

A message from Eva's CEO

Dear Friends,

We hope this message finds you and your family well. We want to let you - our supporters, friends, volunteers, and neighbors – know how we are managing the COVID-19 outbreak to protect our Eva's Village family, as we face the uncertainty and challenges of a global pandemic. We want to share with you the critical steps we are taking to ensure Eva's Village can continue to provide services wherever possible, while also protecting the wellness of our residents, clients, staff and our community members.

Since Eva's Village started in 1982 as a simple soup kitchen, 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. We have always put the health, safety, and care of those we serve first.

Our Emergency Response Team has been planning for six weeks for the possibility of a Coronavirus pandemic. We have implemented a number of temporary changes to our services, programs and operations in order to follow guidance from national, state and local officials to limit group gatherings and maintain social distancing.

We've been feeding the hungry in Paterson for nearly four decades, and we plan to continue that service. Our Community Kitchen is the heart of our Village and a safe haven for many of our community members. While the daily gathering for a seated meal in our kitchen is a beloved tradition, we have temporarily started distributing meals "to go." We have temporarily suspended all volunteers coming on-site.

We have also temporarily suspended our outpatient services and all 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 as well.

We have plans in place to safely continue protect our residential Halfway House and Shelter programs for men, women and women with children. We have rolled out procedures and protocols to keep on-site staff and clients safe. Administrative staff who can work remotely are already doing so.

These decisions are far from easy, but through all of this, we have reassured our clients and community that we will continue to be here for them through this crisis. 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.

Additionally, all four of our upcoming spring events will have to be postponed to ensure the safety of our community. Together, we expected these events to bring in several hundred thousand dollars. We understand that everybody is struggling during this time, and that these are uncharted waters for so many people. But we have truly never needed support more, and at this time, even a small gift can make a big impact.

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,



Daniel J. Renaldo, CEO