NEWS RELEASE

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Mildred Winter, Parents as Teachers
Founder, Passes at Age 98

ST. LOUIS, MO – Oct. 15, 2019 – Mildred M. Winter, founder of Parents as Teachers (PAT), a St. Louis-based international early childhood development, parenting education and home visiting organization, died today in her sleep. She was 98 years old.

Visitation for Mrs. Winter will be held from 2 – 8 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20, at Lupton Chapel, 7233 Delmar Blvd., in University City, Missouri. The funeral will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 21, at the Atonement Lutheran Church in Florissant, Missouri.

In a statement to PAT staff and board of directors, Constance Gully, PAT president and chief executive officer, said: “It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that our founder, Mildred Winter, passed in her sleep this morning.

“As you all know so well, Mildred lived a full and mission-driven life. I am proud of the legacy we continue and that we celebrate her life here this week with 1,600 PAT family members,” she said.

The message was delivered during the organization’s annual conference being held here at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. Mrs. Winter is scheduled to be honored as one of six “Trailblazers” at a special Jubilee at the end of the conference at the Gateway Arch Museum.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Winter maintained a home in Ferguson, Missouri. She was born in 1920 and was raised in St. Louis, where she attended St. Louis Public Schools and started her teaching career in St. Louis County in the Berkeley School District. She later taught college at Paris Teachers College, operated by the St. Louis Public Schools System.

In the early 1980s, Mrs. Winter, then a public school educator, imagined what would be the impact on children’s development and learning in a home/school partnership that begins before birth. Her vision was realized through the New Parents as Teachers (NPAT) pilot project, a four-
year study that – after years of legislative actions, state and federal funding and with bi-partisan support - would eventually develop into what is now known as Parents as Teachers.

“Mildred knew then, what we know 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,” said Gully.

With a focus on early childhood development and education and the role of parents as their children’s first teachers, Gully said Parents as Teachers has positioned itself as the most highly replicated parenting and home visitation program in the nation, thanks to the vision of Mrs. Winter.

In an interview early in her career, Mrs. Winter was quoted as saying: “As a kindergarten teacher, I found out first-hand that children’s chance for success in school, the foundation for school success was really laid in the home in the early years when teachers, their primary teachers were their parents.”

**About Parents as Teachers**

Parents as Teachers (PAT) 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. PAT 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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