Remembering Mrs. Blanche Russ-Glover
Founder and CEO of Parent/Child Incorporated
1979-2005
On October 27, 1978, a number of parents serving as the Executive Committee of the Head Start Policy Council, being concerned about the Head Start Program under the Community Action Agency, Economic Opportunities Development Corporation (EODC), prepared a resolution to EODC's Board of Directors requesting the relinquishment of the Head Start grant. These parents, working closely with Mrs. Blanche A. Russ, the Early Childhood Development Program Director, wanted to become independent of the Community Action Agency and for the Head Start Program to continue in San Antonio. Articles of Incorporation were completed thus beginning the name “Parent/Child Incorporated of San Antonio and Bexar County. Three (3) incorporators Ramon Carrillo, Magdalena Gonzales and Evelyn King signed this important document and became the founding members. The Articles of Incorporation for Parent/Child Incorporated of San Antonio and County Bexar, Texas was delivered to the Office of the Secretary of State in Austin, Texas and Parent/Child Incorporated became a reality.

The City of San Antonio became the interim Grantee for the Head Start program. On February 9, 1979, the City Council of San Antonio, under the Honorable Mayor Lila Cockrell, delegated the entire administration and operation of Project Head Start to Parent/Child Incorporated of San Antonio and Bexar County. With 12 Head Start Centers, 800 children, approximately 200 employees and one station wagon, Parent/Child Incorporated, better known today as “PCI”, evolved as a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3), single purpose Human Services Agency, chartered by the State of Texas to provide educational and social services to low-income children and their families. In 1981, Parent/Child Incorporated applied for and received Head Start Program Expansion Funds to serve and additional 400 children.

In 1990, PCI was funded to operate a Parent Child Center for 106 infants, toddlers and pregnant women. This was a very productive program and in 1996, the program was transitioned into a Wave I Early Head Start Program for 80 families of pregnant and parenting women. In 1998, the program was transitioned to 80 infants and toddlers for pregnant and parenting young teenage schoolgirls. Today, PCI's Early Head Start Program serves 128 infants, toddlers, and pregnant and parenting young women.

PCI participated in two major Head Start Demonstration Projects from 1991 through 1995. The first three-year Demonstration Project, 1991 through 1994, was the Family Services Center Project. The second effort was the Head Start Family Child Care Homes Demonstration Project, from 1992 through 1995. The projects proved very successful in their design and research information assisted the federal government in strengthening Head Start Programs throughout the country.

Registered Family Day Homes
PCI was the first and oldest Region IX Texas Department of Human Services sponsorship of Registered Family Day Homes participating in its Child Care Food Program through contract. This
program provides reimbursement to Day Home Providers for the nutritious meals provided to children ages 0-12 years enrolled in their homes. PCI's service area covered 12 counties for our CCFP Day Homes Program.

Central Kitchens
In August of 1991, PCI opened its’ first stand-alone Central Kitchen to accommodate the rapid growth it was experiencing. PCI's Central Kitchens serve as a satellite food preparation system for 81 Centers. PCI operated 7 Central Kitchens where food was prepared, packaged and delivered fresh each day. This food preparation system was approved by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and proven to be very cost effective. One year, PCI provided hot meals to the children of San Antonio through the City’s Summer Feeding Program that proved to be very successful.

Diagnostic Clinic
During this same year, PCI opened its’ Diagnostic Clinic which provided speech therapy sessions, physical and dental exams and, the full range of health services for our children.

Wellness
In 1992, PCI started with more expansion for its’ Head Start program and applied for and acquired funds to open and operate a Wellness Center for its employees and parents. Exercise and wellness programs were made available, under the guidance of PCI’s Certified Trainer. PCI’s Registered Dietician provided individual counseling on proper nutrition.

Transportation
In 1993, PCI acquired its Transportation Depot. With the ever-increasing number of children requiring safe transportation services, it became necessary for PCI to put in place a transportation system to meet the need. PCI’s Transportation Depot housed a fleet of vehicles that provided daily transportation to and from the centers for children requiring bus services, including children with special needs and infants and toddlers. Transportation was provided for field trips, as well as clinic and therapy sessions.

Training Facility
In 1999, PCI opened its training facility at Kelly USA. The facility was used to provide training and professional development classes and sessions for our staff, parents, Policy Council, Board members, consultants and volunteers, which included First Aid/CPR classes, GED and, ESL classes, and also classes for obtaining a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) for teaching staff. This facility also operated a computer lab, had video conference capabilities.

In the 2000’s PCI applied for supplemental Head Start Funding and received its largest expansion ever of an additional 1,000 children, bringing PCI’s total Head Start enrollment to 6,789 children. In taking on this historical expansion challenge, PCI acquired two facilities built by Bexar County; had two new child development centers built and acquired and renovated 3 additional facilities to ensure children received quality services. PCI had 28 classrooms in school districts, 1 charter school, 1 children’s shelter, at Fort Sam Military Base and 15 centers in the Bexar County Area, to include stand-alone centers totaling 91 sites in the City of San Antonio. Mission accomplished!

On May 27, 2005, Mrs. Blanche A. Russ-Glover retired after 10 years with the Economic Opportunity Development Corporation (EODC) and 26 years as Founder and CEO of PCI. We thank Mrs. Blanche-Russ Glover for her leadership and for being an icon for the betterment of thousands of Head Start children and families throughout San Antonio & Bexar County. Her legacy and dream lives on.