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**Little Star Center announces consolidation of  
Verbal Behavior Center for Autism into Carmel facility**

*Creating third expansion in less than two years for Carmel-based non-profit*

Carmel, Ind.—March 23, 2015—Little Star Center, Indiana’s first center-based, therapeutic applied behavior analysis (ABA) provider serving children to young adults with autism, announces today it is consolidating the Verbal Behavior Center for Autism (VBCA) into the Little Star organization. VBCA, which operated since 2003, will permanently close its facility at 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Keystone Avenue by April 30 integrating staff and clients into Little Star Center-Carmel, which has operated since 2002.

The VBCA consolidation marks Little Star’s third expansion in less than two years. With established locations in Carmel and Lafayette, Little Star opened a third site in Bloomington in 2014. The center also consolidated a home-based ABA therapy division in during that same year. The VBCA consolidation will add up to 22 employees to Little Star Center’s staff. Dr. Breanne Hartley, current clinical director at VBCA, will remain in a leadership role at Little Star Center.

Little Star will offer staff positions to current VBCA staff and enrollment options to VBCA families. Both Little Star and VBCA specialize in ABA, a successful therapy for people affected by autism.

“As Indiana’s first ABA center, we opened our doors with 12 learners enrolled. Almost 13 years later, our organization continues to embrace opportunities to expand services and provide quality ABA therapy at our centers, in-home and in the community for children to young adults affected by autism.” said Mary Rosswurm, Little Star executive director. “The Little Star team looks forward to welcoming the VBCA staff and their learners into our facility and our family-first philosophy.”

**Little Star Center**, with centers in Carmel, Lafayette and now Bloomington, is Indiana’s first applied behavior analysis center founded in 2002 and focused on providing a place where kids with autism learn to live in the world and parents learn they are not alone. Little Star services Hoosier families providing in-home and center-based ABA therapy, along with transition to school and community-based programs for children and families. Statistics show autism is one of the most rapidly growing developmental disabilities in the United States with one in 68 children diagnosed each year. Operating as a non-profit, the organization raises funds to support learner scholarships for families who find themselves in need of a safety net when insurance challenges arise. To learn more about the organization visit [www.LittleStarCenter.org](http://www.LittleStarCenter.org).

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