



caring for kids and families since 1894

## MERCYFIRST RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 7 INCIDENT

**Syosset, NY, June 10, 2022** - Since 1894, MercyFirst has strived to provide the highest quality care to children and families, and to be a respectful neighbor in the Syosset community. We are extremely saddened that on June 7, local businesses were vandalized and stolen from, resulting in the arrest of children from our Residential Foster Care program. We do not tolerate this behavior and are devastated that our local businesses have been harmed in this manner, and we are cooperating fully with the local authorities in their investigation.

In response to the incident on June 7 and to address the Syosset community's concerns, MercyFirst, in collaboration with our Board of Trustees, is taking the following immediate actions:

- **The children who were arrested were removed from our Syosset campus**
- **MercyFirst accepts financial responsibility for property damages incurred by local businesses** and all businesses impacted were contacted by the CEO
- **The Residential Foster Care program on our Syosset campus will close.** This is a voluntary action taken by the agency and in coordination with state and local government, and is expected to be completed in the near future. The Residential Foster Care program is one of three programs operated on our campus and has been the source of all issues in the local community related to MercyFirst. (Children from our other two Syosset campus programs – our START with Hope program for unaccompanied refugee children and the Raise The Age program – have not been involved in other incidents in the Syosset community and played no part in the events on June 7.)

In keeping with our 127-year-old legacy of caring for kids and families in the Syosset community, MercyFirst remains dedicated to helping those in need. If you have further questions, or would like to know more about MercyFirst's mission, please contact us at 516-921-0808 or visit [www.mercyfirst.org](http://www.mercyfirst.org).

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### ABOUT MERCYFIRST

MercyFirst, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy/Hermanas de la Misericordia, inspires hope and promotes healing for children and families by providing quality human services and educational opportunities while advocating for social change. MercyFirst is a not-for-profit social services agency that has been serving children and families in need since 1894, when the Sisters of Mercy founded our organization. Today, MercyFirst continues to address the emotional and physical needs of children and families who are struggling to make their way. We provide community-based prevention services and family foster care, group homes in the community, and campus residential services for the most vulnerable children and families withing the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as for unaccompanied migrant children.

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