A message about our COVID-19 response

From all of us at Quality Care for Children, we hope you are well and staying safe!

As the COVID-19 public health crisis continues to mount, it is becoming clear that the child care industry is going to experience short- and long-term impacts. Without safe child care, essential workers – medical and public safety personnel, grocers, and sanitation, food, and transportation workers – who are parents are not able to continue to fill their roles.

As you are aware, QCC supports a network of over 2,200 child care centers and family child care homes across Georgia. The majority of child care providers are under-resourced and operating within very thin profit margins, even in the best of times. There is a very real risk that many programs will close their doors and be unable to reopen. A recent QCC/GEEARS survey of providers revealed that only 6% believe they could survive a month or longer of closure. This compounds the challenge to our economic recovery as when parents are called to return to work, they will find they have no one to care for their children.

Quality Care for Children is mobilizing our resources to ensure that child care providers stay open for essential workers right now, and will be able to serve Georgia’s families when our economy is back on track.

Here are some ways QCC is responding to the current crisis:

**Adapting to Community Needs:** Connecting essential workers to child care providers that are open via our referral system 877-ALLGAKIDS (1-877-255-4254), equipping child care programs to distribute “grab-and-go” meals to families, coordinating delivery of packages of food and essential supplies to families with very young children enrolled in the Early Head Start Program, and facilitating the exchange of cleaning products and other critical supplies between closed and open child care providers to ensure the health and safety of children.

**Direct Business Support:** Providing individualized coaching on cash flow and accounting, helping providers generate financial statements so they can access the financial support, and mobilizing community volunteers to assist programs in preparing necessary documents to submit with loan and grant applications.

**Direct Funding Support:** Distributing stabilization grants to child care providers to help meet expenses including rent/mortgage, payroll, utilities, etc. to prevent them from closing their doors for good.

We are happy to report that the relationships we have built over 40 years with parents, child care providers, advocates, and government and philanthropic partners is strong and are yielding results. People are stepping up to help bolster the community’s child care infrastructure. We have engaged our national partners in developing a child care comeback plan, designed not only to get child care programs through the immediate crisis, but to increase their sustainability going forward. In the days and months ahead, we will need to lean on our network even more.

We value your partnership and support. If you can contribute, thank you. If you would like to volunteer or request more information, please contact ariel.santillan@qccga.org. As unprecedented as these times are, we are stronger together.

Sincerely,

Pam Tatum
President & CEO