

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The Dogwood School of Chester Partners with Preschool Advantage

CHESTER, NEW JERSEY – December 18, 2017. Preschool Advantage is delighted to announce a new partnership with The Dogwood School of Chester to provide a high quality preschool education for children whose families cannot afford tuition. Preschool Advantage is a non-profit organization that partners with 21 preschools in Morris and Somerset counties to provide funding for students whose families can demonstrate a financial need. Every year there are many families in Mendham and Chester who cannot afford tuition for preschool because of financial circumstances. This new partnership will allow Preschool Advantage to assist more families in giving their children a solid start in life.

The Preschool Advantage School Committee visited The Dogwood School of Chester and was very impressed with the quality preschool education provided by the school. Preschool Advantage selects partner schools based on five points of quality in preschool education: teacher and child interaction, curriculum, family involvement, staff qualifications and professional development, and management of the school. The Dogwood School provides an excellent early education for children ages 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 5 years.

There are thousands of working families in New Jersey who cannot afford to provide their children with an early education. While there are federally funded programs to cover the cost of preschool for families living below the poverty line, working families making over that level have limited options. The high cost of living in Morris and Somerset Counties leaves many families unable to afford a quality early education for their children. Preschool Advantage is committed to addressing this need, one child at a time and relies completely on private funding.

Preschool Advantage is accepting applications for funding to its partner preschools for the school year beginning in September. Local families can apply to Preschool Advantage for funding for 3 or 4 year old children. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2018 to be considered for the school year beginning in September 2018. Applications received by February 28, 2018 will be given priority in funding decisions. Families demonstrating commitment to education and financial need can access the application at preschooladvantage.org, or by calling (973) 532-2501.

Pictured from left to right: Lisa Robbins, Director and Owner of The Dogwood School of Chester welcomes Yvette Long, Trustee Preschool Advantage, to the Dogwood School of Chester.

