



## DeKalb County Community Foundation

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From Left: Elaine Suarez, Community Initiatives Intern, DeKalb County Community Foundation; Nancy Teboda, Director of Children's Learning Center; and Mellissa Veljasevic Infant Toddler Specialist, 4-C

### **GRANTS IN ACTION**

#### **DeKalb County non-profit childcare centers receive new cribs**

The DeKalb County Community Foundation, the E.T. (Tug) and Jean Juday Donor Advised Fund at the DCCF, and Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) have teamed up to make childcare centers safer for infants and toddlers. In June 2011 a national crib recall was issued due to injuries and deaths related with drop-side cribs. Childcare centers were given until December 2012 to update their cribs to meet the new safety standards. The new rules prohibit drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware, and require more rigorous testing (Consumer Product Safety Commission).

“The Community Foundation saw an opportunity to partner with others and leverage several funding sources to ensure that all non-profit child care centers in DeKalb County have the proper cribs”, according to DCCF Executive Director Dan Templin. Grants were made available to nonprofit childcare centers in DeKalb County for the purchase of new cribs which meet new requirements set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The Growing Place in DeKalb received a \$7,840 spring Community Needs Grant, Children's Learning Center in DeKalb received \$3,500 and Sycamore Childcare received \$1,500 from the DeKalb County Community Foundation to purchase new cribs for their childcare centers. Community Coordinated Childcare (4-C) issued Quality Counts Grants to Growing Place for the purchase of 9 cribs, and Northern Illinois University for the purchase of 15 cribs. "The new crib standards will result in safer cribs for children", according to 4-C Infant/Toddler Specialist Mellissa Veljasevic. "Through grant funding, donations, and private funding, all non-profit childcare centers in the DeKalb area were able to update their cribs as of August, 2011."

DCCF Community Initiatives Intern Elaine Suarez, who works with the Foundation's CommunityWorks Initiative in the child care area, stated that the Foundation utilized Opportunity Grant funds as well as the support of Tug Juday for this project through his fund at the DCCF. "Donor Advised Funds are the perfect vehicle for donors to recommend grants that respond to opportunities like this in a very timely way", stated Dan Templin. "It makes for a great funding collaborative that proactively partners with area organizations to meet a tangible and important need for our children".