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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GENERATIONS UNITED RELEASES GROUNDBREAKING REPORT ON  
SENIORS' SUPPORT OF PRE-K IN KENTUCKY;**

**ALL FORMER FIRST LADIES AND CURRENT FIRST LADY ENDORSE  
INITIATIVE**

Today all former first ladies and the current First Lady of Kentucky joined together to become Honorary Co-Chairs of Generations United's Seniors4Kids program.

"By partnering with Generations United's Seniors4Kids and the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I hope to be able to further develop early care and education in Kentucky," said First Lady Jane Beshear.

First Lady Jane Beshear and former first ladies Charlann Carroll, Glenna Fletcher, Jean Neel Ford, Phyllis George, Libby Jones, Judi Patton, and Martha Wilkinson endorse making quality pre-k available for all of Kentucky's children.

In addition, Generations United released a report on the crucial role older adults in Kentucky, and throughout the United States, play in their support of expanding the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten (pre-k) programs.

The report, *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: Kentucky*, shows that older Kentuckians recognize that pre-k benefits children, families, and all of society by contributing to a capable workforce and saving taxpayers money. Research has proven that children from disadvantaged low-income families who have participated in these programs are more academically and socially successful than those who have not. These same kids have improved chances of completing high school, getting higher-paying jobs, and becoming more productive citizens overall.

While the number of adults ages 50 and older in Kentucky is going to increase substantially, the number of children ages 3 and 4 will change very little. Seniors 50+

will be instrumental in supporting efforts to increase quality and access to pre-k programs in Kentucky.

“It is not just the children who thrive from the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten,” said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United. “All generations benefit. Adults age 50+ want to leave a legacy for the children of tomorrow, for the future they may not see.”

“The Prichard Committee welcomes the support of the Generations United Seniors4Kids program as part of our work to expand the availability of quality pre-k for Kentucky’s children,” said Robert F. Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee. “Involving Kentuckians age 50 and older will give an important boost to our Strong Start Kentucky campaign, and it reflects the reality that all Kentuckians have an important role to play in giving our youngest citizens the best foundation for success.”

Generations United releases *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: Kentucky* in support of its Seniors4Kids initiative. Seniors4Kids ([www.seniors4kids.org](http://www.seniors4kids.org)) is a civic engagement initiative that bridges the generations by raising the visibility of older adults in support of issues directly impacting children and youth. Seniors4Kids engages older adult voters in support of state initiatives. Adults age 50+ create statewide networks of community leaders and grassroots volunteers with the common goal of promoting policies that both directly impact children and youth and benefit the entire community.

*Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state, and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.*

*The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is a nonpartisan group of citizens dedicated to vastly improving the performance of Kentucky schools. For 25 years, the Committee has united parents and civic and corporate leaders to keep quality education at all levels funded and at the forefront of Kentucky’s agenda. Strong Start Kentucky: Quality Pre-K for Every Child, an initiative of the Prichard Committee in partnership with Pre-K Now, is focused on assuring that all Kentucky children have access to quality pre-k and early care.*