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**MOTHERS AND CHILDREN OF KEITH VILLAGE RECOVERY PROGRAM
RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATS ON HALLOWEEN FROM ACE CASH EXPRESS**

*Residents and Government Officials Turn Out For Fall Festival Including \$10,000
Check Presentation and 200 Backpacks Filled With School Supplies for Children*

Compton, CA (Nov. 6, 2008) - On Halloween, 300 mothers and children, all residents of the SHIELDS' Keith Village Recovery Program, enjoyed an afternoon of treats as ACE Cash Express celebrated their personal triumphs with a fall harvest festival. The day included games, prizes, arts and crafts, gourmet carnival foods, live deejay and a Monster Mash line that wound around the 86-unit complex with kids ages 4 to 14 showing off their Halloween masks and receiving goodies. ACE Cash Express is the largest multi-line retail financial service provider in the U.S. with 177 stores throughout California. ACE pledged their commitment in aiding programs in the communities they serve such as Keith Village, with a \$10,000 check presented to SHIELDS For Families (owner/operator of Keith Village) and 200 backpacks filled with school supplies for the resident children.

"Part of ACE's mission is to give something back to the communities where we do business. We are so pleased to support SHIELDS For Families and the great work they do in the community," said ACE Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Eric Norrington.

Assemblyman Elect Isadore Hall also participated in the day's festivities reminding the crowd of the importance of "being a positive change in our community," exemplified by the work that ACE and SHIELDS For Families are doing in South Los Angeles.

Keith Village offers a unique approach to drug addiction recovery that recognizes the family unit as a whole. Most programs don't allow mothers to bring their children into treatment, and as a result, only one in four persons who undergo drug treatment in the U.S. is a woman. At Keith Village, participants experience a comprehensive process that can take up to two years, where they and their children live at Keith Village while receiving treatment, counseling (individually and as a family), and training to equip them with skills and the outlook to lead healthy, productive lives in their community.

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ACE Cash Express, Inc. is a leading retailer of financial services, including short-term consumer loans, check cashing, bill payment and prepaid debit card services. ACE is the largest owner and operator of check cashing stores in the United States and the second largest owner and operator of short-term consumer loan stores in the United States. As of October 27, 2008, ACE had a network of 1,820 stores in 38 states including the District of Columbia, consisting of 1,731 company-owned stores and 89 franchised stores. ACE focuses on serving consumers, many of whom seek alternatives to traditional banking relationships in order to gain convenient and immediate access to financial services. For additional information about ACE, visit www.acecashexpress.com.

SHIELDS for Families is a comprehensive, community-based agency, serving 3000 families annually that reside in South Central Los Angeles. SHIELDS' programs promote family reunification and support them remaining intact in the community. They strengthen families through the provision of comprehensive and collaborative services and improve the general well being of families through comprehensive health programs and preventive social services to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence.

For further information or interview requests, please contact Melissa Ward at 310.714.2210 or Annie Wood at 972.550.5161.

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Full Event Image Catalog Available Upon Request



Compton, CA. (Oct. 31, 2008) – Joining ACE Cash Express representatives Eric Norrington and Tyrone Bland presenting a \$10,000 check to Kathy Icenhower with SHIELDS for Families is Assemblyman Elect Isadore Hall.

