



Educates children, strengthens families and builds community

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

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## **Kingsley House to hold Mardi Gras Parade February 1<sup>st</sup>**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Kingsley House, one of the oldest and most renowned nonprofit organizations in the city, will hold its annual Mardi Gras Parade in the Lower Garden District on Friday, February 1 at 10:00am. The parade will feature 192 infants, toddlers and preschool children from Kingsley House Early Head Start and Head Start programs and more than 70 senior citizens and disabled adults from the Adult Day Health Care program. The Edna Karr Senior High School Marching Band will also participate in the procession.

The Kingsley House Parade began originally in 1991 as a Mardi Gras Ball for the preschool children coordinated by Mrs. Norma Chaney, a preschool teacher at the time. The Royal Court consisted of a King, Queen, Duke, Duchess, Sweetheart, Prince, Princess, Pages and Maids. Children were dressed in proper attire for their respective title and the court was introduced along with their parents. The event was a major hit for parents and staff and shortly after, the parade was incorporated with the ball and area schools were invited to join in the festivities.

This year Kingsley House will resume the tradition. Each preschool classroom has developed a theme and all of the teachers have been involved in creating costumes around the theme to make the event a resounding success. The parade route is approximately 1 mile around the surrounding neighborhood and children will throw trinkets provided by parents and other donors.

### **About Kingsley House**

Founded in 1896, Kingsley House has served the children and families of New Orleans through tough times of dramatic change. Today, Kingsley House educates children, strengthens families and builds community at a time even more vital in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Kingsley House programs include Head Start and Early Head Start preschool programs, day care for senior citizens and disabled adults, after school education and recreation for youth, family counseling, and assist families in Medicaid and Food Stamp enrollment. Since the storms, Kingsley House has served more than 10,000 individuals in 12 parishes throughout Southeast Louisiana.