July 14, 2020

Friends and Supporters of Samaritan House -

So now we are several months into the pandemic and we have survived.....

Far too often in the midst of crisis it is possible to take a negative view of all that has transpired and to look to the future with a despairing outlook, I find myself however reviewing all that has occurred and looking forward with a positive and hopeful point of view.

Our primary responsibility is to protect the universe of residents that we support. Over the past several months we have, through meetings and training classes, helped our residents understand how they can protect themselves and their families from the coronavirus (COVID-19). We have distributed hundreds of face masks and other items of personal protective equipment. We have taken the temperatures of our residents hundreds of times. We have limited visitor access to our buildings. We have altered our food service policies to reduce the risks of exposure for our residents, volunteers and staff. We have provided activity kits for the adults and children who live on our campuses. We have interacted with residents virtually through the use of Zoom Health and eliminated numerous face to face interactions. The positive result of all of those actions is that we have held the coronavirus at bay. While two residents have died on our premises during this period, neither those two individuals nor any other residents have tested positive for the coronavirus. On multiple occasions, residents have been rushed to the hospital for various ailments or suspicious conditions, but we have been able to avoid an outbreak of the coronavirus on our campuses. We are now in partnership with Tarrant County Public Health, arranging on a voluntary basis for all SRO residents and the Samaritan House staff to be tested for the coronavirus. Whatever the test results, we will have demonstrated that we are capable of fighting long and hard to avoid the negative consequences of a coronavirus outbreak.

The fact that we have been able to produce a positive result in this difficult situation is attributable both to our residents, but also to the hard-working members of the Samaritan House team. Members of every part of the staff (food service, program, maintenance and others) have stepped forward to assume new responsibilities caused by this unique crisis. We have asked the staff to balance the healthcare needs of the residents and their need to protect their families and households. Despite almost daily challenges in conditions, internal to and external to Samaritan House, the staff has worked tirelessly to serve our residents. We owe them our thanks for an outstanding effort for more than three months.

So, at this moment we do not know what the future may hold. We do know however that we have fought the good fight to this point and that we have learned a great deal about our ability to deal with crisis. As always, we will depend on many of you for the support that you offer in so many different ways. Whatever the future may bring, you have our commitment to continue to fight to protect our residents and to make every necessary decision to drive a result which benefits each and every resident.

Take care

Norbert White
President & CEO

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