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**FIGHT FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND
AWARDS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO
BENEFIT LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN DC**

*Proceeds from Annual Fight Night Fundraiser Will Improve Early Childhood Education and
Keep Kids Healthy So They Can Learn*

WASHINGTON – February 3, 2015 – Fight For Children announced new and continuing partnerships with 10 high-performing non-profit organizations, along with over \$1 million in grants to support innovative education and health care programs serving low-income children in DC. Fight For Children uses proceeds from its signature fundraiser Fight Night to invest in local non-profit organizations to improve early childhood education and keep young children healthy so they can attend school.

Among the partnerships Fight For Children announced today is one with the Center for Child and Human Development at Georgetown University. Fight For Children and the Center began working together last year to adapt a proven model of early childhood mental health consultation for use in DC public schools. The core of the program aims to build the capacity of teachers, families, and the overall early childhood program to promote young children’s social emotional needs. The model has been effective in early childhood education centers nationally. Fight For Children and the Center are working to ensure there is a version of the model that works in public school settings.

Friendship Public Charter School Chamberlain Campus, a Fight For Children partner school, is the pilot site for the school-based version of the model, which is already making a positive difference in the lives of the youngest learners at the 700-student school in Southeast DC.

Wendy Jones, a bilingual special educator and social worker specializing in advocacy, support, and training, visits the school multiple times each week to meet one-on-one with teachers and make classroom observations. “We are so lucky to have Wendy as part of our team at Chamberlain,” said Assistant Principal Khabria Hundley. “With her guidance, our teachers feel empowered to identify potential challenges our youngest learners face, adjust their teaching

practices as needed, and work with parents and the school support team to make sure these children get the help they need.”

With the help of a \$100,000 grant from Fight For Children, the Center for Child and Human Development will apply lessons learned at Chamberlain to expand the program to other DC schools in the coming months.

“I am honored to be a part of Fight For Children and play a small role in making partnerships like ours with the Center for Child and Human Development possible,” said Raul Fernandez, Fight for Children Chairman and Vice Chairman of Monumental Sports & Entertainment. “We know that when teachers are able to identify and help young children who are struggling, their chances at success go up exponentially. The work the Center is doing at Chamberlain is amazing, and I look forward to expanding it throughout the city.”

Other partnerships announced today include:

- Fight For Children awarded the **CentroNia Institute** \$75,000 to maintain its two-year project to develop an Unpacking CLASS© (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Tool Kit and train-the-trainer model for professional development for early childhood center educators of three- and four-year-olds. This project will continue to improve the quality of teaching in early childhood education classrooms at private centers in DC.
- **Children’s National Health System** was awarded \$140,000 to build upon its current partnership with Fight For Children for its IMPACT DC Asthma Clinic and Prevention program. School nurses and early childhood educators at schools and private centers in DC will be trained on asthma prevention and response techniques for children two- to eight-years-old.
- Fight For Children awarded the **DC Special Education Coop** \$87,000 to expand INCLUDE DC, which Fight For Children began funding in 2013. INCLUDE DC is a credited course for general education teachers to learn inclusion strategies to use in their classrooms. The new funding will support a second INCLUDE DC course specifically for teachers of children three- to seven-years-old, as well as a leadership workshop on the same topic for elementary school principals.
- Fight For Children awarded \$108,000 to the DC Public Education Fund to expand the **Literacy Lab**’s Metro DC Reading Corps into prekindergarten classrooms at two DC Public Schools. The program provides targeted reading interventions to elementary school students through a unique model that is differentiated for students from pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade.
- **Playworks** uses the power of play and recess to improve academic outcomes for elementary school students. Among other outcomes, the Playworks model has been shown to reduce lost class time due to disruptions and improve cognitive processes for young students through increased blood flow in the brain. Fight For Children awarded Playworks DC \$158,000 to support its program model in six DC elementary schools in Wards 7 and 8.
- **Reading Partners** is a national program that recruits, trains, and supports adults as reading tutors. The tutors work with targeted students in elementary schools on proven reading interventions during the school day. Fight For Children awarded Reading

Partners a two-year grant of \$200,000 to support its expansion from 11 DC schools to 15 in the next year.

- **Science in Pre-K** began five years ago to train prekindergarten teachers on teaching inquiry through physical science. This privately-funded project is based at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and uses resources from the museum in its work. Science in Pre-K has a historical partnership with DCPS to train its early childhood teachers, and will use \$100,000 from Fight For Children to expand the program to teachers at DC public charter schools.
- **Turning the Page** is a 16-year-old non-profit organization that provides school-based family engagement at high-need schools in DC with a goal of improved reading outcomes for students. The parent engagement activities teach parents how to better connect with their children's teachers and how to engage their children in literacy activities at home. Turning the Page will use \$75,000 from Fight For Children to expand its program to three additional elementary schools in Ward 8.
- For more than thirty-five years, **The Wendt Center for Loss and Healing** has provided mental health services to children and adults in DC, and is known locally for its work with children who have experienced trauma. Fight For Children awarded The Wendt Center \$97,000 to support the development of play therapy rooms at the two Wendt Center locations and trauma training for early childhood education center teachers so they can make appropriate referrals for children struggling with trauma.

More information on these grants is available at www.fightforchildren.org.

About Fight For Children

The late Joseph E. Robert, Jr., created Fight For Children and Fight Night in 1990 as a way to marshal resources to help low-income kids in the nation's capital secure a brighter future. Since 2012, Raul Fernandez, Vice Chairman of Monumental Sports and Entertainment, has served as Chairman of Fight For Children.

In addition to Fight For Children's grant partnerships, its programs focus on improving the quality of early childhood and K-12 education in DC. Fight Night, Fight For Children's signature fundraiser, brings together 2,000 heavyweights of business, government, entertainment and community service, for an evening of fun, auctions, exciting entertainment, and live professional boxing bouts. One of the most highly acclaimed events in Washington, Fight Night raises funds for Fight For Children and other organizations that provide education and health care services to low-income children. For further information, please visit www.fightforchildren.org.

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