

Advent House Report for PEM September 14, 2020

Residents:

We remain “on pause” and will do so until January 2021. This was a very difficult decision made after many meetings with our Finance Committee, Directors of the other Comfort Care Homes, the Home Care Agencies including the medical director of VNS. The condensed version is that there are too many unknowns, the future of COVID is too unpredictable, there would be very limited agency support, and most importantly there would be a potential for great risk to our volunteers and staff. One positive COVID test would close the House, put everyone into quarantine and leave no caregivers for the Resident. There is a Zoom meeting tonight with the Medical Director of VNS with the Board Presidents and Finance Directors. We will give you an update at our meeting. I am organizing a small committee consisting of volunteers and staff to review our mission statement, policies and procedures to implement “temporary” guidelines for when we reopen. It will look very different for a bit but as the situation eases, we will get back to our “normal” open armed welcome!

Staff: We continue to be very busy. We are blessed indeed to have such a dedicated staff willingly stepping out of their job descriptions to do whatever is needed whenever and wherever they are needed. Unless I am away, I am working six days a week to ensure adequate coverage at Sweet Charity as well as keeping up with administrative duties at the House, attending comfort care home meetings, Finance Committee meetings, participating in Golf Tournament meetings and of course at the event. We have scheduled two separate COVID compliant picnic gatherings with both our Sweet Charity and Advent House Volunteers. We send out frequent volunteer info updates and are keeping the lines of communication open. We miss our people.

Finance Committee: Heartfelt gratitude to this committee of dedicated professionals that have so wisely shepherded our finances. We are meeting more regularly and I am so very appreciative of the additional support. The income from Sweet Charity continues to be such a blessing.

Fundraising: See Vicki Deady’s report. We are very excited that the Golf Tournament is looking to be a great success. Our golfers are very dedicated to the House and for that we are most grateful. We will plan on sending out in the fall our annual appeal as usual and hopefully that will have a good response.

House Maintenance: The House is in great shape. Looking beautiful and ready to welcome our next Residents. A very big tree came down into the parking lot during the last windstorm so that was another unexpected expense. Thankfully no damage to anything other than some of its nearby tree friends. The major drainage landscaping project has been completed and looks great. One of our family members is planning a memorial garden in the backyard area in honor of his wife so I have been meeting with him and his landscaper to review plans and ideas. It’s going to be so lovely and so nice it will be where Residents and family can enjoy.

Sweet Charity: Reopened June 17, 2020 after much procedural reorganization. We are able to comply with all the COVID restrictions and maintain business pretty much as usual. We have been gifted with many wonderful donations and very happy shoppers who have missed our sweet shop. Advent House staff and Sweet Charity are the shop staff and it is going very well.

Volunteers: Please see Laurie Eisele’s report. We miss our volunteers. Laurie and I have been keeping in touch regularly with them and love when they write back. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our picnic gathering in October.
As ever, I thank you all for your involvement and support.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director

