



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children Responds to Tragic Loss of 11-Month-Old Child in San Juan County

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – February 12, 2026 – CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children, which has served the state of New Mexico for over 150 years and runs a home visiting service dedicated to supporting families with children from zero to three years old, is heartbroken and profoundly saddened by the recent tragedy in San Juan County involving the death of an 11-month-old child, identified as "JR."

This devastating loss is a profound reminder of the urgent need for accessible support systems for new parents and vulnerable families in our communities.

“Our hearts ache for this innocent child and for everyone impacted by this senseless act of violence,” said Allen Sánchez, President of CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children. “Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. As an organization focused on the crucial zero to three age group, we are committed now more than ever to preventing child abuse and neglect through early intervention and comprehensive family support.”

The age group served by CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children is the most vulnerable to fatal child abuse. The organization's statewide free home visiting services are designed to provide education, resources, and emotional support to parents to help mitigate risk factors like stress, isolation, and substance use, which may contribute to child maltreatment.

CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children also offers a free, integrated outpatient recovery program dedicated to helping adults overcome substance use, serving Albuquerque and surrounding areas. If you are out of their service area, their case managers may be able to find substance use treatment support in your area. For more information please call 1 (505) 924-8000 or visit <https://stjosephnm.org/sobriety-program/>.

In the wake of this tragedy, CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children urges the community to:

- **Report Suspicions:** Report any concerns about a child's well-being to local authorities or the New Mexico Child Abuse Hotline at 1-855-333-SAFE (7233).
- **Support is Available:** Families struggling with parenting stress, mental health issues, or substance use are encouraged to reach out for help. Home visiting services and other community resources are available to provide support *before* a crisis occurs. You can visit www.mybabynm.org for support in finding resources for you and your baby.
- **Support Prevention Programs:** We ask New Mexico residents and leaders to significantly increase their support for early childhood programs, which provide vital support during the most critical years of a child's life.
- **988 New Mexico:** This confidential helpline provides support for people experiencing a mental health crisis or struggling with drug or alcohol abuse. The helpline is free to call or text and accessible 24 hours a day. It works with people of all ages, offering nonjudgmental, confidential assistance by trained counselors. The 988 New Mexico helpline has English- and Spanish-speaking counselors.
- **New Mexico National Rehab Hotline:** The New Mexico National Rehab Hotline is open 24-7 to support people who are struggling with addiction. This New Mexico hotline is free to call, and callers can remain completely anonymous if they wish. All calls are confidential, and the line is staffed by trained specialists who will listen and provide support. Call the hotline or visit the website to explore the list of links and resources and find other agencies in your area offering substance abuse support. (866) 210-1303

CommonSpirit St. Joseph's Children remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of every baby and toddler in New Mexico.

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