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**For Immediate Release**

**Withee Malcolm Architects Designs Harbor Interfaith's  
New Family Resource Center**

Los Angeles, CA — Harbor Interfaith Services, a non-profit organization serving the Harbor Area and South Bay communities of Los Angeles, California, is working with Withee Malcolm Architects on their new 15,000 square foot family resource center, scheduled to be completed in late 2011.

“We got involved early in the process when Harbor Interfaith was trying to determine how best to accommodate a growing demand for their services in their much smaller existing facility,” says Dan Withee AIA, founding principal of the architectural firm. “Their mission was an inspiration and their need compelling. The much-needed expansion will give them the additional room they need to achieve their mission.”

Donating the services of the firm for the initial phase, the architects saw an opportunity to create a more functional, family-centered design by consolidating all the program requirements into a single building. Taking advantage of three contiguous parcels which hosted the existing center, adjacent parking and a separate house, the three-story design provides ample room for a mix of uses including the resource center, food pantry, nursery and pre-school, indoor and outdoor play space, administrative offices and underground parking.

“What the new building will give us is much more than expanded space,” comments Harbor Interfaith Services' executive director Tahia Hyslet. “Our first facility was in the basement of a church, and as we grew we simply made the best of what space we were able to find. Withee Malcolm brought us a vision of what could be, and designed the facility for our specific program with spaces that will allow us to do a better job in all we do.”

“Although the district is commercially zoned, the design is respectful of the residential nature of the neighborhood in its scale, setbacks and architectural vocabulary,” notes Withee. “We committed to creating a building that will be comfortable and inviting to parents, children, and others who will be using the facility.” By placing the resource center with greatest square footage requirement on the ground floor, and the children's spaces on the second floor, the architects were able to provide an ample, protected outside playground. Locating the office on the third floor, they were able to provide better workspace for staff and obtaining a variance for extra floor.



In keeping with the socially sustainable goals of the project, the design is also environmentally sustainable, with LEED certification as an aim. Using wood and stone with a metal roof, the design incorporates green design and construction protocols and materials including water use reduction through low flow fixtures and water efficient landscaping; recycled content materials, low VOC emitting materials and finishes; and optimized energy performance through efficient mechanical equipment, appliances and increased insulation.

Each year, the Harbor Interfaith Services serves 15,000 homeless and working poor people, offering emergency shelter, transitional housing, food, childcare, after-school care, job placement, advocacy, education and life skills training. The nonprofit agency serves San Pedro, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Lomita, Torrance, Wilmington and Long Beach. With building underway for their new family resource center, the organization has relocated to temporary space and needs support for the continuation of essential family services during the construction. See the website for information on how to donate or volunteer: [www.harborinterfaith.org](http://www.harborinterfaith.org)

Withee Malcolm Architects serves clients in the residential and commercial industrial markets throughout the West from offices in Torrance, California. For more information on the firm, visit [www.witheemalcolm.com](http://www.witheemalcolm.com)

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