



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Little City Receives \$500,000 Matching Grant from The Coleman Foundation***

*The grant will support the ongoing construction of the Duffey Family Children's Village, specifically designed to create a safe, transformational and therapeutic environment for children on the autism spectrum.*



**PALATINE, IL – July 22, 2015**

Several years ago, in order to be in the strongest position possible to serve the ever-expanding population of children with autism, Little City took a proactive stance and began planning the Children's Village consisting of six homes.

Two are already completed and occupied. The Coleman Foundation grant provides valuable support to building the third home.

"We are very pleased to have received the \$500,000 grant from The Coleman Foundation," said

Shawn Jeffers, Executive Director of Little City. "It is an honor that will certainly inspire others to provide additional financial support for the completion of our third home as well as the entire Children's Village."

Little City is dedicated to taking the lead in developing baselines that can be replicated and adapted throughout the nation, whether in settings similar to our own or families caring for their loved ones at home.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported that one in 50 children between the ages of 6 and 17 has some form of autism. A few months prior, an earlier report from the CDC estimated that 1 in 68 children (or 14.7 per 1,000 eight-year-olds) in multiple communities in the United States had been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



For more information, visit [www.littlecity.org](http://www.littlecity.org) or contact Ed Hockfield, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at [ehockfield@littlecity.org](mailto:ehockfield@littlecity.org) or 847-221-7880.



### **About Little City**

A leader for over 55 years, Little City continues to be inspirational and transformational in developing our 56-acre campus. From our modest beginnings of three homes and 16 residents, primarily serving those with Down syndrome, Little City has grown into a recognized leader offering a wide array of innovative services. In addition to our campus in Palatine, we have a Community Services Office in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood as well as 15 Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) homes and one children's group home located throughout suburban Cook and DuPage Counties.

Today, Little City serves over 400 individuals with mild to profound disabilities offering a comprehensive program portfolio that includes vocational training and employment placement, foster care and adoption, home-based family support, health and wellness, recreation and therapeutic activities, disability awareness and community education, day school and an award-winning arts program. Visit [www.littlecity.org](http://www.littlecity.org)

### **About The Coleman Foundation**

The Coleman Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking foundation established in Illinois in 1951. The Foundation supports educational institutions offering entrepreneurship education, organizations providing cancer treatment, education and support, and agencies providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities only in the Chicago Metropolitan area - its primary geographical focus.

The Foundation encourages collaborative efforts among developmental disabilities providers and supports various programs aimed at helping individuals with developmental disabilities experience a higher quality of life and increased self-determination. More information is available at [www.colemanfoundation.org](http://www.colemanfoundation.org)

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