

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CEO DAN RENALDO

Dear Friends,

March 14, 2020

Eva's Village has been serving the Paterson and Northern NJ community for nearly 40 years. We started in 1982 as a simple soup kitchen, and over the past four decades, we have added dozens of programs in response to the needs of the people we serve. **Today, Eva's is a more complex place than many people realize.** On any given day, we have more than 300 men, women and children living in our shelters and Halfway House treatment programs; and hundreds more community members come to our Village for food, outpatient treatment, peer support, education, and social services. **The health, safety, and care of those we serve is always our top priority.**

We have been planning for six weeks for the possibility of a Coronavirus pandemic. With the declaration of a National Emergency around COVID-19, and as we closely follow guidance from national, state and local officials, **we want you, our supporters, to know about the critical steps we are taking to ensure that we can continue services wherever possible, while also protecting the wellness of our residents, clients, and community members.**

Our Community Kitchen has always been the heart of our Village, and we remain as committed to feeding our community today as we were when we began in 1982. While the daily gathering in our kitchen is a beloved tradition, at this time our priority is to protect the health of our community members. Following state recommendations to limit large group gatherings, we are temporarily transitioning to distributing meals "to go" twice a day. We have spoken with our guests about this change and have assured them we will be here to support them through this crisis and beyond.

We have also temporarily suspended our outpatient services and activities in our Recovery Community Center. Our counselors and peer recovery mentors will offer telephone outreach to our clients and members until we are able to reopen, and we have set up a hotline for anyone who needs to talk with a peer specialist during this time. **If you or anyone you know is seeking recovery support, please call 973-754-6784, Monday-Friday between 8am-4pm.**

Our Culinary School classes have been suspended, and we have suspended participation by all outside volunteers for at least the next several weeks. Additionally, we have postponed our "Gamblers and Gamers" Casino Night planned for March 27th, with a tentative new date of April 23rd.

These decisions are far from easy. We look forward to the day when our Village returns to its usual bustling activity; but until then, we are focused on caring for and protecting our residents, while keeping the most vital services available to our community members.

We have never been more grateful for your belief in our work. **I hope you will consider making a gift to support our continuing operations during this challenging time.** We recognize that many people are struggling during this public health crisis, but please know that **any donation, no matter the size, will have an impact bigger than you realize.**

Thank you for all you have done to help us care for the most vulnerable members of our community. With your support, we will continue to bring help and hope to those who need it most, now and well into the future.

Be safe and stay well,



Dan Renaldo, CEO

The logo for Eva's Village features the word "Eva's" in a stylized, purple, cursive font with a white outline. To its right, the word "Village" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.