



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

April 23, 2020

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

As another week passes in this challenging time, we continue to be grateful for your unwavering support of St. John's and our dedicated staff team providing round-the-clock care to our residents in critical need. I have witnessed many examples of unparalleled strength and compassion demonstrated by employees across St. John's and I am proud to share with you some examples of the ways we are enduring despite the obstacles.

Proving that there is strength in numbers, the Alliance for Senior Care, which is a consortium of five not-for-profit skilled nursing facilities in Greater Rochester that includes Episcopal SeniorLife Communities, Friendly Senior Living, Jewish Senior Life, St. Ann's Community, and St. John's, rallied together this week to provide the local news media and the greater community with an accurate picture of the challenges we are facing in nursing homes. A copy of the press release distributed by the Alliance can be read [here](#).

Changes in New York State Department of Health regulations with respect to staffing permitted for caregiving support have enabled us to extend the reach of our workforce to areas of critical need. A new position entitled *nurse's aide* at St. John's has been designated to provide assistance to our nurses and certified nursing assistants in the neighborhoods already experiencing increased demands. If you know anyone who might be interested in applying for our new position of nurse's aide, information can be found [here](#). We have also deployed interested staff members from other areas of St. John's to provide additional assistance during mealtimes for residents in need. One of our neighborhood administrators Merideth Benamati, who is a speech therapist by background, provided the in-house training to the staff that we are most fortunate to have volunteer for additional duties.

Additional measures have been put in place to increase infection control efforts in the areas of dining and housekeeping. A rapid disinfecting unit (also known as R-D) like those that have been the subject of recent media, is being used at St. John's to eradicate the COVID-19 virus on impacted surfaces (including resident rooms) and to disinfect personal protective equipment before redeployment. Increasing the use of disposable plates, utensils, and serving ware and reducing the number of individuals gathering in dining areas during meal times are also changes that mitigate infection spread.

In closing, I want to share news of an event that was planned by a group of committed family members like yourself, who seek to gather together to show support to our staff caregivers. Tomorrow evening, Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m., interested family members are welcome to come to St. John's and stand in a socially distant manner with their pots, pans, bells, etc. to "make noise" on behalf of St. John's residents and staff. We are certainly humbled by this event orchestrated with a goal to show us support and the many other outpourings of kind words, donations, behind-the-scenes volunteer efforts, and advocacy on behalf of St. John's.

The only way we will get to the other side of this difficult challenge is by working **together**.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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