



Humboldt Community Daycare Project History

Thank you for your interest in our community child care center initiative. The Humboldt Community Daycare Board has worked diligently for two years to research the need for a community child care center, investigate potential facilities and ultimately determine an addition to Mease Elementary School in Humboldt is the best, most financially feasible, option to address the child care needs in our county.

The non-profit, volunteer board first began with an unbiased survey to the residents and in-commuters in Humboldt County in an attempt to quantify the need for child care services. The results of that study were quite overwhelming in that the current and future needs, as reported by the respondents, resulted in the need to service more than 200 children. With that information in hand the Board began investigating potential sites and existing facilities that could be renovated to house a child care center. Our research initially led us to the basement of Our Savior's Church and while much thought and consideration was put into that concept it didn't prove to be large enough to make a sizable impact on the crisis we face with child care in Humboldt County. In addition, the renovations needed as required by the State Fire Marshall far outweighed the feasibility of the facility. Moving beyond that option, we next explored the former Humboldt Middle School. With the information that much of the facility would be demolished in the coming years, we examined the available space and again determined that the number of children that could be provided care in that facility would not ease the burden of our child care needs. Finally, we considered the former Humboldt Fire Station location and while the renovation cost was reasonable and the facility would certainly service enough children the location itself was not desirable and the modifications needed to ensure adequate, safe and reliable service were beyond the realm of possibility. With a thorough investigation of three existing structures in mind the Board discussed in great detail the vision for child care services in Humboldt County and identified that an addition to Mease Elementary would be the best solution not only because of the connection with the Humboldt Community School District but also because it provided the most realistic long term solution.

An addition to Mease Elementary School, the early learning center of the Humboldt Community School District, is the ultimate location as we strive to develop our children prior to their entrance into formalized education. The synergy between the child care center and the school district will ensure the success of the center for years to come. Together our partnership will help foster the growth of each child in the center through curriculum developed in collaboration with the school that prepares the children for educational success.

Through great partnerships, including sustainable financial partnerships, this project will provide a permanent solution to the child care needs in Humboldt County. The project costs are estimated to be nearly \$1.4 million of which the non-profit organization intends to finance \$500,000 which leaves a fundraising goal of \$900,000. The mission of the Kiddie Cats Child Care and Learning Center is to provide quality child care in an environment that engages young minds through learning and play. We cannot fulfill our mission without the financial support of our community minded business leaders.