



New faces. Same commitment.

Anixter Center and the National Lekotek Center are pleased to announce that they have joined forces to serve children with disabilities. On December 2, 2002, the National Lekotek Center became a division of Anixter Center, one of the Chicago area's largest providers of educational, vocational, health care and related services for individuals with disabilities.

Lekotek's mission of using interactive play experiences to promote learning and inclusion for children with special needs complements Anixter Center's commitment to assist people with disabilities to live and work successfully in the community.

"A natural synergy exists between our organizations," says Stuart G. Ferst, president and CEO of Anixter Center. "With our mutual commitment to inclusion, our organizations can extend the range of services we offer to people of all ages, beginning practically at birth."

Helen McCarthy, executive director of Lekotek says, "We sought out an innovative partner that would assist Lekotek in expanding its mission and providing an administrative economy of scale." Additionally, "Anixter Center was the perfect match in that it has already successfully partnered with three organizations (CALOR, Chicago Hearing Society and Hearing Loss Link) that have not only maintained their individual identities, but have grown and enhanced their services."

In addition to cost effectiveness, advantages of the partnership include sharing of knowledge and expertise, establishing a larger force for developing inclusive programming and enhancing each organization's already strong reputation.

While there will be many new and exciting opportunities for collaboration, several important elements of the Lekotek organization will remain constant. The National Lekotek Center will maintain its national network of 43 affiliates in 11 states and continue to execute its own fundraising efforts to support its programming.

After more than two decades of service to families of children with disabilities, the National Lekotek Center is beginning a new chapter of growth and innovation. Similarly, Anixter Center will be adding another program to its extensive continuum of services, increasing its range of services to young children.

Anixter Center and the National Lekotek Center are pleased to forge new territory in offering expanded, high-quality programs to children of nearly all ages through this exciting new partnership.

Please see other side for more details on Anixter Center and Lekotek.