



Covid-19 Pandemic Response – April 3, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

Like you, these past weeks have been unprecedented for our organization and the people we serve. In times of adversity, it can be surprising how people react and we are so proud of the way our dedicated staff have stayed the course and remained on the job to support our individuals. They are the silent heroes who deserve to be recognized for their strength during this time. At CHS we thank them every day and encourage you to do the same whenever possible.

The organization responded to the national healthcare crisis early and swiftly by establishing a Covid-19 Task Force led by members of the senior management team. In collaboration with the company's healthcare coordinators, individuals and staff are closely monitored daily for symptoms of disease and managers are following the most up-to-date guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Updated information from Federal and State authorities about the pandemic is monitored hourly by team members and shared with the organization.

In addition to assessing physical health, we are sharing online resources, activities, hobbies and exercises that individuals can choose to pursue at home. A number of Boston musicians are donating their talent and heart by creating and dedicating videos to the people we serve which helps them remain connected to our communities. Various types of technologies are available in each home and staff encourages daily communication between individuals and their families and friends.

Our Food Pantry program continues and is now more important than ever, as community-based individuals in our Individual Supports Services strive to keep healthy foods on hand. We converted our Group Cooking Class into a Giving Group as staff prepare and deliver nutritious meals to those in need.

In each of our homes, individuals and staff are abiding by the stay-at-home guidance and we are happy to report that people are well and thriving. We have adequate Personal Protective Equipment but are concerned as to whether it will be enough to last through the crisis. At this time **we are accepting any and all donations, no matter how few, of surgical masks, N95 masks, gowns, protective eye wear and thermometers.** If you have a few in your home, know a business owner who may have items or are aware of an institution that is closed but may have supplies left in a closet, we would appreciate your help. Please contact us at 781-538-4626. Be well, be safe and be strong.