

Katherine Holmlund
Good Beginnings & Kinder Skog
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24 November 2021

Petersburg Borough Assembly
Mayor Mark Jensen
Vice Mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor
Member Bob Lynn
Member David Kensinger
Member Thomas-Fine Walsh
Member Chelsea Tremblay
Member Jeff Meucci

RE: Childcare Relief Funding Due To Recent COVID-19 Spike

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing today on behalf of Good Beginnings Preschool, Kinder Skog Nature Program and on behalf of childcare facilities who have worked tirelessly to provide stable, safe, and enriching learning environments for the youth of Petersburg.

On November 2nd, 2021, we were notified of numerous COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts erupting from a fellow childcare facility. The Good Beginnings and Kinder Skog board acted quickly to try to reduce the potential spread of this dangerous virus by voting to close the preschool program. Kinder Skog remained open because staff felt confident with the outdoor aspect of the program and enhanced mitigation efforts, we could reasonably maintain the safety of children and staff within the program. Since November 2nd we have had participants of Good Beginnings and Kinder Skog with close contact status miss a total of 65 of their enrolled days, we have had 47 absences due to families honoring our mitigation plan and we have experienced seven Good Beginnings Preschool closure days.

As a director I feel confident my operating board made the proper decision in closing the preschool program and I am grateful to our enrolled families for respecting our mitigation plan and keeping children home when needed, however all these missed days also means a huge loss in revenue in the amount of \$3,849.79 for Good Beginnings and \$1,410.00 for Kinder Skog for the month of November. Childcare programs throughout the nation are already walking a tightrope in trying to maintain quality programming, retaining professional staff, while supporting families and childcare programs in Petersburg are no exception to that. The November COVID-19 outbreak has a severe financial impact on the programs I direct.

Good Beginnings and Kinder Skog staff have worked diligently to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and we are proud to say that there have been no reports of positive cases originating from either program or spreading through our programs. We are still very dependent upon the actions of other childcare centers and community organizations to remain operational and now our families and staff are feeling the brunt of the consequences for choices beyond their control. I respectfully ask the Petersburg Borough Assembly to delegate COVID-19 related funds to stabilize childcare centers in Petersburg. Funding would allow complete refunds for closures/services not rendered, allow staff to be paid during the closure times, and reimburse families for doing their part to slow the spread by honoring mitigation plans. This

request is very much a temporary solution to a chronic issue that lies within childcare programs. Funded childcare programs are essential to the local economy and the wellness of children and families.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this request and would gladly discuss the childcare crisis with any Assembly members and have conversation about efforts already taking place to assess and support childcare in Petersburg as well as the efforts I am taking at the programs I direct to support staff and families. Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Holmlund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "H".

Katie Holmlund
Good Beginnings & Kinder Skog
Director

COVID-19 Related Absences/Closure Lost Revenue Report for November 1st - November 24th 2021

Program	Class Enrollment per day	Nov. Daily Rate	absences due to honoring mitigation plan	absences due to close contact status	Total Program Closures	Cost Total Program Closures	TOTAL LOST REVENUE
Good Beginnings PreK class	13	\$ 25.00	15	16	3	\$ 975.00	\$ 1,750.00
Good Beginnings 3K/4K class	14	\$ 33.33	2	5	4	\$ 1,866.48	\$ 2,099.79
Kinder Skog Kindergartener	Varies per day, no more than 26/day	\$ 30.00	11	8	0	\$ -	\$ 570.00
Kinder Skog grades 1-5	Varies per day, no more than 26/day	\$ 15.00	19	37	0	\$ -	\$ 840.00
GOOD BEGINNINGS							\$ 3,849.79
TOTAL LOST REVENUE							\$ 1,410.00
KINDER SKOG TOTAL LOST REVENUE							\$ 5,259.79