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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REMAINING CLASSROOMS SET TO OPEN AT CDC'S NEW WILLOW CENTER

Renovations at Child Development Centers' new facility in the former Meadville Elks Lodge are complete, and the child care and early childhood learning center will open six remaining classrooms on Monday, March 12.

CDC already had opened two Head Start classrooms in late November at the site before later adding a third while work on the other rooms continued.

The 15,500-square-foot building, now known as Willow Child Development Center, is located just north of Meadville at 15438 State Route 86. The completed facility houses nine classrooms, with two each for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and three for Head Start/preschool.

Openings are available now in infant/toddler, preschool and Head Start classrooms at the Willow center, and CDC also is accepting applications from families who wish to enroll their children in Head Start for the 2018-19 school year that will get under way in the fall.

CDC, a non-profit organization based in Oil City, provides child care and early childhood education for more than 1,000 children at 12 sites in Venango and Crawford counties, including four Meadville locations. In addition to the Willow site, CDC leases space for Head Start at East End Elementary School, 313 South Street and Gill Commons.

In 2016, CDC was awarded a five-year, \$19-million grant to operate the Head Start programs in Crawford and Venango counties.

CDC purchased the former Elks Lodge and the surrounding 14.4 acre property last July. The building has been renamed in memory of Audrey Willow Kress, a two-year-old girl who was buried on

the grounds following her death from tubercular meningitis in February 1927 at the Bethesda Lutheran Home orphanage.

Families who wish to enroll their children at the Willow center or learn more can contact director Jenna Haun at (814) 807-0778.

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