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CHILDSAVERS EXPANDS THERAPY SESSIONS TO HOPEWELL CITY SCHOOLS

RICHMOND, VA – ChildSavers is announcing a partnership with Hopewell City Schools to provide mental health services to 150 children in five schools: Hopewell High School, Carter G. Woodson Middle School, Harry E. James Elementary School, Dupont Elementary School, and Patrick Copeland Elementary School.

ChildSavers' partnership began with Hopewell City Schools participation in trauma-informed and resilience education which paved the way for new work with Southside-region schools funded by the Cameron Foundation in 2021. This partnership addressed the increased need for mental health support and services impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to providing therapy for students, ChildSavers will continue to support Hopewell City Schools educators and school-based student wellness professionals through training and consultation. By providing mental health care within public schools, ChildSavers takes health care to the community instead of requiring the community to come to us.

Bob Nickles, Program Manager of School-Based Mental Health Services said, "Our region has observed recent instances of violence in school communities, elevated incidences of threats towards and within school communities, and elevated stressors related to post-pandemic school operations. Those realities have greatly increased the importance of collaboration and cooperation between disciplines for our students."

Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent of Hopewell City Public Schools said, "I am beyond excited about this partnership. Our children have needed these supports for a long time, and I am so grateful for the funding to make this critical resource available to them. The consequences of the pandemic have been far reaching. These are difficult times for our babies and I am so hopeful that through our collaborative work with ChildSavers, we will begin to address the root causes of some of their struggles and make a greater difference in their lives."

In addition to reaching students in Hopewell City Schools, ChildSavers also has a presence in Richmond City Schools, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, Prince George, Sussex, and Chesterfield.

About ChildSavers

ChildSavers is a Central Virginia nonprofit organization whose mission is to guide our community's children through life's critical moments with trauma-informed mental health and child development services. ChildSavers is the only nonprofit in Virginia using a coordinated prevention and intervention model to prepare children for school, address mental health, and recover from trauma.

Nearly 100 years ago, ChildSavers was established as the Children's Memorial Clinic in memory of Dr. McGuire Newton, one of Richmond's first pediatricians. Martha Patteson Bowie Branch connected concerned citizens to create an innovative agency "for the purpose of giving complete physical and mental examinations, free of charge, to all children who may need the same."

ChildSavers is a community-supported nonprofit governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. They are licensed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services and accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Child and Family Services. Their offices are located at 200 North 22nd Street in the East End of Richmond. To learn more about their programs and services visit www.childsavers.org or call (804) 644.9590.

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