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**REPORT: AMERICAN HISPANIC CHILDREN DOING BETTER THAN EVER,
YET STILL LAG BEHIND WHITE CHILDREN IN QUALITY OF LIFE**

**Major Improvements Seen in Healthcare and Poverty, but
Educational Achievement Remains Stagnant**

January 29, 2008 -- Hispanic children are doing better than ever, but still have a long way to go before closing the racial/ethnic gap in quality of life, according to a report released today by the Foundation for Child Development (FCD), the first ever to analyze trends in the well-being of Hispanic children, as compared to White and Black children over a span of nearly two decades

According to the report, between 1985 and 2004, all children experienced overall improvements in quality of life, yet because improvements were greater for Black and Hispanic children during this time span, particularly after 1993, the racial-ethnic gap with Whites is narrowing. Assuming trends continue at their current pace, however, it will take at least an entire generation to actually eliminate these gaps.

“Even if we can manage to continue to make progress towards closing the racial-ethnic gaps in children’s well-being at the same rate we have been, it would take another 14 years before Hispanic children essentially caught up with White children,” said Ruby Takanishi, President/CEO of FCD. “As a leading world superpower, America can do and should do better than this.”

The report is entitled "Racial-Ethnic Inequality in Child Well-Being from 1985-2004: Gaps Narrow but Persist," and pulls data from several years of the FCD Child Well-Being Indexes (CWI) – an annual analysis of the quality of life for all American children.

A few key findings of the report include:

- **Education:** While preschool enrollment is up, Hispanic children have made little improvement overall in narrowing the educational gap between them and their White peers. In fact, the gap between White children and Hispanic children earning a Bachelor’s degree widened by one-half (from 13 percentage points to 20 percentage points).
- **Health:** Hispanic children are making improvements on the health insurance front -- the health insurance gap between White children and Hispanic children has narrowed by one-third, largely thanks to increased rates of health insurance coverage for Hispanic children.

- **Poverty:** The poverty gap between White children and Hispanic children is closing. While rates of poverty are decreasing for all racial/ethnic groups, they are decreasing more rapidly for Hispanic children than they are for White children.
- **Crime:** Hispanic children have seen a significant improvement in the likelihood of their being the victim of a violent crime. They went from being much more likely than White children to be the victim of a violent crime in 1985, to being less likely to be the victim of a violent crime in 2004.

“With the possibility of an economic recession, policies should aim to protect the economic security of American families, as well as key programs in health and education that support the largest number of children, especially those whose families earn below the median family income,” said Don Hernandez, researcher and author of the report. “A number of the positive changes outlined in this report are thanks to smart policies and an active community. If we want to continue to improve our children’s lives, then we must continue to pass this kind of smart policy.”

Key researchers and experts are available to comment and give background on the report’s findings.

About the FCD Child Well Being Index (CWI): The CWI is an annual analysis of the quality of life for American children. It measures how well or poorly they are doing in seven areas: Health, Poverty, Education, Safety and Behavioral concerns, Social Relationships, Community Connectedness and Emotional/Spiritual well-being, and then compares how well our children are doing today with how they have done in the past – to give an overall sense if their quality of life is improving, or not, over time.

About FCD: The Foundation for Child Development (FCD) is a national, private philanthropy dedicated to the principle that all families should have the social and material resources to raise their children to be healthy, educated and productive members of their communities. The Foundation seeks to understand children, particularly the disadvantaged, and to promote their well-being. We believe that families, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses and government at all levels share complementary responsibilities in the critical task of raising new generations.

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