For immediate release

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Parents as Teachers celebrates its 35th anniversary with year-long community engagement events

Festivities start with CEO throwing out the first pitch at Cardinals game; Conclude with Jubilee honoring the group’s founder at 2019 Conference

ST. LOUIS, MO – March 12, 2019 – Parents as Teachers, headquartered here and specializing in early childhood home visiting support to tens of thousands of families, is celebrating its 35th anniversary with a renewed commitment to community engagement.

Founded in Missouri in 1984, Parents as Teachers will commemorate the milestone with year-long events across its national network of 1,036 affiliate partners under the theme: 35 Years - Investing in Families, Impacting Communities.

“We plan to celebrate this important juncture in our organization’s history by giving our affiliates multiple opportunities to get involved in local projects where they could make a difference in their communities,” said Constance Gully, Parents as Teachers president and chief executive officer.

In addition to several planned events, Parents as Teachers offices are collecting stories from individuals about how the organization has impacted their lives. The stories will be cataloged in an audio format called StoryCorps® Archive Community and shared over social media platforms and preserved for future generations.

“We’re going to be leveraging the unique abilities and enthusiasm of our talented staff and affiliate partners to collect some stories that remind us of our shared humanity and to strengthen and build deeper connections between Parents as Teachers and the families we serve,” said Gully.

Other activities include: Parents as Teachers Day at Busch Stadium in April, where Gully will throw out the first pitch at the Cardinals vs Padres baseball game; a Professional Women’s Engagement Café in May, Professional Men’s Engagement Event for Fathers and National Roll and Read Day in June, National Day of Service in September, and the 2019 International Conference at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch hotel in October. The festivities will culminate with a 35th Anniversary Jubilee on the grounds and museum of the
newly renovated St. Louis Arch. Parents as Teachers Founder Mildred Winter and other luminaries will be lauded there.

“This anniversary year gives us a platform to share our myriad accomplishments, and provides us with an exceptional opportunity to recognize the hard work of our affiliates, and thank our state leaders, supporters, board members and legislators for their dedication in helping us achieve three and a half decades of success,” Gully said.

For more information about activities surrounding Parents as Teachers 35th anniversary celebration activities, visit www.parentsasteachers.org.

SIDEBAR - A brief historic retrospect

In the early 1980s, Mildred Winter, a public school educator and eventual founder of Parents as Teachers had an epiphany. She imagined what would be the impact on children’s development and learning in a home/school partnership that begins before birth.

Her revelation was realized through the New Parents as Teachers (NPAT) pilot project that involved 60 pregnant women. It was a four-year study that - after years of trial and error, legislative actions, state and federal funding and bi-partisan endorsement - would eventually become what is now known as Parents as Teachers.

In 1984, then-Missouri Gov. Christopher “Kit” Bond, a young father of a newborn son, supported legislation to require PAT in every school district across the state. He knew, all too well, that babies don’t come with instructions and that parenting is hard! As a lifetime board member, retired U.S. Sen. Bond never fails to claim PAT as Missouri’s greatest export.

Fast forward 35 years and you have a burgeoning international nonprofit organization that serves nearly 200,000 families in 8,221 zip codes, has a footprint in every state, 115 tribal communities and six countries, and reaches more than 223,500 children through 1.8 million home visits using an evidence-based home visiting model that strengthens families, aids in child development and helps prevent child maltreatment.

Over the years, Mildred buoyed the nascent organization until it rose to prominence with the aid of political backing and strong support from business and civic supporters. Mildred knew then, what has become apparent now, that providing hands-on support and effective learning tools during the critical first years of life is essential to helping parents raise healthy and successful children.

About Parents as Teachers
Parents as Teachers builds strong communities, thriving families and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with trained professionals who make regular personal home visits during a child’s earliest years in life, from pregnancy through kindergarten. The internationally-recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of research-proven outcomes for children and families. Parents as Teachers currently serves nearly 200,000 families in all 50 U.S. states, 115 Tribal organizations, six other countries, and one U.S. territory. Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc., is a non-profit organization headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri.

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CUTLINE:
Parent educators and staff at the Parents as Teachers National Center in St. Louis, MO pose with Parents as Teachers Founder Mildred Winter (seated center) and Constance Gully, the organization’s president and CEO, (left) during Winter’s 98th birthday celebration. The day was also recognized as National Parents as Teachers Day and the kick-off to Parents as Teachers 35th-anniversary activities.