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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Acorn Funds Preschool Education for 80 Children

Eighty children from Morris County and surrounding communities have been selected by Project Acorn, Inc. which will fund their preschool education in the 2009-2010 school year. The students include 34 who are returning for a second year of preschool as four year olds, as well as 46 three and four year olds newly entering the program. Project Acorn sends these children to half-day programs in high-quality local preschools that provide parents with options for church/synagogue based programs as well as traditional and Montessori schools.

Project Acorn's mission affirms studies and research that prove preschool is the most cost effective means for improving the education and life outcomes for children in lower income families. Preschool education is unaffordable for many families that are over the Head Start income limit of \$21,200 for a family of four, yet few private sources of assistance exist.

Project Acorn is supported by individual donors as well as grants from foundations and businesses. Donors share the organization's objective of strengthening the local community by giving children of lower income families a proven means to improve their educational success. Recent donors include: PNC Foundation, William E. Simon Foundation, Morristown Rotary, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Care and sanofi-aventis.

Project Acorn was founded in 1995 by a Morristown couple, Stuart and Jill Lasser, who wanted to share the benefits they saw when their son attended preschool. This year the organization passes the milestone of having assisted a total of 500 youngsters since its inception.

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