



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Quest, Inc. Closes Training Centers, Children Therapy Services and School
Amid COVID-19 Outbreak**

Orlando, Florida (March 25, 2020) – Quest, Inc., a non-profit organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the Orlando and Tampa regions, announced today that they have closed their Orlando, Apopka and Tampa Training Centers as of March 23rd until further notice. The date also marked closures for Quest Kids Therapy Centers in Orlando and Longwood until a positive change in the public health situation around the COVID-19 pandemic. Quest Kids Academy in Orlando remains closed until at least April 15th. The closures have also affected Quest employment programs, which provide job coaches and support to help individuals with developmental disabilities work in businesses throughout Central Florida.

Many non-profits that provide critical services for Florida’s most vulnerable populations are shifting operations because of recent COVID-19 related federal and state guidelines. These shifts have resulted in major disruptions of services and furloughed staff.

“Our priority right now is to make sure the individuals we serve and our staff are safe,” said John Gill, President and CEO of Quest, Inc. “The individuals we serve require varying levels of support and care and these operational changes impact over 500 individuals in these programs, not to mention their families and guardians, as well as our staff. This is devastating to the 600 developmentally disabled children and adults we serve from the community that cannot access our support operations. It’s devastating to the families of those we serve because they lose respite time and the social and educational gains achieved by their loved ones. Our staff and their families also lose their economic lifelines.”

Quest Training Centers provide employment programs and adult daily living skills for individuals with developmental disabilities. Quest Kids Therapy Centers in Longwood and Orlando provide applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Quest Kids Academy provides customized individual and group instruction for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The Quest closures have resulted in 134 furloughed employees serving those operations including therapists, teachers, other frontline employees and operations managers. The furloughs included 23 corporate support staff, which is a greater than 50% reduction in their corporate support staff. Quest’s employee count prior to the crisis was approximately 680.

“This crisis is wreaking havoc on services for those most in need in our community,” said Gill. “Our leaders must come together, set aside partisan rancor, and get needed

relief to our communities, to for-profit and non-profit organizations, and to employees to ensure the viability of our entire society.”

About Quest, Inc.

Quest, Inc.'s mission, through quality and innovation, is to build communities where people with disabilities achieve their goals. Quest serves children and adults through a range of services proven to increase capabilities and quality of life. As Central Florida's premier provider of these services, Quest makes a difference in the lives of more than 1,100 people each day. Quest has provided services in Central Florida for more than 50 years. For more information, visit QuestInc.org.