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For Immediate Release

Oakland Family Services awarded \$25,000 grant from The Children's Foundation

Funding will help protect children from abuse and neglect

Pontiac, Mich. (Dec. 7, 2020) – A \$25,000 grant from The Children's Foundation will allow Oakland Family Services to continue serving at-risk, vulnerable families at a time when children may be at a higher risk of abuse and neglect because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding, which was announced late November, will help pay for a parent educator for Parents as Teachers, a home-visiting program that strives to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect by increasing parental knowledge and skills of early childhood development; providing early detection of developmental delays; and ensuring children enter kindergarten prepared to learn.

"Oakland Family Services has been a community partner of ours for many years and we are proud to continue our relationship by funding this important program that seeks to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect in the home," stated Lawrence J. Burns, President and CEO of The Children's Foundation. "The need for funding like this is more relevant than ever given the current pandemic environment."

As families experience more financial stress, disrupted routines, and lack of access to community supports during the pandemic, there is growing concern that abuse and neglect are going underreported. Calls to the state's child abuse hotline are typically made by protective adults, such as teachers, who now have limited contact with children.

"Oakland Family Services has been working in partnership with The Children's Foundation for many years to address the needs of children and families in our community," said Oakland Family Services President and CEO Jaimie Clayton. "We value the commitment and vision of The Children's Foundation in funding critical programs, such as Parents as Teachers, that maintain the safety net for the families we serve."

Oakland Family Services' Parents as Teachers program has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top-performing home-visiting affiliates within the organization's international network.

About Oakland Family Services

Oakland Family Services is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) serving the community since 1921 and dedicated to providing individuals and families the opportunity to build brighter futures. The agency's prevention, education and treatment services touch the lives of more than 40,000 individuals throughout southeastern Michigan every year. The agency has offices in Pontiac, Berkley and Walled Lake. For more information, go to www.oaklandfamilyservices.org.

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About Children's Foundation

The Children's Foundation, an independent community foundation for children, is the largest funder dedicated solely to advancing the health and wellness of children in the state of Michigan and beyond. Through fundraising, grant-making and advocacy The Children's Foundation enables researchers and community organizations to identify and implement innovations capable of advancing children's health and wellness. Since 2011, the Foundation has distributed more than 65 million dollars in grant funding to 116 partners throughout the state. Current initiatives of The Children's Foundation include Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, The Jamie Daniels Foundation and the Paul W. Smith Golf Charities. Current areas of focus for the Foundation include mental health, nutritional wellness, abuse and neglect, oncology and cardiology research and injury prevention. Learn more at www.YourChildrensFoundation.org.

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