

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 9, 2019



**Neighborhood House**  
OF MILWAUKEE

*Strengthening families and our community since 1945*

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Widge Liccione  
Development Director  
(414) 933-6161 Ext. 127  
widge@nh-milw.org

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Neighborhood House of Milwaukee's Early Childhood Program Rated  
Highest Possible YoungStar Score**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

**Kathryn A. Kuhn**  
Medical College of Wisconsin

**Vice President**

**Mark A. Katz**  
AVI-SPL

**Secretary**

**Susan M. Hickey**  
LEGACY Private Trust Company

**Treasurer**

**Kevin Rich**  
Marquette University

**Joel Brennan**

WI Dept. of Administration

**Monica Genz**

BMO Harris Bank

**Monique Jones**

WEC Energy Group

**David Jorgensen**

VJS Construction Services, Inc.

**Stephanie Ellis Radtke**

Community Volunteer

**Michael Ramstack**

Froedtert & the Medical  
College of Wisconsin

**Jeffrey Rohrer**

PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Will Ruch**

Versant

**Judith Davidson Shane**

CAPS

**Brian Spaid**

Marquette University

**Bryan Terry**

Milwaukee Public Schools

**C.J. Wauters**

Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

**Terry R. Young**

The Northwestern Mutual  
Life Insurance Company

**Jeff Martinka**

Executive Director

**Milwaukee, April 9, 2019** --- Neighborhood House of Milwaukee's Early Childhood Program (ECP) was just awarded a YoungStar 5 rating by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. This is the highest possible rating of the entire YoungStar system.

The YoungStar system measures child care programs' quality through rigorous interviews, technical coaching and on-site visits. The results provide parents with objective ratings of their child's early education options. ECP's intentional and caring approach to education has been recognized as 5 Stars for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, placing it in the top 8% of early child care facilities in Milwaukee.

This 5 Star rating "encourages trust between parents and us, as it's the indicator of Neighborhood House quality" Phan Sanford, Neighborhood House's ECP Manager, emphasized. Phan explains parents see the ECP's nurturing environment every day, but this rating helps to convey the program's academic excellence that happens while they are away. To encourage a child's academic and social/emotional growth, each ECP classroom has a low student-teacher ratio. ECP teachers are also highly accredited, and they are attentive in documenting students' development.

"Neighborhood House's ECP staff works hard every day for our children and families, and I am so proud of their efforts in achieving the YoungStar 5 rating" Executive Director Jeff Martinka noted. "Our Early Childcare Program is remarkable for many reasons. It especially impacts our community by providing parents a safe, affordable place they know they can trust. Quality programming not only helps our little ones grow, but strengthens families by allowing parents to go to work without worrying about their children" he adds.



**ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:** *Neighborhood House of Milwaukee was founded in 1945 to help strengthen children and families in some of the city's most under-served neighborhoods. It's impactful programs serve infants & toddlers, school-age and teen youth, adults and families, refugees and immigrants. More at [www.nh-milw.org](http://www.nh-milw.org).*

**ABOUT YOUNGSTAR:** *YoungStar is Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system, giving parents the tools and information they need to raise happy, healthy kids. The program helps preschools, home-based programs, learning centers, and other child care providers give children safe, nurturing places to grow. More at [dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar).*

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF MILWAUKEE** 2819 W. RICHARDSON PLACE MILWAUKEE, WI 53208 414.933.6161 FAX 414.344.0137 WWW.NH-MILW.ORG INFO@NH-MILW.ORG  
**INTERNATIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM** 639 N. 25TH STREET MILWAUKEE, WI 53233 414.344.4777 ILC@NH-MILW.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/NEIGHBORHOODHOUSEOFMILWAUKEE/

