



Franciscan Child Day Care Center

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www.FranciscanChildDayCare.org

April 25, 2022

Dear Franciscan Child Day Care Families,

We are grateful for your support and cooperation as we've navigated the challenges of the last few years. While the pandemic revealed how essential child care is to working families, businesses and our communities, it placed added strain on a fragile child care system in the United States that was especially felt by independent and non-profit centers. The Franciscan Child Day Care Center has persisted through closures, industry-wide staff shortages and other challenges. Yet, this has come at a cost of disrupting routines that benefit children and asking staff to work to the point of burnout. A heart-wrenching choice had to be made to serve the best interests of our children and caregivers.

Despite the best efforts of our staff, families and Board, the Center was not able to recover from the financial losses of closures, increased operation costs, staffing shortages, and 60% drop in enrollment. Recognizing that the Center is not able to continue to provide affordable child care at the level of quality we desire and properly compensate our caregivers for their dedicated service, the Board has made the difficult decision to close the Franciscan Child Day Care Center as of August 19, 2022.

This heartbreaking decision was made after months of exploring all our options, including a thorough review of finances and staff assessments. Caregivers have been informed and offered incentives to stay and provide care until August so that families have time to process, grieve and transition to another facility or caregiver. A parent meeting to provide more information, as well as resources to help find child care is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 5:45 pm at the Center.

Your understanding is immensely appreciated in light of the sadness, disappointment and other strong emotions of this situation. We will greatly miss each child, but have faith that they will thrive in the love of their families and others entrusted to help them grow, learn and create a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Sister Janet Gardner, OSF, President
Franciscan Child Day Care Center Board