



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Tots Intergenerational Day Center Receives \$30,000 grant to “Come Back Stronger” from Pandemic

Grant is part of the statewide Come Back Stronger Fund from Early Learning Indiana

Cedar Lake, IN (July 13, 2020) – Early Learning Indiana awarded a \$30,000 grant to Grand Tots Intergenerational Day Center (Grand Tots) as part of the \$15 million Come Back Stronger Fund, supported by Lilly Endowment, to reinforce Indiana’s supply of high-quality early learning opportunities, especially for the state’s most vulnerable children. Grand Tots will use the grant funds to support safety-related expenses and challenges as it continues to serve families in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We are honored to have received a grant from the Come Back Stronger Fund,” said Grand Tots Executive Director Cheryl Reynolds. “Throughout this pandemic, Grand Tots has been committed to staying open in order to serve the children and families who need us most. Our top priority is to continue providing high-quality child care in a safe and educational environment. This grant award is an integral piece in helping our organization, and our community, come back stronger from COVID-19.”

In order to comply with social distancing and safety protocols, Grand Tots is investing in additional cleaning supplies and equipment, personal protective equipment for staff; and individualized food service supplies to limit large group interactions. The center is also altering staffing in order to comply with state recommended preventative measures, such as checking temperatures upon entry and limiting class sized. The grant from Early Learning Indiana and the Come Back Stronger Fund will help pay for these additional supplies and staffing needs. Through this grant, Grand Tots will be able to add 10 additional seats to our program for children ages three to five years old.

“The pandemic has shone a light on the critical role early care and education providers play in our society,” said Early Learning Indiana President and CEO Maureen Weber. “Families need quality child care in order to go back to work, and children need safe and engaging environments to grow and learn. We’re grateful to Grand Tot’s commitment to providing high-quality child care, and we’re excited to see what they and the other 154 providers do with their Come Back Stronger Fund grants.”

Early Learning Indiana awarded a total of \$2,341,000 to 155 providers in this first round of grant awards. Grand Tots was required to submit a narrative on how it would use the grant funds and serve children from vulnerable populations, as well as meet the following criteria:

- Be a licensed and registered center, ministry or family child care home provider in Indiana in good standing
- Be an approved CCDF or On My Way Pre-K provider or a provider that otherwise serves children from vulnerable family populations, defined as households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Operate as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 3 or 4, or as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 2 with a demonstrated commitment to achieving a higher level of program quality
- Serve children ages 0-5



Grand Tots, Inc.

Early child care organizations can still apply for a Come Back Stronger Fund grant at www.earlylearningin.org/comebackstronger.

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Grand Tots, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, organization founded in 1994 to provide high-quality earlychildhood education and day care services, as well as before and after school care for working families in the Hanover Community School district. As an intergenerational day center, Grand Tots offers additional programs for our community, including: English Language Acquisition classes, a summer camp, and senior care services. Grand Tots' main campus is located in the former Holy Name School Building in Cedar lake, IN, with three offsite locations within the Hanover Community School Corporation. More information is available at GrandTotsDaycare.com.

Early Learning Indiana is Indiana's oldest and largest early childhood education nonprofit, providing leadership, advocacy, and early childhood education services to continually improve the early learning landscape in Indiana. Today, Early Learning Indiana operates nine high-quality Day Early Learning centers, a network of premier community-based lab schools used to advance the science of early learning, train the next generation of teachers and leaders, and instill essential skills in the children we serve. Through regional and statewide programs, the organization enables early learning providers to build capacity, transform operations, and improve learning outcomes. More information is available at EarlyLearningIndiana.org.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.