

Raggedy Ann's Childcare, Inc.
1004 Main Street SW
Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 284-0114
raggedyss@verizon.net

Letters of Support



Supporters

Ms. P. Mondak
Dr. & Mrs. Wright
Ms. M. Mondak
Mr. & Mrs. Potter
Mr. Mrs. Miller

Ms. Jeter
Ms. Fontenla
Ms. Cramer
Ms. Chandler

Ms. Kirchen
Mr. Gaines
Mr. Rhodes
Ms. Jordan

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Raggedy Ann Child Care to continue to operate out of the home on Clarence Avenue in the city of Richmond. It is a home based family child care that is easy to access. Families in the neighborhood can walk to and from Raggedy Ann. Others that need to drive to the house also have easy access. The neighborhood is safe and the traffic is light.

Quality care for our youngest is a great need in Virginia. Raggedy Ann has proven to be this. The staff has shown interest in getting professional development to improve the quality of the care offered to their families. Kathy Creasey has attended state conferences and other courses to learn new strategies for teaching and how to improve the quality of the setting of her child care home. Her staff has also attended professional development activities to learn more about working with children. Raggedy Ann was one of the pilot homes for the state quality rating and improvement initiative. Kathy has received mentoring through the initiative. The mentor described Raggedy Ann as a hidden diamond. Raggedy Ann received three stars from the Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI). This is a rigorous and difficult process for child care homes. To receive three stars the first time indicates that Raggedy Ann is a quality, nurturing center with a staff that cares for the children and their families.

I say all of the above from two perspectives. I am a state employee that has been part of the development and implementation of the VSQI. I was part of the group that assisted with the standards setting, adoption of the instruments used to assess the child care settings, and developing of the rater and mentor professional development training. As I said above this is a rigorous process that looks at all aspects of the child care business. I was not part of the group that accepted applicants for the piloting of the family home rating system, but was thrilled to learn that Raggedy Ann applied to participate and was accepted. I say this through another lens. I am also a grandparent of two of the children Raggedy Ann cares for. I have seen both of my grandchildren grow and thrive with Raggedy Ann.

It is with all of my heart and mind that I ask you to grant the zoning variance for Raggedy Ann to continue to operate the child care home from their present location. It is a win for everyone involved to allow a quality child care program to continue to operate in a location that is convenient and safe.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Mondak
Phmon2@comcast.net

Erica Jeter
724 Brantley Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

November 14, 2013

Department of Planning and Development Review
Land Use Administration Division
900 East Broad Street, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Special Use Permit for 5204 Clarence Street Richmond, VA 23225

Dear Zoning Administration Review Board,

I am writing in support of Raggedy Ann's Child Care's application for a Special Use Permit to continue operating at 5204 Clarence Street in the City of Richmond. As Woodland Heights residents for 10 years, we were very fortunate to have found Kathleen Creasey and Raggedy Ann's Child Care. Our son was there from age 1 year - 4 years and it was a wonderful experience. This is truly a well-run, safe, and very enriching daycare option in Richmond that made our experience living in Southside Richmond even better. Raggedy Ann's is a wonderful neighborhood gem that we tell everyone about! I hope that the City will support Raggedy Ann's operating on Clarence Street for as long as they wish to be there. It's a magical place. We still attend, along with many other "alumni", the special events that Raggedy Ann's hosts every year for the kids, such as Santa's visit and the Scarecrow Party around Halloween. Feel free to call me at (804) 822-6717 if you are looking to speak with any parents.

Sincerely,

Erica Jeter

September 19, 2013

Greetings!

My two children attended Raggedy Ann's Child Care with Kathy Creasy for several years and I believe it is the best kept secret in the Southside. My daughter started right before she turned 1 and stayed until she was 4. My son started at 5 months and stayed until I quit my job when he was 10 months. My daughter loved loved loved Sassy's school. She learned a ton, she was always happy to go to school, she made great friends. As a working parent, the peace of mind that quality childcare brings you is priceless. When it came time for me to go back to work after I had my son, it was actually much easier for me because I had no doubt that he was going to be well cared for and loved in my absence. Kathy provides an environment that is the perfect blend of a home-based daycare and a more formal school-type setting and she provides age-appropriate activities that give each child exactly what they need. I was always astonished at how she managed to plan and prepare for so many wonderful craft projects and parties. In my daughter's eyes, I will always fall short in the role of art director when compared with Kathy. The community of parents at Raggedy Ann's is also amazing and my husband and I really enjoyed making friends and socializing with everyone. You can't ask for a more dedicated, loving staff or a more healthy, caring environment. Joining the Raggedy Ann's community will be a decision you never regret.

With eternal gratitude to Sassy, Diane, Pretty, and Sammie for all they did for our family,

Kristin Kirchen
(804) 516-8200

401 W. 32nd Street

Richmond, VA 23225

August 6, 2013

Dear Parents,

I am writing this letter of support for Raggedy Ann's Daycare owned and lovingly operated by Kathleen ("Kathy") Creasey. My daughter, Verity, became part of "Miss Sassy's" family in September of 2010, when she was 18 months old. Prior to that, we cared for her at home, and were looking for a safe, active, and engaging environment where she would make friends, be loved like family, and receive the attention and encouragement she would need to continue to grow and develop into her own little person. Several colleagues referred us to Raggedy Ann's, so I checked the website, and called to arrange a tour. Whatever reservations I had about putting our daughter in daycare disappeared the moment we walked through the front door—the atmosphere radiated peace, love, and joy! After speaking with Kathy, Pat, and Diane, and meeting many of the children in their care, my husband and I knew that our daughter would do exceptionally well here. And we were right! Verity has been at Raggedy Ann's ever since—she absolutely loves it—and will stay at Raggedy Ann's until she starts kindergarten at Westover Hills Elementary School in the Fall of 2014.

There are so many wonderful things about Raggedy Ann's, it is difficult to capture them all in a short letter, so here are a few of my highlights:

- **Passionate, caring, and loving staff:** Kathy, Pat, Diane, and Sammie, deeply love the children in their care, and as a working mom who spends 8 to 10 hours away from her child each work day, knowing that these ladies love and hug on my daughter has (literally) kept me sane. I am still not sure if Verity "misses me," but regardless, I know that she does not miss me—nor any of the love she would have otherwise gotten at home. She receives it in great abundance daily at Raggedy Ann's! For this alone, I cannot thank them enough!
- **Specialized care and curriculum:** Raggedy Ann's actually grows with your child! They offer activities for all ages and stages in the toddler room, housekeeping room, and "big kid's" classroom. Kathy goes to great lengths to keep the activities fresh, and her students engaged. Most recently she adopted the Reggio Emilia approach, and has integrated math and science—with a particular emphasis on the environment—into all that the kids do. So, whether they are playing in the yard, picking up toys, or doing an art project, the children are learning. While my daughter has come home energized, inspired, and joyful, she has never returned home bored. Importantly, she has learned so much, and is doing so well, that we are foregoing "traditional" pre-school and keeping her at Raggedy Ann's for one more year!

- **Parenting Support:** The staff at Raggedy Ann's lovingly works with your child through their "rough patches," and is there to assist parents as well, providing information, instruction, advice, and support. With the staff's patience and guidance, we were able to successfully navigate both the terrible twos and threes— suffering only minor collateral damage!
- **Monthly Newsletter:** I truly appreciate Raggedy Ann's monthly newsletter! It not only helps me to prepare my daughter for her week, but provides me with a daily account as to how she spends her day. It also includes poems, songs, and useful information (like tornado preparedness and cleaning tips) that our family enjoys, as well as a picture and short bio of Raggedy Ann's "Friend of the Month."
- **Family and Friends:** Raggedy Ann's is one big family—for children and their parents (and grandparents, too)! They have an "open door" policy, and family are always welcome! I've enjoyed several lunches at the "big kid's" table with my daughter and her friends, and look forward to the annual Halloween and Christmas parties; Mother's Day Art Show; and Father's Day visit from Broken Road Farm. Moreover, many of the parents I've met through Raggedy Ann's, I happily now call friends! I don't know who looks forward to drop-off and pick-up more—me or my daughter!

In short, our family is extremely pleased with the quality of care we have received at Raggedy Ann's and highly recommend it to anyone who wants the best for their child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I'd love to share more about Raggedy Ann's with you! I can be reached via email at mauritiusz@yaho.com or by phone at 804-426-7330.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jordan

Continued from page 4

Department of Planning and Development Review
Land Use Administration Division
900 East Broad Street, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

August 20, 2013

RE: Special Use Permit for 5204 Clarence Street Richmond, VA 23225

Dear Zoning Administration Review Board,

My three year old daughter is a student at Raggedy Anne Child Care and I would like to support Kathleen Creasey's application for a Special Use Permit to comply with state licensing regulations. Ms. Creasy is a caring and thoughtful teacher and operates a wonderful home day care. I specifically chose her home day care because it is in the neighborhood where we live, the students will most likely attend the same elementary school together, and reflects a community of caring parents and teachers. Additionally, the home day care is engaged with community activities, churches, and is in strict compliance with all licensing regulations.

I consider Raggedy Anne Child Care to be a benefit to our community and a neighborhood asset. The children are thriving in a loving and safe environment and as parents we care deeply about the community we have chosen to raise our family and would prefer to not look outside of our neighborhood or the city of Richmond for childcare. There are not many child care options in the area and not being able to continue our daughter's day care at Ms. Creasey's home would be a great loss and cause a substantial burden.

We enjoy living in the Forest Hills area and would like to keep our daughter at Raggedy Anne Child Care. Please recommend the Special Use Permit for 5204 Clarence Street so Raggedy Anne Child Care will be in compliance with all state mandated licensing regulations.

Thank you,

Katrina C. Fontenla

David N. Gaines

3317 Blithewood Dr.

Richmond, Va. 23225

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of two children who have spent valuable years being cared for by Kathleen Creasey and her staff at Raggedy Ann's Childcare on Clarence Street in the Forest View Neighborhood of Richmond City.

Raggedy Ann's Childcare has been a valuable asset to families with young children within Forest View and surrounding neighborhoods. Ms. Creasey and her staff provide a quality education to the children they care for, and do so at a reasonable cost. My daughter Emma spent three years at Raggedy Ann's and is now one of the top students in her kindergarten class at Southampton Elementary School. My other daughter, Katie Ann will remain at Raggedy Ann's Childcare until next fall when she too enters pre-school at Southampton Elementary. The nurturing education that she and the other children at Raggedy Ann's are currently receiving will also prepare them to be good elementary school students. Well educated students starting school within the Richmond City school system will contribute to the overall quality of the education experience in Richmond City.

I believe that Raggedy Ann's childcare makes a significant contribution to the quality of life in Richmond City. Without it, parents would struggle to find good affordable childcare within close proximity to their homes. They may even have to go outside the city to find good, affordable childcare facilities. Raggedy Ann's childcare maintains good relationships with its residential neighbors, and causes no disruption of traffic or neighborhood life at its current location. Therefore, as a concerned Richmond City resident, I am requesting that any changes preventing Raggedy Ann's Childcare from operation at its current capacity within the Forest View neighborhood be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

David N. Gaines

Public Health Entomologist

Virginia Department of Health

david.gaines@vdh.virginia.gov

August 6, 2014

Dear Parent,

We have been a part of the Raggedy Ann family for four years. My oldest started when he was 11 months, the middle started at 8 months and the youngest started at six months. This is more than a daycare to us, it is family. Either my husband or I have family in town and the providers at Raggedy Ann's have always been there for us. We are relocating to Pennsylvania and unfortunately can't take Raggedy Ann's with us. If you are looking for a safe, loving, educational, fun home away from home for your child you have just found it. As a mom I know how hard it is to trust others with the care of your children. I never worried while my children were at Raggedy Ann's. I was totally comfortable with their ability to care for them the way I would. My boys love all of their teachers and love being there, some times more than being home. Mrs. Creasey is always available if you need her and she takes special interest in being sure that the children are getting the very most out of being in her home. The amount of time, resources and research she puts into the program prove without a doubt the love she has for the children. We are truly sad to say good bye to our family here, but hope that this has opened an opportunity for your family to begin your adventure at Raggedy Ann's. Please do not hesitate to call me (804)895-0513 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Heather & Chuck Miller

Comments

Comment

Kathleen,

Thank you very much for the wonderful tour of Raggedy Ann's today. Your passion as owner and director is very impressive and the things you have done with your home to make so "world class" in helping children learn is a real "Wow Factor"! it was quite inspiring!

The Best,

Gary Rhodes

President

J. Sargent Reynolds

Comment

Dear Kathleen,

The bright colors welcomed us and brought cheer on a gray day. Your care and concern for the children is evident and they all appeared happy and content. Thank you for taking time from your busy day and from the children to show us Raggedy Ann's. We were all most impressed with your center and all you have accomplished with VSQI.

We wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Laura Lee Chandler

October 11, 2013

Amie & Nathan Potter
5109 Boscobel Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing this letter with wholehearted support of Raggedy Ann's Childcare remaining in it's current location and address at 5204 Clarence Street in Richmond, Virginia. As a community member and educator at Westover Hills Elementary School, we feel that Raggedy Ann's is a pivotal, valuable, and safe establishment within the Forest View Neighborhood.

Mrs. Kathleen Creasy is organized, clean, orderly, creative, and an extremely passionate educator. Her gifts radiant through the eyes and stories of each child who is fortunate enough to experience a day in her care. In addition, the organization supports the local elementary schools and churches through box top collections and food drive organizations. Raggedy Ann's has established a partnership in an overseas sister school as well. These lessons and experiences are so incredibly advantageous to the preschoolers, toddlers, parents, stakeholders and neighbors in "paying it forward" whenever possible. In addition, Mrs. Creasy and staff have been spotted on a much needed "litter patrol" to beautify Clarence Street on many occasions.

In summary, we believe Raggedy Ann's Childcare is a blessing within the community. The neighborhood is a better place because of this establishment. We recommend Raggedy Ann's to anyone with small children looking for childcare or a well-rounded preschool experience and fully support the location. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us at any time to further discuss Raggedy Ann's profound impact on the Forest View Community at 804-319-6832/804-714-7518 or via email as included below.

Respectfully,

Amie Potter

Amie Potter, M.Ed
GCPS Instructional Support Facilitator
apotter@qind.k12.va.us

Nathan Potter

Nathan Potter
RPS Educator
npotter@richmond.k12.va.us

November 21, 2013

Chelsey and Kevin Wright
5100 Boscobel Ave
Richmond, VA 23225

To Whom It May Concern,

Our two children are currently receiving care at Mrs. Kathleen Creasy's Raggedy Ann's Childcare at 5204 Clarence Street, in Richmond, Virginia. As parents, we have seen our three and one year old thrive in the loving, safe, and nurturing environment Kathy and her staff provide. Our children are encouraged to learn through a variety of opportunities, including arts and crafts, reading, and imaginative-play, as well as music, outdoor play, and nature walks. Kathy uses her skills as an educator to teach preparatory skills for school, and her creativity allows her to engage the kids on a level the children really respond to.

Raggedy Ann's also stresses the importance of social outreach through involvement within the community. Throughout the year the class collects box tops for the local elementary schools, as well as food and clothing items they hand deliver to the neighborhood church. They also have an ongoing relationship with an overseas sister school that impart a sense of global belonging and awareness with the children as well. These are all very important life skills that are being taught at a crucial time in a child's development, something Kathy has embraced.

Raggedy Ann's Daycare is kept in immaculate condition – it is clean, well maintained, and provides the perfect environment for kids to learn, play, and explore. Raggedy Ann's Childcare is the exact example of a community-centered establishment any neighborhood would be lucky to have. We highly recommend Raggedy Ann's to any parent looking for care for their children, and we strongly recommend Raggedy Ann's Childcare remain in it's current location as a benefit to the neighborhood as well as the local community.

Thank you,

Chelsey Wright
chelsey.wright@hotmail.com

Dr. Kevin Wright
kevin.wright8@gmail.com

Karen Cramer
6905 Carnation St Apt F
Richmond VA 23225

September 12, 2013

RE: Special Use Permit for 5204 Clarence St Richmond VA 23225

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Raggedy Ann's Childcare owned and operated by Kathleen Creasey better known to her students and parents as "Sassy". My eldest son, Michael who is now 7 years old and in school, began going to Sassy's when he was about 2 years. Michael originally started at a different daycare and he attended there for about 6 months before I heard about Sassy's through Diane and Pat (Pretty); friends of Michael's father. The first day I went to view Raggedy Ann's before making the big decision to transfer Michael, I immediately was impressed with the layout of the daycare, the activities Michael would be doing daily that would be fun and educational, how caring Sassy was with the children and how well she attended to their needs. I immediately transferred Michael and he fit right in and always looked forward to going back every day.

I love Raggedy Ann's so much and knew that Michael was learning everything he needed that I did not feel the need for Michael to attend a traditional pre-school. Even after Michael's last day at the daycare he still talked about it often and how much he missed Sassy, Pretty, and Diane. When I became pregnant with my son Christian, I immediately called Sassy to see if she had any openings for around the time I would need. I was so excited when I was able to get Christian enrolled with someone I knew I trusted and I could feel safe with such a young infant when I had to go back to work full time.

It can be very difficult as a mother to find someone you can feel comfortable with and trust to help care for, educate, discipline, and love your child the exact same way you would. Sassy, Pretty, Diane, and Sammie treat our children the way they would their own and it is the best feeling you can have. Please recommend the Special Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Karen Cramer



August 15, 2013

To Parents Visiting Raggedy Ann's Daycare,

I would like to recommend Kathleen Creasey's **Raggedy Ann's Daycare** to anyone with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and older. My two children have attended Raggedy Ann since their first birthdays and it has been such a relief to have a nurturing, safe, and educational environment for my children. I know that Kathy and her two employees Diane and Patty love dearly all the little people in their care and have the children's health, safety, happiness, and development at heart.

Kathy is always continuing her own education as a provider, teaching children how to prepare for school. Her continuing education includes the Virginia Star Quality Initiative and working with the VA Infant Toddler Specialist Network.

I love how Kathy's school is small and intimate while at the same time fulfills the socialization needs our children need for school readiness. I especially love Kathy's love of nature and how she teaches the children an awareness and respect of the world we live in. She also loves art which the children need for hand muscle development in preparation for writing and is also helpful for developing imagination and creativity. She also teaches them how to share by collecting food for the Food Bank as well as other donation activities.

Every month Kathy hands out a newsletter with important reminders, fun rhymes to practice, and a calendar of day care activities. I look forward to these every month, especially the months when Kathy announces cookouts inviting parents to a fall celebration or a Christmas party with Santa and gifts. She also makes the children feel super special on their birthdays with a cake and party; the kids love it. Kathy is very generous with her children. She also invites a petting zoo every year where the kids pet all sorts of animals and have a pony ride.

Kathy is also flexible and easy to communicate with and is open to changing schedules and changing child care needs. We feel so fortunate to have found Kathy and have made many great memories with her; helping to give our little people a solid foundation for the successful lives ahead of them.

Best of luck,

Maggie Mondak (mother to Loudon 3 years old and Avisha 4 years old)