

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CPO Launches New Early Childhood Hub at O'Reilly Center for Hope

New Partnership with Darr Family Foundation will connect parents, providers, & possibilities!

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (4/14/2025) – Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with the Darr Family Foundation to launch a family-focused early childhood hub at the O'Reilly Center for Hope. This innovative effort will expand services and support for families with young children—beginning prenatally through school age—and serve as a central access point for programs that strengthen families and foster community resilience.

“This partnership is an exciting opportunity to bring more meaningful support to families in our community,” said **Janet Dankert, President/CEO of CPO**. “By bringing together additional resources, education, and connections under one roof, we’re expanding our one-stop shop that will make it easier for families to access the help they need.”

Planned to launch in the summer, this transition marks a strategic shift in focus at the O'Reilly Center for Hope—from primarily adult-focused services to a comprehensive, family-centered model. Key features of the new HUB will include:

- A **welcoming space** for families to find support, services, and community.
- **On-site parent education and engagement opportunities**, equipping caregivers with tools to nurture their children’s development and well-being.
- A central hub for **connecting parents and childcare providers**.
- The **expansion of existing agency partnerships** and the integration of new service providers to offer wraparound support for families.

“We are so excited to partner with Community Partnership of the Ozarks on the Early Childhood Hub project,” said **Heather Zoromski, Executive Director of the Darr Family Foundation**. “Early childhood education and other vital family services have been central to the mission of the Darr Family Foundation since its inception in 2002. By providing all services under one roof at the O'Reilly Center for Hope, **we will be able to improve access to childcare, healthcare, parent education, case management, housing and more for our most vulnerable families**. The hub will also provide an unparalleled opportunity to strengthen the referral network between partner agencies housed on-site,” said Zoromski.

Larger renovation and enhancement projects for the building will follow the service transition, ensuring the space continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the families it serves. Located in the former Pepperdine Elementary School at 1518 E. Dale, the **O'Reilly Center for Hope** serves as a community hub, connecting partner agencies that support affordable housing and financial stability. By reducing access barriers, the Center will help families move toward housing and self-sufficiency.

With the support of the Darr Family Foundation, this new Early Childhood Hub will further CPO’s mission of building **resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities** throughout the Ozarks.

###

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 www.cpozarks.org.*