



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

The Belle Center Adds JCC to Its Embedded Early Education Program

Jewish Community Center facilities will serve as additional locations for local non-profit's program

ST. LOUIS – The Belle Center, a non-profit organization that supports children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families, recently added the Jewish Community Center as the third community partner for its Embedded Early Education Program. The program, which provides inclusive, family-centered support to children from birth to six years of age, will now be available at the Staenberg Family Complex in Creve Coeur, Mo., and the Marilyn Fox Building in Chesterfield, Mo.

“We are thrilled to support two new locations in partnership with the Jewish Community Center to provide families with even more options for quality early childhood programming that is inclusive,” said Jodi Woessner, executive director, The Belle Center. “Ninety-five percent of our preschoolers enter the kindergarten of their family’s choice with our assistance, and the addition of these facilities will help us support more children.”

“The J welcomes The Belle Center to our Early Childhood Center. The Belle Center supports the J’s philosophy of providing inclusive opportunities for all our members to participate in programs, and we are delighted to extend that within the ECC,” said Jody Rubin, co-director of the J Early Childhood Center at the Staenberg Family Complex. “We are confident that this partnership will strengthen and support the learning and development of all the children in our program.”

The program aids children with a wide variety of developmental disabilities, including speech delays, hearing and visual impairments, autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. The Belle Center assists families by communicating their concerns and developing a support plan based on each individual, as well as providing resource and referral services. In addition, The Belle Center therapists work with teachers to develop individualized instruction, enhance the classroom and enrich the curriculum to support the success of the classroom while meeting the individuals needs of each child.

In addition to the Jewish Community Center, The Belle Center partners with University City Children’s Center and South Side Day Nursery in the embedded program. For more information on this program or The Belle Center’s other services, please visit www.bellecenter.com.

Founded in 1984 by a group of parents of children with disabilities, The Belle Center promotes the rights and expectations of children with all abilities to be fully included in the community. The non-profit provides an inclusive, family-centered approach to education and community life that supports children with disabilities and helps them lead richer, fuller lives. The Belle Center serves more than 300 children and their families through its three main programs, Outreach Program, Embedded Early Education Program, and Families & Community Partners Program. For more information about The Belle Center, please visit www.bellecenter.com.

The St. Louis Jewish Community Center is an interactive, multigenerational gathering place which promotes individual physical and spiritual growth, creates a caring, responsible community, supports those in need and encourages an appreciation of our Jewish identity, history and cultural heritage through effective and innovative education, programming and services. The J's Early Childhood Center mission, in partnership with our families, is to provide quality care and education that embraces the development of children's mind, body, and soul. For more information about the J, please visit www.jccstl.com.

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Editor's Note: The Belle Center is located at 10916 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146.