



A letter from Starfish CEO Ann Kalass | Publish date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Starfish family and friends,

During this time of uncertainty, I wanted to reach out . . . because we are all in this together.

In light of the ever-changing COVID-19 risks and concerns, we also wanted to update you about how Starfish is mobilizing to ensure the health and well-being of staff, Starfish children and families, friends like you, and the broader community.



Closings

- All Starfish Early Childhood Education Centers (Early Head Start, Head Start, Great Start Readiness) are closed effective today and will remain closed until Friday, April 3.
- All Starfish Behavioral Health Centers are closed effective today and re-opening Monday, April 6.

These decisions were not made lightly.

We must, obviously, abide by state and federal directives. And health and safety must come first. But we are mindful that many of our families may be particularly vulnerable right now.

Metro Detroit families depend on Starfish for resources, care, and connection.

And our commitment now (as always) is to support and serve.

Our incredible staff has rallied to creatively and thoughtfully ensure continuity of operations and continuity of service where and how we can.

We do so out of concern, love, and a sense of responsibility for the children and families with whom we work every day in our centers, clinics, classrooms, and home-based programming.

What We Are Doing

- Providing tele-health services to our behavioral health clients via phone and video.
- Opening center hubs to distribute resources to our families, such as "Grab-and-Go" meals and essential items such as diapers.

- Connecting with our children's families via a focused online portal and offering access to guided online educational activities.
- Providing and posting information regularly through social media ([check our Facebook page](#)) and our Starfish website to help us all navigate this precautionary period.

These are uncharted times for everyone. As news unfolds, we are monitoring, evaluating, and making thoughtful and informed decisions.

Know that we stand ready and energized to support our community, families, and staff in creative, responsive, and responsible ways.

And please know that all of us at Starfish remain here and near.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Malan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. In the coming days and weeks, we will share ways you can become actively involved in caring for our community.