

November 24, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Today is known as “Giving Tuesday” – followed by our more traditional Thanksgiving on Thursday.

We are so thankful for each of you as “family” of Samaritan. I am also so thankful for the staff that surround the lives of those we serve here at Samaritan.

Each week I continue to send, via email and posting on our website ([www.samaritancampus.com](http://www.samaritancampus.com)) an update as to the status of COVID-19 here at the Samaritan Campus. This week I am also including a letter that is being shared nationally.

We are as a nation, as a State, and as a County, in a very challenging time. As a State, there is only one county that is not deemed to be “Highly Critical” in the numbers of those with COVID. As of today, we learned that hospital beds in the southeast part of WI are 80-90% at capacity. ICU bed are 70-80% full.

This week of Thanksgiving, please help us help those we serve. Caregivers, such as staff here at Samaritan, are working tireless shifts – and sincerely keeping our residents safe with the infection prevention procedures and personal protective equipment (PPE). We long to see the smiles on the faces of each other – all without masks. We EACH need to do our part.

We will get there one day – but we still have months to go before we collectively get there.

We, at Samaritan, continue to test our staff twice a week; residents once a week or whenever they show possible symptoms. Last week we had one resident test positive. We currently have only one resident who is positive and came to us from the hospital with that diagnosis. All but one previous resident who had tested positive have recuperated. We mourn with the family of one whom we lost.

We continue to have very few staff test positive each week and are promptly ensuring that they are off the schedule. They are instructed to quarantine and are not back to work for a minimum 10-14-day period of time.

As we approach these holidays, they will not be “normal”. Families will not gather. We are all encouraged to still socially distance. Hugging is discouraged. Mask wearing continues (and feels foreign when we are with family). But please help in any way you can.

Wear a mask, wash your hands, do not gather (this is the highest spreading “event”) and keep your distance from each other. Thanksgiving will be different. We do what we can now so that we can celebrate – ALL TOGETHER later.

Please continue to share calls, cards, gifts, pictures and holiday decorations with the residents here. We will do our best to help with those holiday touches. Childrens’ handmade greeting cards and pictures continue to be a great hit! You should see the fun turkeys in various resident rooms!

We have been approached by one generous family to please start a “Staff Appreciation Fund” for a way to say thank you to our staff.

We have done this – and with the help of this family – and perhaps YOU – will be providing staff long sleeve shirts for a Christmas gift that have a beautiful design of hope and thanks!

If you would care to be a part of this – please consider donating to this fund. We will share your thanks with the staff. Please send donations to Samaritan – with a memo “Staff Appreciation Fund”. Based on the amount, we will be happy to continue to uplift staff with other ways of appreciation.

As always, please do not hesitate to call. Our commitment is to be transparent and as informative as possible.

Thank you for helping hold each other up during these challenging days and months.

We give thanks for life and family – and for each of you.

Sincerely,

*Mari Beth Borek*

Mari Beth Borek, NHA  
Campus Administrator

(See second email attachment)