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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Debbie Markman, CCAP, NCRT, Resource Development Director Economic Security Corporation, Joplin 417-627-2013 dmarkman@escswa.org

ESC's Joplin Bungalows and Ozark Center Partnership Creates a Dog Park for Residents

Joplin, MO, The Joplin Bungalows was overwhelmed with a donation by Ozark Center for the creation of a dog park on the property for residents and their dogs. Having a dog is an important part of human beings wellbeing and the ability to have a home that is accepting of a pet is very vital in our community. If this is not enough of a reason to have a dog. How about <u>*Psychology Today*</u> "How Dogs Drive Emotional Well-being," April 18, 2018. "According to research, dogs can be much more than simply a trusting buddy. The evidence proving the physical benefits of living with a canine companion has been well documented, and varies from improved cardiovascular health and increased physical activity to lower cholesterol and decreased blood pressure." This is very exciting

Dedication and Ribbon Cutting:

- Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021
- Time: 10:00 AM
- Where: Joplin Bungalow's Address: 2613 S. McCoy Avenue (in front of the dog park), Joplin, MO 64801
- This will be an outdoor ceremony, physical distancing of 6 feet will be required for those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination.

Joplin Bungalows is a Limited Liability Company formed by Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area (ESC). We collaborated with the Vecino Group and its subsidiary companies to develop the Joplin Bungalows. Additional partners include: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of Joplin, Southwest Missouri Bank, The Homeless Coalition and Sustainable Properties. The Bungalows were funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program.

About Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area: Since 1965, Economic Security Corporation has been a leader in developing solutions and bringing resources to Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald County. It offers a diversity of services meeting basic human needs for food and shelter, while enriching people's lives by providing access to increased education, skills, and building relationships for the future, please visit: <u>www.escswa.org</u>.



About Freeman Health System

Locally owned, not-for-profit and nationally recognized, Freeman Health System includes Freeman Hospital West, Freeman Hospital East, Freeman Neosho Hospital and Ozark Center - the area's largest provider of behavioral health services - as well as two urgent care clinics, dozens of physician clinics and a variety of specialty services. In 2020, Freeman earned dozens of individual awards for medical excellence and patient safety from CareChex®, a quality rating system that helps consumers evaluate healthcare providers. *U.S. News & World Report* named Freeman Health System the Best Hospital in Southwest Missouri for 2020-2021. With more than 320 physicians on staff representing more than 80 specialties, Freeman provides cancer care, heart care, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, children's services and women's services. Additionally, Freeman is the only Children's Miracle Network Hospital in a 70-mile radius. For more information, visit freemanhealth.com.

About Ozark Center

Ozark Center is based in Joplin, Missouri and has been an entity of Freeman Health System since 1996. It has been providing comprehensive behavioral health services to children, adults and families since 1965 in an area that includes more than 450,000 residents from the Four States. Ozark Center continually looks for innovative ways to address the behavioral health needs of the community and promote awareness of behavioral health issues in an effort to eliminate the discrimination associated with it. For more information, visit <u>ozarkcenter.com</u> or call 417.347.7600.

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