



May 14, 2020

Dear Jubilee Community,

It's hard to believe that it's been almost exactly two months since we began our stay at home efforts on March 16 to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our combined commitment is beginning to make a difference. Over the past week, both new hospitalizations and infections per day in Maryland have been decreasing. We are far from out of the woods, but this is a hopeful development. Yesterday, Governor Hogan announced partial relaxing of the Maryland stay-at-home order, however it is important to note that there are no changes to the stay at home order here in Montgomery County. Jubilee precautions remain at the same high level and will not change in response to the Governor's announcement. As always, the health and safety of our staff and the people we support remains our top priority.

Within the Jubilee community, we have had 12 staff members and four people we support test positive for the virus. An additional person is in the hospital with serious symptoms, and we pray for his complete recovery. Everyone else is currently recovered or able to manage any symptoms at home. At the two homes that have been hard hit by the virus, the incredible commitment of our direct support professionals and by the Rosaria community has been beautiful to see. Our good friends at the parishes of St. Rose of Lima and St. John the Evangelist have been delivering meals and checking in regularly. As a direct result of the one case in the Jubilee community requiring hospitalization, Jubilee families mobilized and advocated for hospitals to allow family members to visit loved ones with disabilities when hospitalized for COVID. The state listened, and as of this week, changed their hospital visitation policies to recognize the needs of people with disabilities. Kudos to Margie Billian and Graciela Sanz for your incredible efforts and thank you to our public officials for your ongoing support!

Our commitment to one another and to the community Jubilee has built over the years has never been more apparent than it is now. To our DSPs who show up to work with caring hearts, to the meal train organizers, to the parents whose advocacy will benefit families statewide – a heartfelt thank you. Your kindness does not end there. This is a very challenging financial time, and our participation in #GivingTuesdayNow on May 5 raised \$12,000, and we've raised \$40,000 since April 1 for Jubilee's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The funds raised help provide disinfectant cleaning supplies to Jubilee homes, personal protective equipment and testing for our direct support professionals and people we support, and wages for our staff on the front lines. We also secured a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, which helps us maintain salaries for staff whose hours have been cut to prevent virus exposure, pay more overtime for others who have been asked to work more, and increase hazard pay to 200% for our staff caring for people with the virus. Lastly, a reminder to check our website to see our current COVID protocols and the weekly virtual programming schedule and get activity ideas to keep occupied and engaged as we continue to stay home.

Sincerely,

Steve Keener  
Executive Director