



- **Le Jardin Community Center Opens First LEED Facility in Homestead**



On Wednesday, March, 28th, Le Jardin Community Center Inc. opened its fourth community center in the City of Homestead. The new center, which will be used to further their mission of educating and improving the quality of life of children and families, is the organization's first LEED Certified Green Head Start Facility.

"On behalf of the city of Homestead, we are proud to have been a part of realizing the dream of making this facility a reality," said Councilman Stephen Shelley at the Grand Opening of the center. "We are fortunate to have an organization like le Jardin in our community. Le Jardin has labored tirelessly to provide children and families with opportunities to learn, develop and increase their likelihood of success in the future."

Construction of the fifth Le Jardin Center was made possible with the help of a City of Homestead Community Development Block Grant, a Miami-Dade County Community Development Block Grant, the Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Program, and other private funding.

The new LEED certified building, which will accommodate 120 children, was constructed with energy efficiency and sustainability in mind and also provides a healthier environment for children. Miami Dade-County Commissioner Lynda bell, who represents the district where the center is located and was involved in securing funding for the new facility, said the new LEED building is beneficial for many reasons.

"This LEED facility is not only better for the environment, but also for the pocket because it saves a lot of money on energy and water. It also teaches children about taking care of the environment," said Commissioner Bell at the opening. "I am so proud of Le Jardin and what they have accomplished for the children of our community. This center will allow them to continue educating and helping our families."

Le Jardin Community Center has been providing quality educational, recreational and cultural activities to children and families in need in the Homestead area for over 25 years. The private non-for-profit organization provides comprehensive services in a safe, caring and nurturing environment. For more information on Le Jardin, Inc. visit <http://lejardincinc.org/>