

Child Care Center Giving Youths A Foundation

By Katie Fallon

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW—Although Foundations for the Future boasts amenities typical of many child care centers, the Stanley Road business has a few perks parents won't find at many kiddy drop-off sites.

Mother-daughter team Laurie Massaglia and Lynn McKinnon run the day care. The two opened for business in May 2004 near the Mount Paran Christian School. The center brings together Mrs. Massaglia's background as 18-year business owner and her daughter's experience raising her own two young children.

"I had worked in child care before and I had two children of my own at that time," Mrs. McKinnon said. "I knew all the things I wanted to improve and (Mom) had the business background."

The women worked on the school for about a year and a half

before opening with 42 full- and part-time staff and an enrollment of 143 children. Now, the program has only 15 spots available for preschool and maintains a waiting list for infant and toddler enrollment.

Mrs. McKinnon said she was motivated to pen a center like Foundations when she was looking for day care for her own children, two sons now ages 6 ½ and 2 1/2. She said she always left tours feeling something was missing.

"As I talked to my mother about this experience, she related a similar experience searching for care for her children more than 20 years ago," Mrs. McKinnon said. "We wanted to create a place that truly supported the three essential units of a child care center: The children, the parents and the teachers. Often times, at least one of these are neglected and without all three being supported, you lose quality."

Foundations offers clients support for children and their families not typical of many day care centers. For instance, it has a play therapist who provides emotional coaching beginning at the infant level. Foundations takes children beginning at age 6 weeks through 5, or at the pre-K level.

Less obvious programs include monthly scrapbooks, haircuts every six weeks, annual fingerprinting and annual hearing and vision screenings.

A take-home dinner program is another convenience Foundations provides. TownTalk Provender, a company owned by a mother whose son is enrolled at Foundations, provides catering services.

Mrs. McKinnon said she sets up an area in the lobby dedicated to breakfast and dinners as well as snacks like popcorn, coffee, tea, and muffins. Parents, she said, could either grab something when they drop their children off or bring dinner home when they pick up their youngsters.

“The inspiration for this way my own experiences as a working mother, getting home late and struggling to provide a healthy dinner for my family, Mrs. McKinnon said. “it is a wonderful part of our program.”

Parent Tiffany Martin attests to Foundations’ quality and convenience.

Mrs. Martin has been bringing her daughter Moriah to Foundations almost since it opened.

A former Cobb resident, she moved to Atlanta with her husband for their jobs. She said after having her daughter in a new school in Atlanta for three months, she and her husband decided they would commute to bring Moriah from the city to day care at Foundations.

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FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



Who: Co-owners Lynn McKinnon and Laurie Massaglia

When: 6:30am to 6:30pm Monday through Friday

Where: 1500 Stanley Road, Kennesaw

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