

Eaton Invests in Pre-Kindergarten in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO – Affordable, high-quality pre-Kindergarten for Kalamazoo County 4-year-olds is getting a boost from Eaton Corporation.

The diversified industrial manufacturer's Galesburg, Mich., facility announced plans this week to give a \$15,000 "Powering Communities Grant" to Kalamazoo County Ready 4s.

"We greatly appreciate the generous grant from Eaton," said KC Ready 4s Executive Director Sandy Standish. "We are in the first year of a two-year pilot with 65 four-year-olds attending pre-Kindergarten at five high-quality providers," Standish said. "Our goal for KC Ready 4s is to provide fully-accessible, high-quality early childhood education for every 4-year-old in Kalamazoo County. This grant supports our efforts to increase the number of participating children and high-quality providers for Year 2 of the pilot (2012-13)."

Bill Braun, chairman of the Eaton Galesburg Community Support Committee in Galesburg, said, "Eaton is proud to support organizations dedicated to education such as KC Ready 4s. It's important for the children and their families, to be sure.

"In addition, as Dr. Tim Bartik (Senior Economist with the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research) shows us so well in his book '*Investing in Kids*,' investing in education is one of the most powerful economic development commitments we can make," said Braun, who is also a member of the KC Ready 4s Board of Directors.

Eaton's Vehicle Group headquarters is located off Interstate 94 in Galesburg, Mich. It is home to more than 600 employees, who design and market solutions that help increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce emissions, while improving safety and reliability without affecting overall performance.

KC Ready 4s is an organization with two goals -- both aimed at providing fully-accessible, high-quality pre-Kindergarten education to all 4-year-olds in Kalamazoo County. The first goal focuses on enhancing the quality of pre-Kindergarten offerings from existing providers so that they have achieved at least four stars on the five-star Michigan Quality Rating & Improvement System scale. The second goal is to provide financial support on a sliding fee scale so that 4-year-olds from all families can receive high-quality pre-Kindergarten education.

Eaton Corporation is a diversified power management company with more than 100 years of experience providing energy-efficient solutions that help its customers effectively manage electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power.

With 2011 sales of \$16 billion, Eaton is a global technology leader in electrical components and systems for power quality, distribution and control; hydraulics components, systems and services for industrial and mobile equipment; aerospace fuel, hydraulics and pneumatic systems for commercial and military use; and truck and automotive drivetrain and powertrain systems for performance, fuel economy and safety.

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