



10th annual Child Care Providers' Appreciation & Training set for March 11

Over 300 providers from northeastern Minnesota who care for children ages 0-5 years will participate in this 10th annual learning event

More than 300 child care professionals who provide care and education for northeastern Minnesota's youngest children will fill the **Lake Superior Ballroom at the DECC** for the 10th annual **Child Care Providers' Appreciation & Training Seminar**. The Northland Foundation-hosted event is this **Saturday, March 11th, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Northland Foundation established the seminar in 2008 to offer providers valuable learning opportunities, a rare chance to network with peers, and thank them for the critical service they perform for families, employers, and the children in their care.

"More than 80% of young children come from households where all of the adults are employed outside the home, so child care providers have a major impact not only on children and families, but also on communities and the regional economy," said Lynn Haglin, Vice President/KIDS PLUS Director at the Northland Foundation.

"The special people who do the hard work of child care in centers, school-based programs, family-based sites, and other settings deserve our thanks and support," stated Haglin, "and the Northland Foundation is pleased to host this daylong event that is focused on them."

Tracy Schreifels, MS, LMFT, IMH-E (III), a mental health specialist for Reach Up, Inc. – a Head Start and Early Head Start agency in St. Cloud – will present two trainings. "*Strategies to Strengthen Relationship and Regulation in Early Childhood: A Trauma-informed Approach*" is designed to help providers identify and implement specific strategies for working with young children and parents, and interpret behaviors through the lens of trauma and attachment. "*Play: The Biggest Developmental Bang for the Buck*" showcases play as an essential element to learning, and offers ways to strengthen children's development through play.

All the child care providers who attend receive a tote bag containing children's books and other learning resources. Over 100 of prizes, from toys, to attraction tickets and hotel vouchers, to gift cards and fruit baskets donated by businesses and community groups, are given away at the end of the afternoon. They also can earn continuing education credits toward their licensing and Parent Aware Star Rating.

The event is presented by the Northland Foundation with support from the Mardag Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, The Sheltering Arms Foundation, Medica Foundation, Great River Energy, Delta Dental of Minnesota, and the Northland Foundation.

