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Abra su corazón y su hogar.

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Rachel Humphreys, M.A.

April 21, 2009

Mid-City Community Advocacy Network  
4275 El Cajon Blvd, Suite 101  
San Diego, CA 92105

Dear Mid-City Community Advocacy Network,

Each story of a child entering the foster care system begins with a personal tragedy. However, it does not need to end tragically. It is the mission of La Cuna to ensure that Latino foster infants and toddlers grow up happy and healthy. To realize our mission, La Cuna specifically outreaches to the Latino community, screens prospective parents thoroughly, prepares them to be foster parents with our culturally adapted bilingual 24 hour training which is created from several evidence-based parenting models, and supports them with high level social work and advocacy. La Cuna's program ensures that Latino foster children under the age of five remain in **one** loving and competent foster family home until they are reunified with their rehabilitated biological parents or adopted. In order to become a productive, healthy, and happy citizen, it is necessary that during our earliest years we are given the chance to attach to a primary caregiver, feel a sense of safety and stability, a chance to bond and be nurtured. La Cuna is ensuring that the youngest foster children are given that chance.

In 2008, 53% of the children who entered foster care did so before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. At any point in time, there are almost 2,000 children under 5 years old in foster care in San Diego County. Unfortunately there are not sufficient age-appropriate services to address the specific developmental, emotional and physical needs of children under 5. Furthermore, 53% of these young foster children are Latino. Sadly, it has been well researched that Latino foster children experience disproportionately negative outcomes of well-being compared to their White counterparts ([www.chadwickcenter.org](http://www.chadwickcenter.org), "Child Welfare/Resource Families). La Cuna is the only agency in San Diego that provides foster family services specific to Latino foster infants and toddlers.

La Cuna supports the work of California Endowment in creating healthier communities. Our work mirrors the view of the California Endowment in which "healthy children are products of supportive environments and caring families, so that the health of children reveals much about the health of the

communities in which they live". With that said, La Cuna is deeply committed, along with California Endowment and the City Heights community, to engage in the 9-month planning process to develop a logic model and well-researched plan on how our community will address the 10 desired outcomes outlined. We commit to have a representative, specifically our Director of Development, at every meeting and planning process that is within our power. Without knowing exactly what the planning process will entail, it is difficult to project the percentage of staff time we will commit in supporting the creation of this plan. From an educated guess, we will initially commit 3-5% of the Director of Development's staff time within the 9 month period. If more is needed, as an organization we will address the need in order to remain as an active participating member. In regards to donated resources, La Cuna can provide our spacious board-conference room in our office building, proposal writing resources and staff time, and any other resource we have available to us within our means such as printing/copying or materials at no charge to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of inviting La Cuna to this exciting process of creating true change in the City Heights area of San Diego in partnership with the California Endowment. Should you have any additional questions about La Cuna or the attached application, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619.521.9900, ext. 1 or [rachel@lacuna.org](mailto:rachel@lacuna.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Humphreys', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rachel Humphreys  
Founder/Executive Director