**For Immediate Release**

***Feeding Matters Receives $40,000 Grant from Thunderbirds Charities to Implement a Trauma-Informed Model for Families Affected by Pediatric Feeding Disorder***

**PHOENIX, Ariz. (January 19, 2024)** – [Feeding Matters](http://www.feedingmatters.org), an Arizona based nonprofit pioneering advancements in the system of care for pediatric feeding disorder (PFD), proudly announces the reception of a $40,000 grant from Thunderbirds Charities in their Fall 2023 Grant Award Cycle.

This significant contribution will specifically support a new initiative for the organization, “Toward Healing: A Transformational Trauma-Informed Model to Support Families Experiencing the Impacts of PFD.” The organization plans to utilize the funding for trauma-informed initiatives, equipping families with essential resources and raising awareness within high-risk populations.

PFD affects more than 1 in 37 children under the age of 5 in the US annually, leading to agonizing feeding experiences, refusal to eat, malnutrition and developmental delays. Feeding Matters’ ongoing work has revealed a significant lack of public awareness about the disorder and the intense emotional impact it can have on families, often producing trauma that takes years to unravel. The proposed trauma-informed model addresses this critical gap by integrating medical education and emotional support, transforming the experience of families to enable and empower them as they seek the best care for their children. The grant will elevate Feeding Matters’ existing suite of family support programming by significantly transforming these areas with a trauma-informed lens.

Jaclyn Pederson, CEO of Feeding Matters, expressed deep appreciation for Thunderbirds Charities' support: “This grant is crucial in our ongoing efforts to address the often-overlooked trauma experienced by families dealing with PFD. With this funding, we aim to make significant strides in transforming the many lives affected by PFD through the launch of a comprehensive trauma-informed model, addressing both the medical and mental health aspects, offering hope and care.”

“This is a critical program that we are proud to support,” says Pat Williams, President of Thunderbirds Charities. “Feeding Matters is a valuable asset in our community, delivering transformative programs that positively impact families seeking the best care for their children,” Williams concluded.

Feeding Matters invites the public to follow their Facebook and Instagram accounts to witness the [inspiring stories of families facing PFD](https://www.feedingmatters.org/power-of-a-diagnosis-pfd-stories/) and the dedicated professionals supporting them.

**About Feeding Matters**

For kids with pediatric feeding disorder (PFD), every bite of food can be painful, scary, or simply impossible to swallow, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being. Yet, there is no functional system of care for PFD locally, nationally, or internationally. That’s why Feeding Matters is dedicated to creating a world where children with pediatric feeding disorder will thrive. Established in 2006, Feeding Matters is the first organization in the world uniting the concerns of families with the field’s leading advocates, experts, and allied healthcare professionals to ignite unprecedented change to the system of care through advocacy, education, support, and research – including a stand-alone diagnosis, the International Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference, and the Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire. In 2022, Feeding Matters reached over 240,000 individuals in 50 states and 153 countries through their programs and website.
To learn more about pediatric feeding disorder, visit [feedingmatters.org](http://www.feedingmatters.org) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube at [@FeedingMatters](http://www.twitter.com/feedingmatters).

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