



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date: April 18, 2019**

**Subject: Sneak preview of “Our Kids” documentary featuring Springfield**

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The Community Foundation of the Ozarks will host a sneak preview screening of a new documentary series featuring Springfield called “Our Kids: Narrowing the Opportunity Gap” based on the book by Harvard professor, Dr. Robert Putnam.

The screening, co-hosted by Ozarks Public Television and the Drew Lewis Foundation, will take place at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, at The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. It will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mike Smith, representing KSMU public radio and Ozarks Public Television, which will air the full four-part series beginning Monday, April 29.

“Our Kids” is a four-part series produced by the Media Policy Center and airing this spring on public television stations across the country. Springfield is one of nine cities featured for its efforts to create better opportunities for students whose families live below the federal poverty level. Producers filmed at Robberson Community School, OTC’s Middle College, The Fairbanks and other sites.

This private sneak preview is for members of the communities where filming took place along with education and community leaders working on ways to narrow the opportunity gap for students. The panel discussion following the screening will include: Robberson Principal Dr. Kevin Huffman; Drew Lewis Founder Amy Blansit; Brittany Williams, an OTC student featured in the program; and Brian Fogle, president of the CFO, which is one of 12 sponsors of the national series.

“We believe it’s important to heighten awareness of the challenges our society faces if we don’t make it possible for all of our kids to succeed,” Fogle said. “Dr. Putnam is one of the foremost authorities in our country on this topic and the CFO is proud to participate with national funders to focus attention on these issues.”

The full series will air on Ozarks Public Television for four consecutive weeks, beginning at 8 p.m., Monday, April 29. Springfield is featured in the second segment, airing on Monday, May 6.

To watch the preview, visit: <https://vimeo.com/311962483>.

**About the Media Policy Center:** *The Media Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2003 by producer/directors Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, whose individual projects have won an Academy Award, five Emmys, a Peabody, two Christopher Awards, and two Cine Golden Eagles, among numerous other accolades. MPC strives to inform, challenge, and ultimately engage a responsive citizenry and to encourage full and meaningful engagement across the political, social, and economic spectrum. MPC has been honored by the Ashoka Fellowship of entrepreneurs as the only business partnership among its 3,500 global members and the only professional media group.*

**About Dr. Robert Putnam:** *Robert D. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He has written 14 books, translated into more than twenty languages, including "Bowling Alone" and "Making Democracy Work," both among the most cited publications in the social sciences in the last half century. He has consulted for the last three American presidents, the last three British prime ministers, the last French president, prime ministers from Ireland to Singapore, and hundreds of grassroots leaders and activists in many countries. His latest book, "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis" on the growing class gap among American young people, was published in March 2015.*

**About the Community Foundation of the Ozarks:** *Established in 1973, the CFO is a regional public charitable foundation that provides asset and resource development, grantmaking and public leadership through a network of donors, 49 affiliate foundations and some 600 nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri.*

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