



April 16, 2020

Dear Jubilee Families and Friends:

I'm reaching out to share with you updates to our protocols and new programming for this Saturday night to engage the people we support.

Masks & Staffing Updates

Through generous donations and purchases we now have at least one cloth mask for each of our direct support staff and the people they support. More are still needed. We are now requiring support staff to wear masks at all times when they are at work and away from their home, and we have updated our protocols to reflect this change.

We are also adjusting the schedules of our direct support professionals to minimize exposure to others and reduce the chance of spreading the virus. We know changes in staffing are difficult for all, but in this unprecedented time we are taking every possible action to keep the people we support and our staff safe. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we make these necessary, temporary changes.

Social Activities and Dance Party in lieu of Fashion Show

It has been great to see people's faces via zoom on my daily Jubilee Radio show, and at our JubileeCare While Staying Home activities like virtual Midday Movement and Wellness Wednesday. We had a lot of fun this week singing happy birthday to Liz Grimberg, and seeing photos of her celebration at home with her housemates. A reminder that the weekly activity schedule and zoom links are on our website on the events page. Thanks to a grant we received from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, managed by The Arc Maryland, we were also able to provide additional arts and crafts supplies, writing journals, stuffed animals, and Roku streaming media players.

This Saturday night at 6 PM we will gather virtually for a Fashion Dance Party, in lieu of the Fashion Show we were all eagerly anticipating. If you like, dress up, bring your best smile, and be ready to have fun! I hope to "see" you there for what promises to be a fun night. Join us at 6 PM via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94827932404>.

Social Distancing is Working

As we continue to fight the virus by social distancing and staying home, I want to take a moment and thank the people we support, their loved ones, and our staff for all doing their part to keep everyone safe. This is hard. But it is necessary. I know it's distressing to not be able to visit your family members, and I share your sorrow that we can't be with the people we love right now. Social distancing is working, we need to keep it up.

Stimulus Payments

I'm happy to share that the stimulus payments to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients are automatic and will not count against social security and Medicaid benefit eligibility. You can learn more from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Support Jubilee

Thank you to everyone supporting Jubilee during this difficult time. Your donations make a difference now more than ever. The new CARES Act allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize. Would you consider donating your \$300 tax-deductible contribution to the Jubilee COVID-19 Relief Fund? Your gift of \$300 will provide disinfectant cleaning supplies to two Jubilee homes, personal protective equipment to four direct support professionals and people we support, and five hours of wages for our staff on the front lines.

With gratitude,

Steve Keener
Executive Director