

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Radford Child Development Inc., Non-Profit Organization, Continues Fundraising and Issues Request for Proposals for a NAEYC-accredited Child Care Facility, a First for the Radford Community**

**RADFORD, VA March 10, 2014**— Today RCD Inc. issued a request for proposals from qualified local, regional and national child care providers to open a new facility in Radford. A grant of up to \$210,000 will be awarded to the chosen provider to underwrite start-up expenses for the facility serving up to 124 children (see details below). This RCD grant is funded through an interest-free loan from the Radford University Foundation. Radford Child Development Inc. and Radford University Foundation finalized the loan agreement this week. Additional funds are being raised by RCD to create needs-based tuition subsidies so that the entire Radford community can be served by this facility. These funds come from community members, private foundations, and local groups including DIVAS of the NRV.

Radford Child Development Inc. is a non-profit organization whose goal is to develop a quality, certified child care facility in the city of Radford. In late 2012, RCD Inc. conducted a child care needs assessment of the Radford community with more than 1,330 respondents. The survey showed that a significant majority of the area's families are struggling to find high-quality, nationally certified child care for their children. Based on collected data, 9 out of 10 children under age 5 did not have access to a full-time, state-licensed child care facility in Radford.

The opening of a nationally accredited child development program that embodies the best practices of early childhood care and education will benefit Radford's children and families, as well as families whose parents commute into Radford. In addition, Radford University students will both benefit and enhance the planned child care center through internships. The opening of the center will bring a fundamental and lasting change to the entire community, supporting economic growth and making the area more attractive for new businesses and housing.

While awaiting recognition of its non-profit status from the IRS, RCD Inc. has partnered with the Community Foundation of New River Valley so that all donations to RCD Inc. will be tax-deductible while its 501(C)3 status is pending. Jessica Wirgau, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of New River Valley, says “We know the need for childcare is significant in our region, particularly for Radford families, so we so are pleased to work with RCD, Inc. as they establish a high-quality childcare facility.” Price Williams Realty, another RCD community partner, has generously offered to front the cost of building the new facility in an excellent location on Tyler Avenue in Radford.

RCD Inc. welcomes inquiries from prospective qualified providers, as well as donors, supporters, parents and other members of the southwest Virginia community. Formal letters of intent to RCD’s requests for proposals are due April 10, 2014. The complete proposals are due May 12, 2014. Contact Bethany Mott, at (407) 952-2610 or Dr. Agida Manizade at (434) 277-7196 with questions or to obtain a copy of the request for proposal. Prospective providers or interested members of the community are encouraged to call, visit the website [www.radfordchilddevelopment.org](http://www.radfordchilddevelopment.org), or email [radfordchilddevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:radfordchilddevelopment@gmail.com). The new facility will open in 2015.

Dr. Agida Manizade, President of the RCD Board, says “Our board of directors is a committed group of community members, who volunteer their time, money, and expertise to address this urgent need for a quality child development facility in Radford. We will continue working with our strategic community partners until the doors of this facility open. To ensure its success, RCD intends to stay involved supporting this child care center after opening too. We are thankful to all of our supporters and urge you to keep your involvement.”