

CEO NAMED AT CHILD CARE RESOURCES

Seattle — The Board of Directors of Child Care Resources (CCR) has named Deeann Burtch Puffert the agency's Chief Executive Officer, effective February 16, 2009.

Puffert has served in various leadership roles since CCR's beginning in 1990. Last October she transitioned from her role as Chief Program Officer to that of interim CEO when the nonprofit's founding CEO, Nina Auerbach, left to lead Thrive by Five Washington.

CCR's Board of Directors conducted an extensive and competitive search for a CEO to build upon the agency's success. The four-month process included input and participation of board, staff, community partners and funders.

"Our search drew a host of accomplished and qualified candidates," said Board President, Trish Davis. "However, in the end, there was overwhelming board, staff, and community feedback that pointed to Deeann as the best person to move the agency forward. Deeann's knowledge of the child care and early learning field, proven leadership record, and passion for children positions her well to lead CCR in its invaluable work to ensure that every child has a great start in school and in life."

Puffert has dedicated 27 years to children in the nonprofit sector and is committed to tackling the challenges of affordability, accessibility, quality and cultural relevancy of child care. Puffert initially was hired to open and manage the Child Care Resources' East County office located in Bellevue. Since that time she has overseen the day-to-day operations and service delivery at the nonprofit in addition to all human resources and personnel functions for the organization.

"I find children infinitely interesting and believe that all children deserve the best we can provide them; especially when they are in licensed or informal child care," says Puffert. She adds, "I am honored to have been chosen by the board, staff and community to lead CCR in furthering the important work we do on behalf of children. I am committed to ensuring that we continue on the important course of building the momentum required to improve early learning in our community and beyond."

Prior to working at CCR, Puffert was a Child Care Program Director and was responsible for the overall management and operation of four National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited child care centers that served 180 families. She is a Seattle native, is married and the mother of two daughters.

Child Care Resources brings a 19 year history of developing and providing innovative programs that deliver results by working independently and in concert with all of the pieces of the child care equation. From families, to providers to public entities to like-minded partners, CCR helps build quality child care and early learning for all children.

Its vision is for every child to have a great start in school and in life. The nonprofit is based in King County and leads efforts to promote equity for children, community stability and school readiness by:

- 1) helping families access and choose high-quality child and after-school care,
- 2) partnering with child care providers and caregivers to offer excellent care
- 3) advocating for child-care solutions that strengthen communities.

Specific programs include: specialized assistance to families in challenging situations and customized training, technical assistance, supplies and mentorships for all types of child care providers.