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## **San Jose Day Nursery Celebrates New “Look”** ***Smart Start San José center to serve Downtown San José community***

***San José*** --- For 90 years, the San Jose Day Nursery has served families in the downtown community with quality childcare and preschool services, and it has been at its present location near 8<sup>th</sup> and Santa Clara streets in Downtown San Jose since 1936.

Today, this venerated institution celebrated the completion of comprehensive renovations that have improved quality and expanded capacity to continue its tradition of service to San José working families.

“Our partnership with San Jose Day Nursery continues our strong citywide commitment to help our youngest children get ready for success in school while providing peace of mind to their parents with quality care,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “Giving kids a ‘smart start’ is essential for our community’s long-term health and prosperity.”

The renovation of San Jose Day Nursery includes comprehensive physical improvements to its existing building; upgrades to electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems; earthquake retrofitting and disability access; and the replacement of the existing infant care center with an entirely new facility, which is scheduled for completion in 2007.

Growth in Downtown San José, such as the new City Hall and new residential developments, has increased the number of working parents needing quality childcare. The re-opening of the Nursery will provide some relief for the growing demand for services in the downtown area.

“As the mother of a 5-year old son, I understand that our children deserve the best day care possible,” said Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez. “The renovation of the San Jose Day Nursery will provide hundreds of children over the coming years with a safe and warm environment in which to learn and play.”

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The project cost an estimated \$3.8 million, with \$2.8 million funded by the Nursery, its donors, the City of San José and County of Santa Clara, and \$1 million from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency.

“It has taken years of effort by a dedicated Board, staff and volunteers to help us rebuild our home,” said Pat Calfee, President, San Jose Day Nursery. “We are grateful that the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, City of San José and our generous donors have made a dream come true for our children, families, staff and Board.”

San Jose Day Nursery is part of Smart Start San José, the early care and education initiative established by Mayor Gonzales and the San José City Council. The program is administered by the San José Public Library to expand and improve preschool opportunities for young children to give them the development skills to succeed in school and in life.

The new Nursery facility will serve 112 children, bringing the total number of new and upgraded Smart Start spaces in San José to 3,466.

The San Jose Day Nursery’s hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Infant Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call 408.288.9667, or go to [www.sjdn.org](http://www.sjdn.org).

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together, the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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