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## **St. Joseph Children's Home remains one of the few agencies to provide child care to families who are essential first responders**

**LOUISVILLE, KY. (March 23rd, 2019)** – Thanks to the advocacy by St. Joe's Child Development Center Director, April Manning, and the leadership team, St. Joe's was given a *Limited Duration Center* license by the Office of Inspector General in order to continue providing child care to families who are essential first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.



"It just made sense that we would apply to be licensed as a Limited Duration Center given that many of our employees are on the frontlines every day taking care of our children in both the residential treatment and foster care programs. Plus, we have a number of parents whose professions qualify to receive this type of child care and it was important for us to support them," said St. Joe's Child Development Center Director, April Manning (see pictured to the left). St. Joseph Children's Home is one of the few agencies in the state currently providing child care under this license and will be able to serve only a limited number of children (75) from a limited population and will be open for limited hours (M-F 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM). Due to these limitations, St. Joe's employees, St. Joe's families currently enrolled, and employees of other residential facilities aka, "sister agencies," (ex. Home of the Innocents) have been given the highest priority. Children whose parents are an employee of a healthcare entity, a first responder, a corrections officer, or DCBS worker would also qualify.

Advocating for children and families remains paramount as concerns for child welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic increase across the Commonwealth. St. Joe's CEO, Grace Akers, wants to reassure our community that, "St. Joe's mission of keeping children healthy and safe remains our #1 priority and we will continue to be a beacon of hope for families even in the most uncertain of times."

For updates about COVID-19 as well as general resources for children and families, please visit [www.sjkids.org/covid19-info/](http://www.sjkids.org/covid19-info/).

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Since 1849, St. Joe's mission has been *Giving Children a Home* and currently serves nearly 1,500 children and family members annually across three core programs: residential treatment, foster care and adoption, and child development. We provide children in our care with intensive therapy, safety, education, and most of all, LOVE. We also create families for children in need of foster care and adoption throughout Kentucky. Additionally, St. Joe's provides quality preschool and trustworthy childcare to the community. To learn more about SJ programs, please visit [www.sjkids.org](http://www.sjkids.org).