



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS SALUTES SECOND DISTRICT PRESCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today led the Board in recognizing the Second District Preschool Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Gwendolyn Crews, director of Juniorversity Preschool in Compton.

Known throughout the community as "Auntie Gwen," Mrs. Crews has been teaching preschool for 17 years, beginning her service with a Family Child Care school out of her home in Carson.

"From the beginning, she made sure her schools offered more than babysitting, but also places for children and parents to learn and grow," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

Along with her husband, Bobby Crews, Mrs. Crews built her small business by converting a vacant building into the Juniorversity Preschool. The school currently serves 95 children, including infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children.

In addition to teaching academic skills, Mrs. Crews takes her students to provide food for homeless citizens at a Downtown shelter. She also personally purchases food and clothing for children whose families are experiencing financial difficulty.

Mrs. Crews has been featured on the television series "A Place of Our Own" and "Making It", and has previously been recognized by her Congressional representative and State Senator.

The Supervisor noted that Mrs. Crews is no stranger to the Board of Supervisors, as prior to her preschool career, she served in a clerical position with the Board.

She has been a mentor to students learning to become early childhood educators.

“Thank you, Mrs. Crews, for your dedication to the young students of Compton, and please continue to inspire, encourage, and educate them,” the Supervisor daid.

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