



May 1, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

Day 5, Week 7 ... a shorter update today, as this week seems to be an extension of last week. Donations continue to arrive every day. Thank you! We are currently looking for a direct supplier for thermometer purchase. As you can imagine, thermometers are hard to come by and we are having a difficult time ordering them. It would be beneficial to our operation if we had an inventory in our Nursing Department. Any help is welcome; please let us know.

As the incident rate of positive cases increases regionally, the OPWDD announced today that Essential Workers in New York State can make an appointment to be tested at one of several drive-through or walk-in testing sites located throughout the state (Contact: COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or online at covid19screening.health.ny.gov.) This is welcome news! Pathfinder staff continues to be diligent following protocol with all protective measures.

Also announced today, Governor Cuomo announced that schools across New York state will stay closed through the end of the school year; this includes Pathfinder School. Earlier this week the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown announced the postponement of this year's Induction Ceremony, scheduled for July 26, 2020, until July 2021. Another regional event, beloved by all in the area, the Springfield NY July 4th Parade, which draws a large crowd, also has been canceled. These cancellations are setting the stage for a quiet summer, but by all accounts they are necessary to put this pandemic behind us.

This week we started dispersing Payroll Protection Program funds to staff and we will continue to do this over the next 8 weeks—very well received by our staff as you can imagine! Prior to this, we asked staff to complete an employee wellness survey relating to COVID-19. Questions ranged from appropriate actions taken by Pathfinder to protect staff health, to training and information relating to COVID-19, to co-worker support and communication between residential staff and senior management and finally remote workers having necessary tools to complete job tasks. Over 60% of staff responded with an 85% positive approval average on Pathfinder's ability to meet staff's needs effectively. There were very few negative comments and most centered on PPE wear/comfort (masks) and suggestions for additional ways to communicate with staff at other houses with questions or concerns. Most comments were positive and understanding of the current COVID lifestyle we are all challenged with.

“ that each life may find meaning”[®]

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That said, as we enter Week 8, this lifestyle is starting to take a stressful toll on staff well-being. We have reached out to Brown & Brown, our benefits administrator, and we will soon be able to offer staff free enrollment in an Employee Assistance Plan that will offer quick and easy access to confidential counseling and referral services to help staff with any challenges they may be starting to face. Maura Iorio, Director of Education, is also working on a Wellness Plan Program, based on a caregiver workshop she and school staff attended earlier this year. The program can be a resource for staff to help them identify their own challenges and stressors and will include tips and strategies to help staff properly take inventory of their mental health.

Our **2019 Gift Book** hit the mail yesterday. Taking the place of our traditional Annual Report, this year's Gift Book is a streamlined snapshot of our very successful fund-and-friend raising 2019! We are so thankful for the generosity of our many generous donors. We remain committed to everything Pathfinder! From the residents who call Pathfinder Village home and to our dedicated staff who show up every day committed to our mission, we are Pathfinder strong!

Best,



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- Be Healthy
- Be Kind 
- Be Patient