



*Building Hope, Transforming Lives.*

May 26, 2020

Dear CADES families, friends and advocates,

It is with great consideration that CADES has made the decision to permanently close our childcare and pre-school program Moms Morning Out (MMO) effective immediately.

The decision to close is quite difficult. We are so proud of the inclusive preschool program we have built, and we care about each child and our staff very much. However, COVID-19 guidelines for childcare centers coupled with the physical space limitations of MMO makes it fiscally impossible for the program to remain viable. Following are the key factors that drove our decision to close.

1. Our first and main priority is to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the students we teach. The CDC guidelines for childcare programs have significant implications for MMO given our limitations on space (5 classrooms total) and staffing.
  - In order to meet guidelines for social distancing of 6 feet and ensuring minimal mixing between groups of children the MMO enrollment would have to decrease by 50%.
  - Staff to student ratios would be negatively impacted, inhibiting our ability to provide an appropriate, high-quality learning environment for students of all abilities.
  - MMO employs 5 teachers and 6 assistants. Our small size precludes the availability of substitutes to manage the length of quarantine periods for staff who become ill.
2. The financial implications to create safety have had an irreversible impact on the viability of MMO, a private-pay childcare and preschool program.
  - Monies earmarked for childcare and preschool through the CARES Act have been directed toward public programs that use subsidies, excluding privately funded centers and schools.
  - These losses only consider what is known at this time, and do not include the impact of future unknowns in response to the Pandemic or resulting economic downturn.

We understand this news will be upsetting for many and we share in this disappointment. We are currently working on short and long-term planning for all other CADES programs. As soon as these plans are finalized, we will share an overview of how we intend to grow forward and stay safe together.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at: [jalleman@cades.org](mailto:jalleman@cades.org)

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Alleman".

Julia Alleman, CEO