

**ATTENTION: PHOTOGRAPHERS/ REPORTERS**



**Bright Beginnings' Annual 5K Race aids homeless children and families facing extremely challenging economic climate**

WASHINGTON, DC, (May 7, 2012): Bright Beginnings, Inc., a child and family development center for homeless families with young children, will raise awareness about the needs and challenges facing homeless children and their families through our Annual 5K Race, sponsored by founding partner, the Junior League of Washington. Nearly 300 supporters, teachers, parents and staff are already registered for the race which will raise critically-needed financial resources that prepare homeless children for kindergarten and get their families back on their feet. The Bright Beginnings Annual 5K Race starts at 8 a.m. at Hains Point in Washington, DC.

The Bright Beginnings 5K, a spring tradition for the last 16 years, supports effective education and therapeutic services that prepare young homeless children to enter kindergarten ready to read and ready to learn and supportive family services that help their parents secure permanent housing, obtain or maintain employment, complete their education and achieve self-sufficiency.

“Our Bright Beginnings 5K is a perfect example of the village that comes together to make a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families,” said Dr. Betty Jo Gaines, Executive Director of Bright Beginnings. “We *can* transform challenges into bright beginnings. Each of us has an important role to play in giving homeless children and their parents the best chance of success in school and in life.”

Bright Beginnings is a nonprofit organization serving homeless children and families who live in homeless shelters or transitional housing programs in Washington, DC. Bright Beginnings, which has served more than 2,100 homeless children and their families during the last 20 years, is a nationally-accredited child and family development center for homeless infants, toddlers and preschoolers and their families. Comprehensive education and therapeutic services positively impact school readiness and prepare homeless children for kindergarten. Bright Beginnings' family-stabilizing services create a more stable environment for homeless children to learn and grow while their parents work toward self-sufficiency.

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