



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Preschool Addresses Critical Early Education Gap in East San Jose

San Jose, Calif., July 8, 2019 - Grail Family Services (GFS), a nonprofit organization that has been serving families with young children in East San Jose for nearly 20 years, will open a second State-funded Preschool to address the critical shortage of available preschool slots in East San Jose.

According to the Santa Clara County Office of Education's *2018 Early Learning Facilities Study*, there is a huge disparity in the County between demand and supply for preschool slots, with San Jose accounting for 73% of the gap. Factors contributing to the gap include issues finding a site, lack of local or state funding, licensing issues, and local zoning or land use restrictions.

GFS is in a unique position to address this critical need. The Board of East Hills Preschool (EHPS), a parent cooperative that served families in East San Jose for 39 years before closing in June 2018, has generously transferred their building on Story Road to GFS. The EHPS Board was committed to finding a provider who shared the school's values—that all children should have the opportunity for high-quality, developmentally appropriate education. They found that provider in Grail Family Services.

Once building renovations and licensing are complete, GFS will open their new State-funded Preschool at the Story Road site, providing an additional 48 community families with access to a quality early education experience for their 3- and 4-year old children. GFS opened their first State-funded Preschool at their San Antonio site in September 2016.

A study of longitudinal data recently published by Professor James J. Heckman, of the University of Chicago Center for the Economics of Human Development, indicated that "children who receive high-quality early childhood education have significantly better life outcomes and pass the positive effects on to their children." The study involved participants in The Perry Preschool Project, which was conducted 1962-1965. Participants were tracked via annual surveys from age 3, when they entered the preschool, to age 15, with follow-ups at ages 19, 27, 40, and 55.

GFS expects to open their new preschool this fall.

About Grail Family Services (GFS)

Grail Family Services' mission is to strengthen family capacity to support young children's positive educational outcomes and to build a thriving community. GFS serves more than 2000 families annually through programs at their Family Resource Center and in 11 elementary schools in the Alum Rock Union School District. They serve an additional 2000 families through their Building Blocks of Parenting™ Family Engagement App and professional development program for child care providers and teachers.

About East Hills Preschool

East Hills Preschool was a parent owned and operated non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation located in a beautiful country setting in the east San Jose foothills. The primary goal of East Hills Preschool was to provide an educational program that promoted the social, intellectual and physical growth of each child. The program offered active, concrete hands-on experiences in an environment that enhanced a child's self-image, self-direction, and self-motivation.

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