



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Achievement Academy Recipient of the United Community Relief Fund Grant

LAKELAND, FL (September 11, 2020) - The United Community Relief Fund has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Achievement Academy to help fund their Birth to Three Program. This program provides free early intervention services to approximately 180 infants and toddlers throughout Polk County who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. The majority of the babies that are served were born prematurely. Professional early interventionists serve these children and their families by providing:

- One-on-one sessions in child's home
- Parent support
- Toys and books to enhance child's learning
- Developmental evaluations

Any parent that has a concern about their child's development that is from birth to age three can call the Achievement Academy to schedule a free developmental assessment with an early interventionist.

Early interventionists also have a weekly presence in the Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children's Level III NICU. This Hospital to Home Program builds trust and relationships with the families before they leave the hospital and provides a seamless transition for the early interventionist to provide services in the home.

Funding for this grant is provided by the United Community Relief Fund, a collaborative fund of the United Way of Central Florida and GiveWell Community Foundation.

The support of the United Community Relief Fund is truly a vital component to the success of the children in our community.

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About the Achievement Academy

*The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a **Birth to Three Program** that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families.*

About the United Community Relief Fund

United Way of Central Florida and GiveWell Community Foundation partnered to establish the United Community Relief Fund to provide a trusted, reliable way to make tax-deductible donations to address emergency situations in our community, which includes Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties. To learn more, visit unitedcommunityrelief.org.