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Jeanne Strickland

Autumn 2021

Dear Friend,

Our greatness has always come from people who expect nothing and take nothing for granted – folks who work hard for what they have, then reach back and help others after them. —Michelle Obama

I am writing to ask you to “reach back” to help us ensure the ongoing provision of programs and supportive services for hundreds of NCDF residents. We are experiencing an unprecedented combination of health crisis and economic setback playing out on a global scale. Throughout what has felt like an endless period of restrictions and isolation, Resident Services has been working tirelessly, staying in close communication with residents, providing programs, and extending vital relief services to those in need.

Watching how our staff strategized and improvised on the fly during the pandemic is a reminder of how resilient and talented they are. The needs, safety and happiness of our residents are a top priority. Your generosity ensures a range of programs and services that enrich lives. Highlights include:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for seniors held at Casselman and Weeks Houses in March/April.
- Joyous revival of the Summer Youth Program at Houghton Village, a celebration of coming together after a long hiatus to enjoy outdoor games and activities.
- Return of the drop-in program for young residents at the Houghton Village Community Center: computer lab, Internet connection, large-screen TV, library, mentoring and structured activities.
- Resumption of our Senior Fitness and Wellness exercise classes and programs, emphasizing the importance of life-long movement, cognitive stimulation, good nutrition and social interaction to enhance health and wellbeing and sustain independent living.
- Re-opening of our on-site Fitness Studios, where residents can work out alone or with a consultant, who provides supervision and instruction on the safe use of equipment.
- Counseling and supports for vulnerable adults and families to increase stability, foster independence and insure positive, long-lasting tenancies through connections to resources such as rental assistance – even more pressing needs during the past year and a half.

Although program delivery took on a very different approach during the pandemic, there have been many positive outcomes. Our staff acquired new digital communication tools and quickly adapted to virtual programming. The adjustment of many residents to these new formats has expanded access and increased overall participation. While most of our programs are now held in person, led by our Resident Services team and outside consultants, certain offerings continue online or as a combination of the two.

Your contribution also helps us to plan for the future. While we are not out of the woods yet, our thoughts have turned to a positive and hope-filled re-emergence. As we approach the season for giving thanks, we look forward to a return to the daily rhythms of life. We have much to be grateful for, not the least of which is your thoughtful interest and support for the work that we do in fostering a diverse community through affordable housing and supportive programming.

Please consider your gift to the NCDF Annual Fund today!

Our warmest wishes,



Bob Engler, President



Jeanne Strickland, Executive Director

Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit our website at <https://www.ncdfinc.org/> and click on “Support NCDF” to make a secure online donation. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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