

Plymouth Day Care will close

Center was extensively damaged by water from a May 10 main break.

By Charley Hannagan
Staff writer

The Plymouth Day Care Center will close Thursday, ending 40 years of serving children and their families in downtown Syracuse.

"It's a terrible situation," said Janeen Bonner, who is vice president of the organization.

The board of directors voted Wednesday to close the center and the next day notified the staff of nine full-time and six part-time workers, and the parents of the approximately 45 students, she said.

On May 10, a water main break on Onondaga Street flooded the basement of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ where the day care center is located.

It forced families to find alternative care, and caused extensive damage to the center.

The center lost its gymnasium area, a classroom for after-school programs and the kitchen. The center was having meals brought in, Bonner said.

Although the center had tried to hold on, it had no clear date of when the repairs would be made to the building, she said.

"It's an older building and we were having to make a lot of changes to make sure to be in compliance with the state," Bonner said. "We knew we couldn't run an effective day care with the amount of problems we were seeing."

There's a definite need for day care facilities in the downtown, Bonner said, adding, "everything we tried to do our hands were tied."

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