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**CARESOURCE AWARDS EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES \$50K TO SUPPORT  
ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Educational nonprofit wins grant challenge competition.*



**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.**, April 27, 2023 - Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) has been chosen as the winner of the Northeast Florida Grant Challenge competition, sponsored by CareSource, a nationally recognized nonprofit health plan enterprise. The award of \$50,000 will help support the essential Head Start, Early Head Start and School Readiness programming that is greatly needed in the 14 counties the agency serves.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from the CareSource Foundation," stated Connie Stophel, Episcopal Children's Services Chief Executive Officer. "As a result, we will be able to better serve the children of this community who deserve the opportunity to reach their fullest potential."

Thanks to the community support and belief in the mission of the organization, Episcopal Children's Services was selected as a finalist several weeks ago, which immediately transitioned the organization to the public voting stage of the competition. Through the efforts of the organization, the community voted for the agency they believe is making the greatest impact in Northeast Florida. Episcopal Children's Services took home the top prize.

"Floridians know best which organizations are moving the needle on the intricate needs of medically complex children in their communities, so the CareSource Foundation is looking to follow their lead," said Jenny Michael, senior vice president of advocacy at CareSource. "We are proud to support Episcopal Children's Services as they work to support the whole child, intellectually, physically and emotionally."

CareSource Foundation Grant Challenge supports the sustainability and expansion of community organizations in a collaborative effort to improve health outcomes, health access and support for families and caregivers so these children can live their best possible life.

**About Episcopal Children’s Services**

Episcopal Children’s Services serves more than 27,000 children and their families in 14 counties in Florida. ECS offers School Readiness, Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Marion, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lake, Levy, Citrus and Alachua counties.

ECS uses research and best practices to help families ensure their children enter school ready to learn. Talented, dedicated teachers and staff work proactively with children from birth to age five and their families to build a strong educational foundation.

**About CareSource**

CareSource is a nonprofit, nationally recognized managed care organization with over 2.3 million members. For more than 30 years, CareSource has built trusted relationships with the mission of transforming health care with innovative programs and a family-centered model of care that address the social determinants of health, health equity, prevention and access to care. CareSource and its family of brands have been a part of improving quality of services offered to Floridians since 2019. CareSource Florida Co. was formed to offer programs and products in the state of Florida.

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