



May 19, 2020

Dear Goodwin House Family,

Propelled by our mission to support, honor and uplift the lives of older adults and those who care for them, our organization remains united and determined to do what we can as it relates to COVID-19. We are all affected by this virus in significant ways, and we recognize that through our shared commitment we will make it beyond these challenging times.

We know this virus is particularly dangerous for those who are 65 and better, along with those with compromised immune systems. This past weekend, we lost our first resident to complications from COVID-19. We know, too, that it has taken other lives around us, including the loss of family members among our residents and staff. For all of these losses, we take time to grieve, pray and renew our commitment to do what we can to minimize the impact of this horrible virus.

As an organization, we are approaching our efforts on multiple fronts including: 1) Social distancing; 2) Use of Personal Protective Equipment; 3) Hygiene; and 4) Testing.

Though much of the conversation in the country is about “opening,” a caveat to this discussion is that those who are 65 and better along with those with compromised immune systems should continue to diligently stay at home and practice social distancing. If you do plan to be around people, we ask that you treat it as mandatory to wear a mask. At all times, we hope you will avoid touching your face and use proper technique to

wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Proper hand washing is especially important before eating.

Finally, Goodwin House is fortunate to be able to test residents and staff as we see the need, rather than waiting for someone to show symptoms of this virus. Through testing, we increase our ability to contain the spread of the virus as we isolate anyone with a positive case until they are recovered.

Since February, when we as an organization started to face the realities of COVID-19, I thought about those who do not have the support and resources of an organization like Goodwin House—those who must navigate food needs, medical needs, socialization needs, spiritual needs and the like. I am grateful that we have what we have, but also committed to finding ways to support others outside of Goodwin House, too.

Daily, there are efforts among our residents, Goodwin House at Home members, Clinical Pastoral Education students, staff and board members which are inspirational, lifting up the spirits of those around us. For these efforts, we are grateful and encourage everyone to take one action a day that can support someone else in a positive way.

Though we know this virus will continue to present a challenge for months to come, our collective day-to-day efforts will allow us the best chance to make it safely through this time. Please stay safe, and please let us know if there is further service and support we can provide.

Gratefully,

Rob Liebreich, President and CEO

Direct: 703.824.1185

E-Mail: rliebreich@goodwinhouse.org