

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SouthSide Early Childhood Center Becomes 31st Mosaic Ambassador School

St. Louis, MO – St. Louis Mosaic Project is delighted to announce Southside Early Childhood Center, as the 31st Mosaic Ambassador School. SouthSide was formerly known as South Side Day Nursery and founded in 1886 by 15 Unitarian women who provided low-income children a safe, educational and nurturing environment as their parents attended their jobs. SouthSide Early Childhood Center has been providing phenomenal early education while prepping children for success in school for more than 130 years.

A part of SouthSide Early Childhood Center’s mission is to nurture, educate and inspire children and families in a diverse and inclusive environment. SouthSide serves children and families of many backgrounds including Hispanic, African, African-American, Caucasian and other races and ethnicities. The center has 7 different spoken languages and bi-lingual staff members in the classrooms.

Since so many languages are spoken at the center, SouthSide provides teachers and staff with key phrases to use in the classroom in multiple languages and key phrases are posted in both English and Spanish around the building. SouthSide also provides translators for events such as parent-teacher conferences and parent meetings.

SouthSide Early Childhood Center is extremely engaged with families through their Family Partnership Program. This program enables SouthSide to educate and support families while providing classes about health, nutrition and finances. SouthSide encourages family activities and connects families with the resources to meet their basic needs. Southside’s financial programs are sensitive to the needs of immigrant families. The center also offers parenting education programs, such as the Incredible Years that have been researched and proven effective.

The vision SouthSide Early Childhood Center holds is that children develop a lifelong love of learning, flourish within a supportive family environment and contribute positively to their communities. To ensure that children receive the best learnings and support SouthSide provides

strategies, resources and professional development to teachers to increase their cultural competency. Teachers visit homes of children in order to gain valuable information about the children's relationships, cultures, beliefs and routines.

SouthSide Early Childhood Center has also developed relationships with other agencies that support immigrants in St. Louis including Catholic Charities, International Institute and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

About the St. Louis Mosaic Project

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report that showed St. Louis was lagging in immigrant growth and highlighted the potential economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project is a regional initiative that is professionally managed by St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center and a 27-member committee. Its goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. Learn more at www.stlmosaicproject.org.

About SouthSide Early Childhood Center

SouthSide's mission is to nurture, educate and inspire children and families in a diverse and inclusive environment, promoting healthy development and a strong foundation for success. Our vision is that children develop a lifelong love of learning, flourish within a supportive family environment and contribute positively to their communities. Learn more at <https://www.southside-ecc.org/>