

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2020-05

Contact: Robert Martin Director of Communications 800-25-PEACE, ext. 7797 Robert.martin@kidspeace.org

KidsPeace's Walk-in Assessments Address Mental/Behavioral Health Crises Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Services Available through Outpatient Offices in Lehigh Valley, Monroe County

SCHNECKSVILLE, PA (April 13, 2020) - A mental or behavioral health crisis is a terrifying experience for the person suffering and their loved ones – and that's more true than ever during the current pandemic emergency. In the Lehigh Valley and Monroe County of Pennsylvania, **KidsPeace provides free walk-in assessments at its outpatient offices** during business hours, with no appointment necessary, for individuals facing a crisis.

The assessments, conducted by clinical professionals at the offices, allow for **fast evaluation of mental health condition and, if needed, crisis intervention** – relieving the pressure on hospitals and emergency rooms as they prepare for a surge in COVID-19 cases.

As KidsPeace is considered a provider of "life-sustaining" services, seeking help from our professionals is allowed under Pennsylvania's "stay-at-home" order. However, individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who are concerned about social distancing should **call the office nearest them and talk with the clinical professional first.**

A list of the office locations where walk-in assessments are available in Allentown, Bethlehem (Fountain Hill) and Mt. Pocono is at <u>www.kidspeace.org/community-resources</u>. KidsPeace is committed to continuing to provide walk-in assessments as long as the outpatient offices are allowed to be open.

To learn more about what happens in a walk-in assessment session, listen to the latest episode of the *"Conversations with KidsPeace"* podcast, available <u>here</u> and wherever you get your podcasts.

Since 1882, KidsPeace has been building on its expertise to give hope, help and healing to children, adults and those who love them. Through its comprehensive range of residential treatment programs; accredited educational services; unique psychiatric hospital and foster care and community-based programs, KidsPeace is dedicated to helping people connect, transform and overcome their challenges to ensure a stable future, transition to adulthood and gain independence. Since its doors opened, nearly 300,000 children have participated in one of the multitude of programs KidsPeace offers.

For additional resources or more information on how to get involved, become a foster parent or make a donation, please visit <u>www.kidspeace.org</u>. Follow us at <u>www.facebook.com/kidspeace.org</u> or on Twitter @KidsPeace.