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**ForKids to Break Ground on \$17 Million Center for Children & Families**

Chesapeake, VA – August 30, 2020 - ForKids will break ground on the *Center for Children and Families* in the South Norfolk neighborhood of Chesapeake on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. The celebratory milestone event comes four years after the nonprofit launched its capital campaign, *The Campaign ForKids*, in the midst of increasing need and aging, obsolete facilities.

Honorary Campaign Chair Frank Batten, Jr., Chesapeake Mayor Rick West, ForKids Board Chair Kelly Sokol and ForKids CEO Thaler McCormick will kick off the afternoon's festivities.

The event is expected to turn out many ForKids supporters including residents from the South Norfolk neighborhood who first embraced the non-profit's project two years ago as a catalyst for economic development in their historic community.

The breaking of ground will be done in classic ForKids style, with colorful ceremonial shovels, followed by a celebration featuring live music by *Fretomology* and food and drinks by South Norfolk vendors excited to introduce the ForKids team and their supporters to their establishments.

Guests will participate in an interactive art project by artist and muralist Letitia Lee that will be hung prominently in The Center. WHRO's STEM Van will also be on site, a nod to the STEM lab designed into *The Center's* 5-classroom, state-of-the-art Education Center equipped to serve 120 children.

Upon completion in late 2020, *The Center* will serve as the ForKids corporate and regional service headquarters. 100+ staff members from five sites will be consolidated in the 60,000+ s.f. facility, with room to grow to 150 employees. The building will absorb the 1000 block of Poindexter Street in historic South Norfolk and include a family shelter that will increase the agency's capacity to shelter families and children by 50%.

ForKids has collaborated with architects Tymoff + Moss and Hourigan Construction for more than three years on programming and design of the building. The project is part of the \$22.5 million *The Campaign ForKids*, which also funded a Regional Services Center in Suffolk, dedicated in November of 2018. *The Campaign* has raised \$19.5 million to date.

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**ForKids, inc.** is a non-profit agency founded 31 years ago with a mission to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children. ForKids has evolved into one of the largest service providers to homeless families in Virginia. ForKids' programs assist over 225 families and 450 children each day, touching the lives of over 70,000 individuals each year. The agency's 100 employees provide housing, education and wrap around services for families experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. For more information, please visit [www.forkids.org](http://www.forkids.org), call (757) 622-6400 or follow them on [Facebook](#).