



## **Bright Beginnings' Betty Jo Gaines named Purpose Prize Fellow for her tireless work helping homeless children and families**

WASHINGTON, DC, (Nov. 3, 2011): Bright Beginnings, Inc. congratulates Executive Director Dr. Betty Jo Gaines for being named a Purpose Prize Fellow, a prestigious award recognizing individuals over 60 who are ranked the best in the nation for their efforts to correct a social problem in their "encore career." Civic Ventures announced the award today to honor those making extraordinary impact on society's biggest challenges.

For the past 11 years, Dr. Gaines has ably led and established Bright Beginnings as a nationally-recognized child and family development center for homeless families with young children. "I am so pleased that Civic Ventures has recognized Dr. Betty Jo Gaines for the caliber and impact of her work with homeless children and families in Washington, DC," says Nancy Register, the President of the Bright Beginnings Board of Directors. "Betty Jo's simple formula of hope, a helping hand and high expectations are the right combination to prepare homeless children for kindergarten and get their families back on their feet."

Dr. Gaines is a well-known force in the District of Columbia, having served the city's children and youth as the Director of Parks and Recreation. She inspires and motivates her staff to deliver a comprehensive, high-quality child and family development program for homeless families and their young children. Under her leadership, Bright Beginnings has gained a national reputation as an organization making a positive and immediate difference in the lives of the District of Columbia's homeless children and their families. Dr. Gaines has committed herself to increasing awareness of the complex needs of homeless families with young children, and helping these families get the support they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Bright Beginnings, which has been 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. Holistic 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 and get their parents back on their feet.

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