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CELEBREE SCHOOL ORGANIZES GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE CENTER AT CROMWELL BUSINESS PARK

Franchise owner Jason Skidmore expects to open Anne Arundel County site this summer

BALTIMORE, MD (February 17, 2021) – **Celebree School**, which presently operates more than 50 early childhood education and care centers throughout Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Pennsylvania, held a groundbreaking ceremony for its newest facility in Anne Arundel County. Franchise owner **Jason Skidmore** signed a lease with **St. John Properties, Inc.** for nearly 11,000 square feet of space at Cromwell Business Park, with the opening of the facility at 6934 Aviation Boulevard in Glen Burnie scheduled for June 1. **Angelo Munafo** of St. John Properties represented the landlord, and Megan Williams of Cushman & Wakefield represented Celebree in this transaction.

Presiding over the event were **Jason Skidmore** and representatives from St. John Properties, together with **Maryland Delegates Mark Chang** and **Mike Rogers** (Anne Arundel County District 32), as well as officials from Celebree School, the **North Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce**, **The BWI Business Partnership**, and other local business leaders.

Celebree School offers curriculum programs aligned with the Maryland State Department of Education's focus on Early Childhood Education and incorporates STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) into every daily lesson. Infant childcare programs are suitable for children ranging from six weeks to eighteen months of age and are designed for personal, social, language and physical development. All locations, which also offer summer camp programs, are locally-owned and staffed by degreed teachers. This site is the sixth for Celebree School in Anne Arundel County, but first owned by a franchisee.

Celebree School represents a new business model for Jason Skidmore, who owns and operates Hart to Heart Transportation in conjunction with his wife, Terry Skidmore. The company has more than 350 employees and has provided emergency and non-emergency transportation services throughout Maryland and Delaware since 1996.

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Skidmore's parents owned and operated assisted living facilities in Harford County, and he regularly worked in the family business while growing up. This exposure to entrepreneurship and experience operating within a business environment that positively impacted the community inspired him to co-found Hart to Heart Transportation. He believes this pivot to Celebree School represents a natural transition to his lifetime mission of providing essential services to the local community.

"I have always been passionate about taking care of people," Skidmore explained. "While raising three children with my wife, we realized the importance of providing them with a safe, positive and nurturing environment that allowed them to thrive. We have witnessed first-hand the long-term problems encountered by youngsters that do not have the benefit of this support. I see myself as a public servant to the local community, and gravitated towards childcare and education as a subset to my desire to improve healthcare offerings."

"Thorough research with several childcare and education partners led me to Celebree School, and the concept's warm and inviting culture, backed by visionary leadership, quickly separated Celebree from other competitors and made my decision an easy one. It was clearly obvious that we would be receiving unconditional support to own and operate a great school, and its mission to protect, educate and nurture align with my core values," Skidmore added.

"This facility will be an important and valuable addition to the Glen Burnie business community," Celebree School CEO Richard Huffman told the audience gathered for the groundbreaking. "We believe success in early education development is equal parts curriculum and connection among our students. It is not just about educating a whole child, but the whole family."

6934 Aviation Boulevard is a single-story building offering 38,880 square feet of flex/R&D space and 6,900 square feet of endcap retail space, featuring 16-foot ceiling heights. Cromwell Business Park is a 165-acre mixed-use business community located off Interstate 97 at Dorsey Road and is less than two miles from Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Interstate 695 is approximately three miles from the business community and MD Route 295 is four miles away. On-site retail amenities contained within Cromwell Business Park include Starbucks Coffee, 7-Eleven, Royal Farms, Subway, WildFlower florist, Los Portales, and Aviation Deli & Grill.

"St. John Properties is proud to have several Celebree School locations throughout our portfolio, and they have proven to be a valuable addition to the communities they reside in," explained Sean Doordan, Senior Vice President

of Leasing and Acquisitions for St. John Properties. “The availability of on-site childcare and education is an amenity embraced by our clients and their employees.”

“After conducting an extensive real estate search, Cromwell Business Park emerged as the obvious location based on the nearby residential density, expected housing growth, and placement within a mature business community that includes many working parents,” Skidmore stated. “Other key advantages include access to major highways, including Interstate 97, and shopping options such as Arundel Mills and major retailers. We have learned that the availability of necessary retail and high-quality preschool are pivotal considerations among first-time homebuyers looking to relocate to a new community.”

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, St. John Properties, Inc. is one of the Mid-Atlantic’s largest privately held commercial real estate firms. The company is distinguished by their commitment to customer service, achievements in green building, and top-rated workplace culture. Throughout St. John Properties’ 50-year history, the company has developed more than 21 million square feet of flex/R&D, Office, Retail and Warehouse space serving more than 2,500 clients in Maryland, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Utah, and Wisconsin. For more information about the company, visit www.sjpi.com.