Parents as Teachers Visits Missouri State Capitol on April 8 for Child Advocacy Day 2020

Non-profit joins 500 children’s advocates to rally for legislation that supports early learning, child well-being

ST. LOUIS, MO – February 28, 2020 – St. Louis, Missouri-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) will once again lend its voice to the flood of early childhood development professionals, home visiting, child welfare, and juvenile justice advocates heading to the Missouri State Capitol on April 8 to campaign for children during the 2020 Missouri Child Advocacy Day.

PAT is a non-profit internationally-recognized leader in the early childhood home visiting field. As it did last year, PAT’s Show Me Strong Families (SMSF) affiliate is chartering a bus to take parent educators and families to Jefferson City for the day. The event brings together advocates from around the state to meet with legislators to advocate for policies that uplift Missouri children and families.

“We are mobilizing our staff and families to support this day to underscore how important it is to show up and talk with elected officials about why they should more robustly support early learning, quality childcare, safety net programs that support the families we serve, and — of course — home visiting and PAT,” said Alison Gee, PAT’s vice president of Government & Community Engagement.

The PAT contingent will join more than 500 child welfare advocates to rally and meet with representatives of the Missouri House and Senate to share stories that support home visiting and child well-being.

“Child Advocacy Day allows us to attend, network, and engage state legislators in dialogue about policies affecting children,” Gee said.

Gee oversees SMSF, a community engagement initiative of the Parents as Teachers National Center. It serves families in the Normandy School District (NSC) and St. Louis City. Since its inception in 2014, SMSF has served 809 families with 1,003 children through more than 13,600 personal visits in their homes. An additional 2,500 children in the NSC footprint were screened for developmental delays and health or vision concerns, and more than 28,000 books were distributed to families in the region.
As a leading organization that promotes the optimal early development, learning, and health of children by engaging parents and caregivers through home visiting, PAT remains at the forefront of advocating for some of the country's most vulnerable resources – children.

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.