

---

---

# Networking News

---

---

## Spotlight on New Members

---

---

### Children: Our Ultimate Investment

Although in existence for more than 27 years, Children: Our Ultimate Investment recently joined the Chamber so that its staff and board members could connect with members of the Hollywood community committed to building healthier futures for youth.

Children: Our Ultimate Investment, was founded in 1977 by long-time Hollywood resident and author, Laura Huxley. The primary focus for the organization today is Teens & Toddlers, a common sense, youth development program serving at-risk teens through volunteer placement and positive relationships with small children in daycare centers. Teens & Toddlers is an innovative, practical teenage pregnancy prevention program, which fosters awareness of the realities of conception and parenting, before unintended pregnancies occur. The program offers teenagers in-depth information about child development through combining classroom lessons with hands-on work and that nurtures relationships with children one to five years old.

The Teens & Toddlers program benefits the diverse communities where it is implemented in several ways:

- Teenage pregnancy prevention, fewer births to teens
- Health Improvements: increased emotional literacy - skills of self-reflection, self-direction, improved relationships and a more engaged relationship to others in society
- Future parenting and relationship

skills to reduce the incidence of family violence and future family breakup

- Crime prevention through anger management, building an awareness of choice, personal responsibility and future life goals
  - Community engagement and marketable job skills through working in local daycare centers and offering valuable support to daycare staff
  - Early intervention with small children through the teens mentoring toddlers in daycare centers
  - Citizenship skills through multicultural participation and promotion of an appreciation of difference and improved social behavior
- Local business owners and community advocates can help Children: Our Ultimate Investment, realize these goals through becoming involved in the planning, support and delivery of the Teens & Toddlers Program. Financial and volunteer contributions are appreciated to help expand this innovative program to benefit youth of various ages in Hollywood schools. Of particular interest would be assistance with producing promotional tools and a film about the program.

To learn more or contribute to Children: Our Ultimate Investment, please contact:

Dianne McCutchan, Executive Director, at (323) 461-8248.