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## Jefferson Community Foundation Board Pledges \$15K to Jefferson Ready Start Network

*Funding will support high-quality early education for economically disadvantaged children in Jefferson Parish*

**METAIRIE, LA** (May 11, 2022) – [Jefferson Ready Start Network](#) (JRSN) announced today that the [Jefferson Community Foundation](#) (JCF) has donated \$15,000 to the JRSN Future Fund. Launched in October 2021, the JRSN Future Fund was created in partnership with the Jefferson Community Foundation to allow businesses, organizations and individuals an avenue to contribute toward efforts to increase access to quality child care for all.

“When we partnered with JRSN last fall we already knew the importance of the efforts we were supporting,” says JCF Executive Director Christine Briede, CFRE. “Our mission at JCF is to engage others in improving the overall quality of life in Jefferson Parish. We have a responsibility to support our youngest citizens, and making this donation through our board is just one step in showing our continued support for the work of the Jefferson Ready Start Network.”

The Future Fund supports publicly funded seats for children ages birth to 5 years at high-quality child care centers, as well as resources for centers. The critical donation makes JRSN eligible for a matching donation through the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund (ECE Fund). Jefferson Ready Start Network leaders and thought partners have increased efforts for local fundraising in order to capitalize on this funding.

“Providing early care and education is top of mind with the recent passage in Orleans parish and legislative efforts at the Capitol,” says JRSN Executive Director Sarintha Stricklin, Ph.D.. “What most don’t realize is the importance of local funding to these efforts. We need the support of organizations like the Jefferson Community Foundation to elevate our voice about the opportunity to double our impact with local donations. Every dollar we raise will be matched by state funding and open doors to our organization for additional grant opportunities.”

For additional information about JRSN or to donate to the JRSN Future Fund, visit [jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com](http://jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com). To learn more about the Jefferson Community Foundation visit [jeffersoncommunity.org](http://jeffersoncommunity.org).

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**About Jefferson Ready Start Network:** Under the authority of Jefferson Parish Schools, the Jefferson Ready Start Network works to create a culture of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services (birth to 5 years) through engagement and partnerships with families, educators and community members. For more information, visit [www.jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com](http://www.jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com).

**About Jefferson Community Foundation:** *The Jefferson Community Foundation (JCF) is the nonprofit community foundation for Jefferson Parish dedicated to improving the quality of life for local residents, visitors and businesses by focusing on the needs of the community and power of philanthropy. For more information visit [www.jeffersoncommunity.org](http://www.jeffersoncommunity.org).*