

Recognize child care providers May 7

Minnesota child care organizations, parents and Child Care Resource and Referral Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Inc. are joining the Friday before Mothers' Day, May 7, to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. This is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers, school-age program staff, child care center directors and staff and all those who work with children and are responsible for their education and care.

It is estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million child care providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million children under five are in their care.

"Child care providers care for over 367,000 children in Minnesota," said Ann McCully, Executive Director of the Minnesota Child

Care Resource and Referral Network. "Minnesotans depend on their child care providers to get to work each day. May 7 is the day to recognize the professionals who are charged with preparing our youngest citizens for school and life."

"By applauding the dedication of child care providers on May 7, we remind our communities of the importance of high-quality child care, and let providers everywhere know that we recognize and value their important work," said Linda K. Smith, executive director of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the lead sponsor of Provider Appreciation Day.

In Minnesota, parents and community members will recognize their child care providers by sending

flowers, delivering lunch or making contributions such as new books or play equipment.

Child care providers who are participating in the pilot phase of Parent Aware: A Rating Tool for Selecting High Quality Child Care and Early Education will also be recognized. The new Parent Aware ratings will help Minnesota parents choose the best care settings to prepare their children for school.

To learn more about Provider Appreciation Day or for ideas to thank community child care provider, contact Child Care Resource and Referral Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Inc. at 1-800-543-7382

For additional information, visit www.providerappreciationday.org and www.mnchildcare.org.

