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**SARKEYS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$1 MILLION GRANT TO EDUCARE**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma City Educare recently received a \$1 million grant from the Sarkeys Foundation. Currently, Oklahoma City Educare fundraisers have garnered more than \$8.5 million of their \$10.5 million total budget, which includes a \$1.5 million endowment that will help fund future building maintenance and other unforeseen costs.

Located at Byers Avenue and Southeast Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City Educare will serve 200 at-risk children, prenatal to five years old, with year-round educational programs and developmental childcare. In addition to serving children enrolled in the program, family support staff will also ensure that pregnant women and newborns receive health services.

“This project would not be possible without partners like the Sarkeys Foundation,” said Bob Ross, president and CEO of Inasmuch Foundation and chairman of Oklahoma City Educare. “We have made great progress in our capital campaign so far, and I hope to have all of the necessary funding secured before Oklahoma City Educare opens in 2009.”

**About Educare**

Founded by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago in 2000, Educare Centers are committed to helping young children grow up safe, healthy and eager to learn. Through a consortium of partners, Educare supporters create, provide and promote the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for families and their children (ages prenatal to five years) who are at-risk for school failure. Educare principles and practices are based on continual research and implementation within the field of early childhood education. The success of the children who enter this program will demonstrate the societal and economic value of investing in the earliest years in order to prevent the need for costly interventions later.

**About The Sarkeys Foundation**

Established in 1962, the Sarkeys Foundation is the sixth largest private foundation in Oklahoma with assets of more than \$95 million.

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