



NEWS

For immediate release

Contact: Katy Hinsdale, Director of Events & Media
khinsdale@jpachicago.org 312.698-6939

JPA Receives \$1 Million Grant to Improve Teacher-Student Relationships

Will Enable Organization to Strengthen Ties Essential for Students' Success

Chicago, October xx, 2016 - The Juvenile Protection Association, located in Chicago IL, has received a three year \$1 million award to expand its ability to provide professional development for kindergarten teachers in the city, especially those who work with disadvantaged children. The Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation, named for the late music and film industry leader, made the award for JPA's Connect to Kindergarten (C2K) program.

Studies have found that children who have positive relationships with their teachers in kindergarten are more likely to succeed socially, emotionally and academically throughout elementary school. Unfortunately, many students arrive at Kindergarten unprepared to learn given the lack of quality pre-school experiences or because they suffer from toxic stress. "The program provides teachers with the skills, mindsets and real-time training that produce positive outcomes for all their students," said Karen G. Foley, president and CEO of JPA.

"I feel extremely fortunate that we are partnering with JPA for this program, and I wish that all schools had the good fortune of working with them," stated Dr. Jennifer Moore, Principal, at the Academy for Global Citizenship, one of the schools selected for the pilot.

JPA currently offers C2K in three elementary schools on Chicago's west side. This grant will enable it to expand into ten more schools throughout the city over the next several years. Teachers will earn C2K certification for successfully completing the program. Its long-term effects are significant: the average teacher interacts with more than 1,000 children in the course of his or her career.

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The Juvenile Protective Association is a 115 year old social impact agency founded by Jane Addams. Its mission is to improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of vulnerable children so they can fulfill their greatest potential at home, in school and in our community. JPA serves over 2,000 vulnerable children and their families each year.