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**Santa Maria Community Services Thanks Sisters of Charity for Supporting
Promoting Our Preschoolers Program**

CINCINNATI, OH – Santa Maria Community Services, Inc. is deeply grateful to the Sisters of Charity for their support of its Promoting Our Preschoolers (POP) program through the Sister Elise Grant. This program is partly made possible through the generous support of the SC Ministry Foundation, which promotes the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.

Santa Maria was founded in 1897 in Cincinnati's Lower Price Hill neighborhood by Sisters Blandina and Justina Segale, members of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. What began as their ministry to support immigrant families has grown into a nonprofit that today serves around 3,000 individuals annually with educational, financial, health, and supportive services. The continued support of the Sisters of Charity honors that founding legacy and strengthens Santa Maria's work in Price Hill.

POP is a home visitation program that prepares children ages 3–5 for kindergarten while supporting their caregivers with resources to build family stability. Each year, three dedicated family support workers, including two bilingual staff, provide individualized guidance to families. The program not only focuses on kindergarten readiness but also encourages parent engagement, helps families access basic necessities, and builds confidence in caregivers as their children's first teachers.

The results speak volumes: recent Development Indicators for the Assessment of Learning showed that 90% of POP children demonstrated gains in motor skills, language, social development, and overall readiness for school. Parent engagement also increased significantly after one year in the program.

"We are honored by the Sisters of Charity's commitment to families in our community," said H.A. Musser, Jr., President and CEO of Santa Maria Community Services. "Their generosity helps ensure that children are not only prepared for school but that their families have the support they need to thrive."

Santa Maria is proud to continue the mission first carried out by Sisters Blandina and Justina Segale and is grateful for the ongoing partnership of the Sisters of Charity, whose dedication to service continues to uplift families in Price Hill.



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About Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.

Santa Maria Community Services, Inc. is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization originally founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1897 and place-based in Cincinnati Ohio's Price Hill community. Santa Maria provides more than 3,000 individuals with educational tools and resources to build strong families, promote healthy residents, and foster neighborhood revitalization. Our Price Hill Family Centers provide a welcoming environment and the coaching, support, and flexibility to assist families to achieve their identified goals toward stabilization and self-sufficiency. Our mission is to be a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals. Our vision is for Greater Price Hill to be a vibrant, thriving, and self-sustaining community. Learn more at SantaMaria-Cincy.org.