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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Groundbreaking at Niemann School for 10-acre Outdoor Classroom

MICHIGAN CITY, IN — On Monday, November 21, 2022, Paladin’s Early Childhood Programs broke ground at its Royal Road location (Niemann School) in Michigan City, IN, for the construction of an additional 10 acres of outdoor classroom and learning spaces. This expansion will provide LaPorte County children with an environment conducive to building confidence, promoting creativity and imagination, teaching responsibility, encouraging physical activity, and reducing stress and fatigue.

Many partners and community members gathered to share in the excitement of the day despite the snow still on the ground. The dedicated spaces such as a stage, art and music play coupled with the natural materials being used in the construction encourage exploration and experimental learning. Patrick Poland, General Contractor and Project Manager with HP Construction was in attendance and remarked that he is happy to be part of a project that enhances learning and extends the classroom space for children.

With an expected date for phase one in early 2023, the \$700,000 project will serve both an educational and an environmental function. Paladin’s Early Childhood Programs Director, Theresa Argueta, explained to the group gathered that, “we were intentional in decisions that we made about how to restore the natural ecosystem while also building a comprehensive, multi-sensory outdoor classroom. Our collaboration with a local permaculturist, Planned Environments, and the Construction Manager all helped to inform and develop the plan to implement a pollinator area, a native grass and herbaceous plants space, and a creek bed feature with a natural catch basin.”

Paladin is a non-profit that serves as advocates for adults with disabilities, children, and seniors. To support Paladin’s early education efforts or for more information, contact us at paladin@paladin.care, visit us online at paladin.care, or contact us directly.

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