

# Children's Forum CARES

## (Crisis Assistance, Relief, and Emergency Support)

[www.thechildrensforum.com/forum-cares](http://www.thechildrensforum.com/forum-cares)



### Issue

- In Florida, natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time.
- When child care centers are damaged and unable to operate, families and communities are impacted.
- Without reliable child care, parents are unable to go to work and children's daily routines are disrupted.
- Restoring child care operations is critical to post-disaster relief and rebuilding.

### Response

- Children's Forum CARES was created in 2016 to address these issues in Leon County, FL and surrounding counties of Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla.
- Our mission is to provide timely response and relief to child care programs impacted by disaster, trauma, or critical need.
- We aim to assist child care programs that are in danger of closing due to disaster, by meeting some of their most pressing needs on a short-term basis.
- Materials and/or funds are distributed through an application process based on availability. Funding is dependent on contributions and fundraising efforts.
- Examples of necessities available for distribution include classroom materials, supplies (e.g., diapers, formula, and food), age-appropriate toys, volunteer hours, and small cash grants.

### Accomplishments

- Our first fundraising effort was conducted on #GivingTuesday on November 29, 2016.
- Ongoing fundraising campaigns and activities are planned.
- Marketing efforts are underway to increase awareness of the program.

### Importance

- Child care is an important part of our nation's infrastructure for economic development and stability.
- Reliable and high-quality care is essential to parent employment and supportive of children's development.
- Children who receive stable and dependable care experience less trauma and better recovery in times of disaster.

*...because kids can't wait*

*"If a child care program is closed, parents can't work and children may not receive the care they need. Forum CARES was created to help ensure that programs can remain open in times of disaster."*

– Phyllis Kalifeh, President and CEO, Children's Forum, Inc.

