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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3/1/16

ENVIRONMENTAL NATURE CENTER NATURE PRESCHOOL PROJECT MATCHING GIFT DEADLINE APPROACHES

Newport Beach, Calif., March 1, 2016 - The Environmental Nature Center (ENC) Nature Preschool Campaign has an important deadline looming. A year ago an anonymous donor pledged to match any donations the Center receives toward the Preschool Campaign dollar for dollar, up to \$3 million. The deadline for that matching opportunity is close at hand – April 4, 2016.

“This generous donation has helped us reach \$6,264,230 of our \$10 million goal,” said ENC Executive Director Bo Glover. “We have one month left to take advantage of the matching opportunity by raising the final \$2.2 million. Donations made this month will accelerate the timeline to making our Nature Preschool a reality.”

Once the ENC’s fundraising efforts reach the nine million mark, the ENC will begin building the community’s first nature preschool and nature play area on the adjoining 1.3 acre property at 745 Dover Drive. As proven in countries such as Germany and Finland as well as over 20 communities in the U.S., Nature Preschools teach the building blocks of a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education through providing young children the opportunity to become familiar with the natural world by playing – and learning – while surrounded by nature. The school will also engage parents in active learning, serve as a model nature preschool, and provide a research forum on early childhood and environmental education.

The ENC’s Nature Pre-school will have play areas but no playgrounds. Students will spend the majority of the day outdoors, where they will have ample time for unfacilitated nature experiences. Qualified early childhood educators and environmental educators will teach them the basics of a typical preschool and more. Indoor spaces will be warm, welcoming and conducive to learning. All construction on the new Nature Preschool will meet or exceed the sustainable building guidelines incorporated into the ENC’s existing LEED Platinum certified facility. It is the ENC’s goal to achieve certification through the Living Building Challenge.

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“I truly believe that this Nature Preschool and Nature Play Area will be an integral addition to the community making an essential impact on the next generation.” said Rick John, long-time Newport Beach resident and ENC Board Member. “We do not want to let this generous matching \$2.2 million dollars slip away so we are urgently seeking community members to join us in supporting the ENC Nature Preschool.”

For more information or to donate to the ENC’s Nature Preschool, visit encnaturepreschool.org or contact ENC Development Director Maria Zalesky at 949-645-8489 ext. 118 or maria@encenter.org.

About the ENC

Founded in 1972, the ENC is a fascinating combination of 15 California native plant communities, wildlife habitat, walking trails, and sustainably designed, LEED Platinum certified learning center. For 40 years, the ENC has been shaped and caressed into a 3.5 acre landscape for learning, a sanctuary from life’s pressures and a place of preservation and instruction. Serving over 21,000 students and thousands of visitors annually, the ENC is recognized as a leader in science and social science education providing opportunities for increasing our community’s knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

The ENC recently purchased property to develop a nature play area, and construct our community’s first nature based preschool. With a mission of providing quality education through hands-on experience with nature, the ENC inspires all generations to protect the natural world by serving as our community’s foremost authority on ecological responsibility, sustainable practices and environmental education. The ENC is a non-profit 501(c)-3 public benefit corporation. For more information call 949-645-8489, or visit www.ENCenter.org. The ENC is located at 1601 16th Street in Newport Beach.

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