



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/28/17:

Child Center of NY to Serve as Redfern Provider

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NEW YORK, NY --

Effective immediately, The Child Center of NY will serve as the new provider for the Redfern Community Center in Far Rockaway, Queens.

For years, children and adults alike have looked to the Redfern Community Center, a Cornerstone program of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, for a safe and fun place to come together. But the Center closed last week, when the Police Athletic League became unable to continue as the center's provider.

When DYCD asked The Child Center to assume that role, the agency accepted without hesitation. "As a provider of Cornerstone programs in Flushing and elsewhere in Far Rockaway, we at The Child Center know that they play an invaluable role in the communities they serve. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve a dynamic and dedicated community, and we couldn't be more excited," said **CEO and Executive Director Traci Donnelly**. "I felt this way before I met with residents last week, and I left the meeting feeling even more strongly. The youth were very engaged, and their parents passionate advocates for their kids."

"The Child Center of NY has been an amazing partner in Far Rockaway over the years, so I could not think of a better provider to take over the Redfern Community Center to ensure local residents continue to receive quality programming close to home," said **City Council Member Donovan Richards (D-Far Rockaway)**. "I look forward to continuing our great partnership with the amazing staff at The Child Center as we all work toward a brighter future for the Rockaways."

State Senator James Sanders Jr. (D-Far Rockaway) said: "I am pleased that a worthy organization like The Child Center of NY will serve as the new provider at the Redfern Community Center in Far Rockaway, which had abruptly closed its doors last week due to the departure of the P.A.L. Residents who use the site will once again have access to quality programming close to home, for both children and adults. I look forward to working with The Child Center of NY as we both work towards the betterment of our community."

Many local parents depend on the Redfern Community Center as a safe, positive place to which they can feel good about sending their kids while they are at work

during the critical afterschool hours. The Child Center will continue to offer the afterschool enrichment, adult programming, and sense of community for which the Redfern Community Center has been known.

"As we address facility issues and hire qualified staff, it will be a couple of weeks before we can fully reopen Redfern's doors," noted Donnelly. "We are grateful in this endeavor to have the strong support of Council Member Donovan Richards, Senator James Sanders Jr., and the DYCD, and we look forward to working with the people of Redfern."

About The Child Center of NY: The Child Center of NY's mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. Founded in 1953, it is a multiservice organization that annually reaches more than 26,000 children from birth through young adulthood at more than 60 school and community locations. The Child Center works in five main program areas: early childhood education; behavioral health; prevention and family support; health homes and integrated care; and youth development. The Child Center is based primarily in Queens but also serves children and families in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan. To learn more, please visit [our website](#).

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