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**Masonic Homes Welcomes Kids Back to Louisville Campus**  
***Sproutlings Pediatric Day Care & Preschool Accepting Pre-registration Applications***

(March 23, 2011) Louisville, KY — More than two decades have elapsed since Masonic Homes of Kentucky (MHKY) has cared for children in Louisville. That will change in the fall of 2011, as the city's newest child care center opens on MHKY's Frankfort Avenue campus. Pre-registrations are now being accepted through June 15 for Sproutlings Pediatric Day Care & Preschool, which will offer comprehensive care and development programs for children of all abilities. Registration forms are now available at [www.sproutlingsdaycare.com](http://www.sproutlingsdaycare.com) or by phoning 502-753-8222.

The custom-built center was designed on child-centric principles and will offer multiple options not generally available in typical child care centers, including:

- Classrooms, lounge areas and work areas for each age group
- Programming that encourages interaction among all children
- Large, enclosed outdoors play area with fully accessible "tactile trail"
- Specialized, accessible playground equipment
- Snoezelen room to promote sensory awareness

Sproutlings also will offer specialized services for up to 110 children, up to 55 medically fragile children under Kentucky's Prescribed Pediatric Care program. "Half the openings at the center will be reserved for children who require prescribed pediatric care and the remainder will accommodate children with typical needs," said Gary Marsh, president and CEO of MHKY. "We've been in the planning and construction phase of Sproutlings for more than three years. Thanks to the generous support of Kosair Charities, our board of directors and staff will soon see this come to fruition as we expand our mission to providing care for children and families."

Kim Boden, a former resource teacher with Jefferson County Public Schools, has been selected as director of Sproutlings. Boden holds a master's degree in speech and language pathology and most recently was on faculty at Churchill Park School.

The center will be open 6 a.m. – midnight, Monday-Saturday, in order to support families and their unique scheduling needs. Approximately 50 professional staff members (RNs, LPNs, CNAs, early childhood specialists, caregivers and transportation assistants) will work two shifts. Nutrition services, therapies and custodial support to be provided by existing campus staff.

### **Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC)**

PPEC centers provide non-residential health care Medicaid-eligible children from birth through age 20 with medically complex conditions requiring continuous therapeutic or skilled nursing supervision. PPECs include an array of services focused on meeting the medical, developmental, physical, nutritional and social needs of the children who require intermittent, short- or long-term services.

When approved and prescribed for this care by a physician, children can attend a PPEC up to a maximum of 12 hours per day while their parents or guardians are unavailable to care for them. PPECs provide a less restrictive alternative to institutionalization, and reduce the isolation that homebound children may experience. In Kentucky, children receive care through a PPEC under the terms defined by KRS 216.890.

### **About Masonic Homes of Kentucky**

Founded in 1867 as a home for widows and orphans of Masons, Masonic Homes of Kentucky today is a leader in senior services, including independent living, assisted living, personal care, long-term skilled nursing care and home and community based services. It owns and operates Sam Swope Care Center at Masonic Home of Louisville, Masonic Home of Shelbyville, Masonic Home Village, Spring Hill Village Retirement Community and Select Home Care Options. For more information about Masonic Homes of Kentucky visit [www.masonichomesky.com](http://www.masonichomesky.com).

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