**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Inaugural Class of Parent Leadership Training Institute Graduates**

**January 24, 2020 (SPRINGFIELD, Mo.) –** [Community Partnership of the Ozarks](http://cpozarks.org/), along with support from University of Missouri’s Center for Excellence in Child Well-being, is  hosting our community’s first Parent Leadership Training Institute Graduation. This event will be at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 27, at Developmental Center of the Ozarks Early Childhood Center.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is a new program designed to assist parents in advocating for their children and families. This 20-session course examines topics such as racism, community leadership, and state and national government structures and procedures. Parents explore how they can use their voices to effectively advocate for change in their child’s life.

Community resources are examined in PLTI as well. Guest speakers have included Jamie Willis, Greene County Family Justice Center, City Council Zone 4 Representative Matt Simpson, and Senator Lincoln Hough. Each of these speakers put the lessons being learned into community context and provided valuable information to our parents and a contact in the community if issues arise.

As part of the PLTI curriculum, parents create a community project on an area they are passionate about. Some of these projects have included accessible parks for all, Little Free Pantry network, Community Day of Caring in Willard, teacher education, and many more.

“Thirteen women will be graduating from our first class of PLTI,” said Dana Carroll, Vice President of Early Childhood & Family Development. “These women represent a diverse group of issues and needs in our area. Each one of them has learned to use their voice to make change in their community.”

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**ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS**

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit [cpozarks.org](http://cpozarks.org/).