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EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

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\$1,000,000 Opens the Door to Quality Childcare

*Sturgeon Bay couple kicks off campaign
to ensure families have access to quality childcare*

September 26, 2025 – Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin – How much would you invest in the well-being of your community? For the Ziegelbauers from Sturgeon Bay, a \$1,000,000 commitment ensures Door County working families have access to the best early childhood education. Gary and Marti Spittell Ziegelbauer, philanthropists and longtime Door County residents, recently committed the lead pledge to Doorway to Learning as part of the kick-off of its *Opening the Door to a Brighter Future* Campaign and they invite others to join them.

Doorway to Learning is an early care and education center that cares for 150 children during the school year and more than 200 children in the summer. As Doorway to Learning embarks on a \$4 million campaign, the Ziegelbauers have stepped up as local philanthropic leaders in anticipation that others will follow their lead. The Ziegelbauers' donation will rename the Gordon Road campus the *Gary and Marti Ziegelbauer Campus – Doorway to Learning*.

The Ziegelbauers believe that successful communities need three crucial components: jobs, housing, and child care. This generous donation helps to ensure long-term success for Doorway to Learning, the only licensed child care center serving children from birth through school age between Green Bay and Sister Bay. As employers themselves, the Ziegelbauers understand the impact accessible child care has in attracting and retaining employees.

"We are honored to be able to leave a legacy for the children and families of Door County," said the Ziegelbauers in a joint statement. "Not only are we grandparents, we are employers and residents in this wonderful community. We are lucky to be able to help support and sustain quality child care – it makes the community stronger and its positive effects will last for generations."



“We are so grateful for the generosity of the Ziegelbauers’ lead donation,” said Devin Vandertie, Board President for Doorway to Learning. “Accessible, high-quality child care is vital to a strong workforce and a thriving community. The reality of rising costs makes it increasingly difficult to offer affordable tuition while sustaining operations. This kind of transformational support from community members like the Ziegelbauers allows us to keep our doors open and meet this critical need for families across Door County.”

From homelessness to healthcare, and now to child care, both Gary and Marti believe addressing these critical issues helps to make communities thrive and be strong. The Ziegelbauers’ impact can be felt in Door County, greater Northeast Wisconsin, Palm Beach, Florida – as well as nationwide. In Door County, Marti is a founding donor and spokesperson

of the Women’s Fund of Door County, serves as a board member for Door County Medical Center and Doorway to Learning, and is a supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Door County and the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club Sail Training Foundation. Outside of Door County, she is the Vice President of Big Dog Ranch Rescue, the largest no kill, cage free dog shelter in North America; founding sponsor of the Green Bay Women’s Fund; founder of the Marti Spittell Ziegelbauer Foundation for Reproductive Cancer; and board member on the Quality Care and Control Board for HSHS Hospitals.

Gary is involved in the NEW Community Shelter, Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation, My Brother’s Keeper, Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Brian Ziegelbauer Memorial Foundation, and was on the state board for Special Olympics.

Marti is a former television news anchor in Northeast Wisconsin and a Nationwide Television Talent Consultant. Gary is the Owner & President at Triangle Distributing Company and one of the founders of Investors Community Bank in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Doorway to Learning is a licensed nonprofit childcare organization dedicated to providing high-quality, child-centered care in a safe and nurturing environment for nearly 150 children year-round, and more than 200 in the summer. Created by merging Children First and Door Community (DoCo) Child Development Center, the organization combined resources and expertise to ensure long-term sustainability for childcare in Door County.

The Door County Community Foundation is providing support to Doorway to Learning with their campaign. The Door County Community Foundation, Inc. is a collection of separate charitable funds set up by individuals, families, non-profit organizations, private foundations and businesses that are managed, invested and disbursed for the current and future good of Door County. The Community Foundation was launched in 1999, currently administers more than \$65 million in assets, and distributes more than \$7 million to charities every year.