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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:** Eric K. Foster

 616.558.3276

 ericfoster@progress-strategies.com

***Progress Strategies+ hired by early learning neighborhood collaborative***

**Grand Rapids, Mich., January 3, 2015** –*Progress Strategies+* has announced that it has been hired by the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC) to provide public policy and advocacy facilitation and coaching to the organization. As a client in the *Progress Strategies+* Public Policy and Advocacy client service area, ELNC will benefit from introductory and essential strategies of permissible non-profit advocacy on behalf of children and parents.

ELNC is an initiative, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, focused and vested in changing the current reality of vulnerable children. With a coalition of organization partners and providers ELNC has designed and is currently implementing an intentional preschool service system aimed at providing, expanding and sustaining the capacity of high quality early care and education programs in vulnerable neighborhoods of Grand Rapids.

The organization is proven in providing excellent services and tuition-free school at neighborhood preschools. ELNC is now focused on engaging in more collaborative and grassroots advocacy in order to serve 3-to-4 year old children and prepare them for kindergarten readiness.

Eric K. Foster, Principal of *Progress Strategies+* shared an appreciation for the project client work with ELNC and the organization’s leadership. “There is a greeting from the Masai of Kenya that is simple but profound, ‘And how are the children?’ Through dedicated leadership, partners, staff, neighborhood preschool classrooms with comprehensive services and caring environments, ELNC works extraordinary hard to make sure that question is answered with ‘learning great, developing well and increasingly no longer vulnerable.’ It is a pleasure to help ELNC do more for children through advocacy and grassroots policy engagement with state, local and federal institutions.”

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