

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS INC. ANNOUNCES
FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL PROGRAMS
FOR HEAD START AND CHILD CARE CENTERS**

Houston (October 19, 2009) – Neighborhood Centers Inc. announces its continued participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for its Head Start, Early Childhood Development Centers, and Community Centers. Each facility has a copy of the updated policy, which anyone may review. For a complete listing of Neighborhood Centers Inc. Head Start and Child Care Centers, please visit our website at www.neighborhood-centers.org or call 713-273-3200 for more information.

Application forms have been distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children. Applications also are available at each location. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it. However, Head Start children are not required to do so, as these children are automatically qualified for free meals without income verification. Applications may be submitted anytime during the 2009-2010 school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

The tables at the bottom of this release detailing household size and annual income are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Participation in the program does not require payment for meals served. Foster children who are the legal

responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income. Households receiving food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) only have to list their child's name and food stamp or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a food stamp or TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate that a Social Security number is not available by writing the word "NONE," "No Number," or some indication that the person does not have a Social Security number. The application must be signed by an adult household member.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, La Tonya Neely, Senior Family Wellness Coordinator, will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Mr. Douglas Shadle, Neighborhood Centers Inc. Chief Operating Officer, 4500 Bissonnet, Suite 200, Bellaire TX 77401-3113; 713-667-9400.

Households must report increases of more than \$50 per month or \$600 per year in household income, and decreases in household size. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact its service site. These changes may qualify children for reduced-price meals or for free meals if the household's income falls to or below the levels shown below. TANF/Food Stamp households must report termination of benefits.

In accordance with Federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, Neighborhood Centers Inc. is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, political belief, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-206, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). Note: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Texas Department of Human Services. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Family Size	Reduced-Price Meals			Free Meals		
	Family Income			Family Income		
	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$386	\$14,079	\$1,174	\$271
2	\$26,955	\$2,247	\$519	\$18,941	\$1,579	\$365
3	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$652	\$23,803	\$1,984	\$458
4	\$40,793	\$3,400	\$785	\$28,665	\$2,389	\$552
5	\$47,712	\$3,976	\$918	\$33,527	\$2,794	\$645
6	\$54,631	\$4,553	\$1,051	\$38,389	\$3,200	\$739
7	\$61,550	\$5,130	\$1,184	\$43,251	\$3,605	\$832
8	\$68,469	\$5,706	\$1,317	\$48,113	\$4,010	\$926
9	\$75,388	\$6,283	\$1,451	\$52,975	\$4,416	\$1,020
10	\$82,307	\$6,860	\$1,585	\$57,837	\$4,822	\$1,114
11	\$89,226	\$7,437	\$1,719	\$62,699	\$5,228	\$1,208
12	\$96,145	\$8,014	\$1,853	\$67,561	\$5,634	\$1,302
For each additional person, add	\$6,919	\$577	\$134	\$4,862	\$406	\$94

About Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Neighborhood Centers Inc. brings resources, education and connection to more than 236,000 people throughout the Texas Gulf Coast area each year. Our 59 service locations offer comprehensive community-based programs for people at every stage of life – from infants to seniors. We work with residents of underserved communities to help them discover the strengths and skills necessary to become productive, prosperous and self-sufficient. Founded in 1907 by the grandmother of former U.S. Secretary of States James A. Baker III, Neighborhood Centers Inc. combines passion, commitment and an entrepreneurial philosophy to make the Human Dream a reality for all who are willing to work for it. Neighborhood Centers Inc. is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.neighborhood-centers.org.

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