

### An Update From Allen Cress

Dear Edwards Center families,

We had a really wonderful experience at one of our homes last week. Despite the pandemic and everything related, we were able to help our newest resident achieve a life-long dream of independence. This required significant coordination with our residential team, our new resident's family and case management. Now that our newest resident is living in their new home, they're adjusting well and loving this new independence! I received an email from a family member Saturday that brought me to tears. I quote from that email:

*"I woke this morning feeling so much peace and joy. Knowing (my child) is in such competent, caring hands has allowed me to let go of feeling like I bear such a huge daily responsibility. It has been 29 years since I have felt this way. My heart is full to the brim."*

Can you see why we love our mission the way we do?!

I'm happy to report that we still do not have any positive or presumptive cases of COVID-19 among our residents or staff.

I remain in awe of our staff. They are working so hard to keep themselves healthy and motivated, not just for themselves, but for the people they serve. Many of you are aware of a trend that has developed in recent months. People all over the country stand up wherever they are at 7:00 each evening to honor our frontline heroes. My family and I stand each evening to honor our DSPs, who are very much our front-line heroes. I know of a number of you who do the same thing. I invite the rest of you to join us, and honor the people who are so dedicated to the people we all love and serve. Perhaps our gesture won't be broadcast on the news or even seen by people outside our own homes, but it is nevertheless valid and sincere, and appreciated by our DSPs.

We're starting to see a few of the people we support get back to work. The process is slow and very carefully monitored. We're ensuring our staff and employers maintain proper social distancing standards, hygiene standards, number of people in any given place, etc. We will also see our CLS programs gradually come back online, but it will take some time. We don't have any dates yet for that. As with Employment, we remain very cognizant of safety practices, the ability to maintain proper social distance, hygiene, individual needs and concerns, etc. Both CLS and Employment will likely look very different than they did a short couple of months ago.

I hope you remain healthy and active and as engaged as possible during these isolating times.

Sincerely,

**Allen**

### Fresh Air!

We hope you're able to get outside for some fresh air!

One evening a few weeks ago, Mike and Dori were able to spend some time in their backyard and enjoy a beautiful view of a rainbow! Mike and Dori are residents of Torbank and are making the best of the Stay At Home order with each other and the other residents.



### Stay Up To Date

We have dedicated a page of the website to keep you up to date on all things related to COVID-19 at Edwards Center.

[VIEW THE PAGE](#)

### We're In This Together

In these uncertain times, our highest priority is the health and wellbeing of all Edwards Center participants and staff as we work hard to get back to business as usual. We are dedicated to high-quality communication and welcome any questions at any time.

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