

September 7, 2023

## News Release

Karen Martsof, MA  
Chief Marketing/Communications Officer  
(970) 644-3490 (o)  
(970) 778-1249 (c)

### Community Hospital to Celebrate Grand Opening of Adventure Academy

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital will host a public open house to celebrate the grand opening of their new early childhood education center on **Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**. The grand opening ceremony for the 7,500 square foot early childhood education center will take place at 2373 Adventure Lane, located on the south side of Community Hospital near the emergency department.

The grand opening ceremony will take place ten months after breaking ground on the new early childhood education center in November 2022. The capital investment for Community Hospital's new early childhood education center was \$5 million. The completion of this project created 25 additional jobs in our community and will help reduce the gap in early childhood education in Mesa County.

According to the Mesa County Child Care 8,000 Business Plan, Mesa County is in need of approximately 4,000 childcare slots to meet the demands of the workforce. The Child Care 8,000 is a community initiative to increase capacity to serve children in child care and support parents to work. A lack of licensed child care limits parents who want to be part of the workforce.

The goal is to work together as a community to maintain current facilities at capacity, add additional slots, and license new facilities until Mesa County reaches 8,000 slots for children ages 0-13. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the importance of quality childcare for frontline health care workers, which continued to be an issue with childcare and school classroom required quarantines during the pandemic. Accessible and affordable quality child care alleviates stress on families, allowing our community to grow.

"We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition," said Chris Thomas, President and CEO for Community Hospital. "High quality, affordable childcare is essential to the well-being of our community and Community Hospital is proud to champion this effort. We know that a lack of available childcare impacts health care and we are honored to be a part of the solution to help minimize the lack of available childcare in Mesa County," added Thomas.

"This project is a very important addition to our early childhood education community and I am very proud to be a part of it," said Jennifer Knott, Adventure Academy Operator. "Adventure Academy will add 113 additional childcare slots for children ages six weeks to six years. We are proudly building the future, one adventure at a time," added Knott.

For more information on the new early childhood education center at Community Hospital please visit [adventureacademygj.com](http://adventureacademygj.com). To donate to the early childhood education center capital campaign, please visit [www.YourCommunityHospital.com/Childcare](http://www.YourCommunityHospital.com/Childcare).

###

Great People.  
Great Care.  
Great Choice!