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Silver Dollar City Foundation's *Care For Kids* Assists Over 5,000 Students in 2018-2019

(Branson, Mo 7/2019) In the 2018-2019 school year, *Care For Kids* assisted over 5,000 students in Stone and Taney Counties by giving time, attention, care and resources. The Silver Dollar City Foundation provided funding for:

- Nearly 1,600 children with clothes, coats and shoes
- Over 800 children with essential school supplies
- 900 children with food at school or home
- Nearly 600 children and their families with rent, utilities, fuel or auto repair
- Over 800 children with mentor programs and life skills
- Approximately 300 children with miscellaneous needs

To date, the *Care For Kids* program has assisted over 45,000 kids in Stone and Taney Counties. The donation amounts to nearly \$1.65 million over the past 13 years.

Targeting in-home, pre-school education to jump-start the learning process, *Care For Kids* also provided funding to a Parents As Teachers (PAT) training program for Southwest Missouri and **supported the training of 14 new Parent Educators for the Stone and Taney County school districts**. This program provides at-home visits from trained teachers who educate parents and children before kindergarten. **These at-home, early education visits have been proven to significantly increase a child's success in school and adult life.**

Care For Kids also focuses on kids' educational and social/emotional needs. **Currently, 320 volunteers serve as tutors and mentors** ("lunch buddies" or "book buddies") **who help with reading, life skills and guidance**. This volunteer program provides kids with time and attention from people who listen to and mentor with care, and is proven to increase test scores, self-esteem and behavior.

For more information on the *Care For Kids* program and volunteering opportunities, call 417-336-7077 or visit www.silverdollarcityfoundation.com.