June 1, 2020

Friends,

What a difficult and confusing time we are living in. What’s amazing is that even during the dark days, we have been able to find some goodness and light – for example, in the wonderful young students graduating from our LEARNWorks academic program; in the families who have gotten back on their feet and let us know that we can pause their meal deliveries in order to serve others; and in the friends and neighbors who have shown their support with donations of funds and supplies.

As we’ve said before – we are a community. #WeNeedEachOther.

Our mission is to help people create lasting solutions to economic stability. In order to serve as many people as possible, our staff has been going ‘above and beyond’ to help families file for unemployment, attain other social services from community partners, and access emergency economic assistance. Over the past 10 weeks:

- We have distributed $80,000 in Critical Assistance emergency funding to 92 families.
- LEARNWorks has pivoted to online learning via Google Classroom. To help combat any academic “summer slump,” two Davidson College students are interning with LEARNWorks over the summer to create additional online enrichment activities for students and families.
- Our Medical and Dental programs are evaluating their steps toward reopening. Our top priority, of course, is the safety of all of our patients, volunteers – including dentists and doctors – and our staff. Our Medical staff is assisting approximately 25 patients each week via telemedicine, refilling prescriptions and assisting with patient referrals.
- Our Career Facilitator is helping client-partners connect to virtual job fairs and online training workshops.
- Our Workforce Development and Housing staff helped the first family in our Hope to Home program "graduate" to their own home. Two new families are now in the program.
- Demand for our food pantry has doubled since mid-March. We’re continuing to follow the Loaves & Fishes food pantry guidelines, with a weekly drive-through pantry. Over the past 10 weeks we’ve provided 960 people with a combined 19,200 lbs. of food.

Please help us keep making good things happen.

As you may know, we had to postpone our annual Spring Gala, which would have provided the funding we need to support our operations through the summer. With that loss - nearly $100,000 - we have had to make some difficult cuts, including staff.

Please help us serve even more families with a gift that's comfortable for you. Click here to donate online. Checks may be sent to the address below.

We'll continue to update you via email and social media on the Ada Jenkins Center's operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As ever, we thank you for caring about our community, and our work, during these traumatic times.

With gratitude,

Georgia Krueger
Chief Executive Officer
Ada Jenkins Center
212 Gamble Street / PO Box 1842
Davidson, NC  28036