



Message from Steve Keener via the May edition of the Jubilee *Insider* Newsletter

April 28, 2020

Dear Jubilee Community,

Have you heard Alicia Keys' new song "Good Job" praising front line workers? When I first heard it last week it brought tears to my eyes as I thought about our incredible Jubilee staff, and how they show up with a smile to support the people of Jubilee in circumstances none of us could have imagined. I shared that song with our staff last week, along with a recap of the actions we are taking to support them during this difficult time including: an all-staff bonus and paying wages for people coming off the schedule to limit exposure to the virus, implementing negative balance paid sick leave for people with symptoms who can't work, lifting vacation caps and deadlines so nobody loses time they can't take now.

I'll give you just one example of our incredible direct support staff going the extra mile right now. Elizabeth Billups supports Michaelis Young, whom you may have seen working the Jubilee front desk in normal times. To reduce the chance of spreading the virus, Elizabeth moved in with Michaelis. They stick to a daily schedule, as Michaelis is used to being quite busy with her job at Jubilee and at her day program. They take a daily walk, make breakfast, meditate, and call in to Jubilee Radio. Together, they are baking and gardening, two shared interests that they didn't have much time for before with Michaelis' busy schedule.

I hope our staff knows how much they are appreciated, please join me in reaching out to thank them for their dedication now and always.

At this time, four of our staff members and one of the people we support have tested positive for COVID-19. So far, all have had mild or no symptoms. We have implemented our quarantine measures at the affected homes and continue to provide support with enhanced safety measures. In each case, people supported by Jubilee, their families, and staff members working at the affected homes are being notified as soon as we learn of exposures and test results. We are committed to keeping people informed so that they can be aware of any risks they face and help limit the spread of the virus. Please join me in praying for the complete recovery of those infected and for the ongoing wellbeing of our whole community.

Sincerely,

Steve Keener  
Executive Director

P.S. Remember to check the events page of our website for the current week's offering of virtual activities. Community and connection are more important now than ever. On Jubilee Radio we heard from Sarah Glenner about her #socialdistancerocks art project and watched Liz Grimberg's tiktok videos! Spirit Club classes (yoga and fitness) and midday movement offer exercise from the comfort of your own home, and our popular Wellness Wednesday and Salad and Movie Night are now virtual. This week's movie to pre-watch for the discussion is Hop, and future movies are listed on the JubileeCare page. Friday Dance parties are a chance to cut loose! We also include community resources and other activity ideas, for example check out this week's virtual offerings from the Montgomery County Public Library.