mental health program for children, ages 4 months to Kindergarten age. Expansion of parent education classes including mental health for the families. Betsy insisted that the staff continue their education and found grants to fund the tuition. She made certain that staff had full medical benefits and an opportunity for a saving retirement program. The first goal, always, that the children who were being cared for and educated would be "Kindergarten Ready" and able to take their place in the public school system and continue the path of learning. During her tenure the first center was remodeled and programs added. Another center was built and an infant-toddler program was added. She designed this center we dedicate today.

Betsy Jones continues to serve on many local, county and State committees refining standards, expanding programs for pre-school and child development for the future. She is the best child advocate that California's children have. Betsy's vision and goal is quality education for every pre-school child regardless of family income.

**"Early Childhood Education
isn't Just Expensive -It's Priceless"!**