

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Radford Child Development Inc. Receives Funds and Location for Accredited Child Care Facility in Radford**

RADFORD, VA October 4, 2013 – Radford Child Development Inc., a non-profit organization created by the RU Child Development Task Force, recently received the start-up capital and a Radford location for the Radford Child Development Center, a quality child care facility near campus that will be accredited by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The new center will be built on Tyler Avenue on land provided by local real estate developer Price Williams. They will also provide a built-to-suit facility with a long lease. Radford Child Development Inc. raised preliminary start-up costs and received an interest-free loan from the Radford University Foundation for the balance of needed pre-open capital and expenses.

Radford University President Penelope Kyle says that this is a wonderful resource for RU employees who are working parents. “I am so proud of the members of the Radford University Child Development Center Task Force for their efforts toward bringing high-quality child care to Radford. These volunteers have been tireless in addressing a pressing need for many of our faculty, staff and students who have young children and need convenient, safe and accredited child care. The success of this initiative will most certainly add to the quality of life for those of us who work at or attend Radford University or for members of our larger community,” says Kyle

Radford Child Development Inc. is responding to the demonstrated acute need for quality NAEYC accredited child care in Radford and the New River Valley. NAEYC accreditation guarantees that the Radford Child Development Center will adhere to the highest standards of child care and early childhood education. The only other NAEYC accredited child care facility in southwest Virginia is in Blacksburg. Radford Child Development has hired CCLC (Children’s Creative Learning Center) to manage the center. CCLC provides child care programming for many universities, companies and

government agencies, including University of Virginia, Northwestern University, the World Bank, National Science Foundation and the USDA.

In a November 2012 survey by the RU Child Development Task Force, 93 percent of respondents indicated that it was important to have a new child care facility near campus. The demographics of Radford University faculty and staff are dramatically changing now and will continue to change even more rapidly in the next five years. More than 40 percent of RU faculty and 27 percent of RU staff are likely to retire within the five years. New hires at RU are overwhelmingly young families with children.

“I recently interviewed an individual for a job at RU and the very first thing they asked me was to describe the childcare options in the area. It was a difficult conversation. We simply must bring high-quality childcare to this area,” says RU Provost Sam Minner.

In addition to serving faculty and staff of the university, it will also be a resource for the evolving student population that includes non-traditional students with families. The Radford Child Development Center will serve all members of the City of Radford and New River Valley communities.

“The need for high-quality childcare in the Radford community is acute. And now we can begin meeting that need,” says Minner.

Radford Child Development Center will also serve as an internship location for RU early childhood education students and will offer opportunities for music therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and other programs.

The organization is partnering with The Community Foundation of the New River Valley as its fiscal agent. Therefore, all donations made to the Radford Child Development Inc. to benefit the creation of the center are tax deductible.

Dr. Agida Manizade, President of the RCD Board, says “This essential project is successful due to a group effort and commitment. I want to thank Dr. Minner for being the driving force of this initiative. I want to especially thank Bethany Mott for the many

hundreds of hours that she dedicated to making this new center a reality and to Sandy Beland for contributing her real estate and development expertise and time in coordinating the planning for the facility. Thanks for the key contributions of everyone on the board: Dan Davidson, Anthony Dove, Sharon Gilbert, Laura Jacobsen, Boyoung Park, and our newest member Radford Vice Mayor Dick Harshberger. Also, thank you to John Dalton for his time and expertise. Everyone's role is vital in addressing this critical need and creating our new child development facility. It is honor and privilege to work with this group of outstanding individuals. I also want to thank President Kyle and Novel Martin for their on-going support of the project."

For more information about Radford Child Development Inc. and the creation of a Radford Child Development Center contact Dr. Agida Manizade at 434-227-7196.