



**Jeremiah  
Program**

AUSTIN



Head Start Childhood  
Development Centers  
512.451.7361  
www.childinc.org  
Serving Travis County Families Since 1972

## **Jeremiah Program Austin Launches Partnership with Child Inc. with Support from Luci Baines Johnson**

(Austin, Texas, October 12, 2018) —Jeremiah Program Austin and Child Inc. have entered into a partnership to expand the services in Jeremiah Program's Child Development Center in east Austin. The partnership has allowed Jeremiah Program to open a classroom for toddlers aged 18-24 months and was initiated by a substantial gift from Luci Baines Johnson. The partnership is aligned with Child Inc's goal of establishing innovative collaborations with existing nonprofits to leverage Early Head Start resources, training and standards as well as to create additional access for quality early childhood development.

Mrs. Johnson made her gift to celebrate the legacy of her father, President Johnson and his establishment of Head Start in 1965. In celebration of the new partnership, Head Start Awareness Month and to launch the toddler classroom, the organizations will host an Open House on October 12 at Jeremiah's campus on 1200 Paul Teresa Saldana Street, and Mrs. Johnson will give a brief keynote address.

Jeremiah Program helps transform families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time by providing single mothers and their preschool-aged children with safe affordable housing, support for college, high-quality early childhood education, empowerment and life skills classes, all within a supportive community on the Jeremiah Program campus in east Austin. Jeremiah Program prepares single mothers to excel in the work place, readies their children to succeed in school, and reduces generational dependence on public assistance.

Currently, more than 17,000 single mothers are living in poverty in the Austin area with 43,000 children under 18. In a recent story on NPR, Austin was listed as one of the US cities that is considered a child care desert, estimating that 50% of children in the city live where there are no child care options or very few providers. Research shows the importance of early education and how the lack thereof can make it very hard for children to not only be ready for kindergarten but also not be able to meet developmental benchmarks later in elementary, middle and high schools. Jeremiah Program's child development center and partnership with Child Inc is a strong start in meeting the need for high quality early childhood education in the community. Funding from Mrs. Johnson will help bridge a funding gap until public funds are available to help sustain the center.

Jeremiah's holistic approach provides individualized support to help women complete career-track, college degree programs. One of the advantages of Jeremiah is its ability to assist single moms with wrap-around services so they can become self-reliant while also supporting their children. Nearly 90 percent of children in Jeremiah's child development centers are performing above age-development benchmarks and the average annual wage of our graduates from the past five years is nearly \$48,000.

Jeremiah Program Austin opened its campus in 2017 with 35 two-bedroom apartments, community and meeting space, a five classroom child development center, two playgrounds, and a computer lab. The program is currently accepting applications for single mothers interested in entering the program.



AUSTIN



### About Jeremiah Program

Jeremiah Program offers one of the nation's most successful two generational strategies for transforming families from poverty to prosperity. Headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, Jeremiah is expanding throughout the country to meet the growing demand for its model. The organization has campuses in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN, and Austin, TX, Fargo, ND and Boston, MA, Brownsville, NY and Rochester, MN has introduced an innovative model, working with leading organizations to serve mothers and children.

For more information visit: <https://jeremiahprogram.org>

### About Child Inc

Child Inc provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families. We serve children from birth to age five as the Head Start grantee in Central Texas since 1972. We promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other support services. Our services are provided in Stand Alone Centers, with Home-Based Services, and in Collaborative Classrooms within area school districts.

Head Start was one of the first initiatives in President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." The mission at Child Inc is to provide high-quality education and comprehensive support services for children and their families, while promoting personal and social responsibility in the communities we serve.

For more information visit: <https://childinc.org>

###

