

Dear REACH Family and Friends,

REACH continues to monitor the latest developments regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and wanted to share our response to joining in the national effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19. To our best knowledge, no one associated with REACH has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Due to the enumerable risks associated with providing services within our Education and Communication Departments as well as the directives received from federal, state and local officials, REACH CEO and Board of Directors decided March 16th to cease normal operations out of an abundance of caution for the safety and well-being of our staff, consumers and the community at large. REACH will continue to remain closed through April 30th, 2020. This closure may be longer depending on the directives from state and government officials, as well as our public health department. This decision was made not only as an agency response to assist in curtailing the spread of the virus, but to also be sensitive to the health of our consumers, many of whom have comorbid health conditions in addition to compromised immune systems, thus making them more high-risk. Their continued well-being has and will remain paramount.

Our Housing Department continues to provide supported and independent living services daily, as these consumers are solely dependent on the services that REACH provides and are deemed essential. For our other departments, REACH is utilizing a Telehealth service model due to our inability to provide in-person support at this time. Our Communications Department specifically is continuing to work virtually supporting the Whittier Union School District and individual clients based on their growing needs and available technology.

The community that we serve has always been a resilient one. Mostly because it's always had to be. Much the same goes for nonprofits like REACH. For in times of crisis, organizations like REACH are needed more than ever yet find themselves having to be even more creative in figuring out how to do more with less, while still ensuring quality and a high level of responsiveness. We don't deny that the circumstances are unprecedented and that there will likely be challenges ahead particularly in regard to maintaining operating capacity and figuring out how to move forward successfully. But we can assure you that, we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder and side-by-side with you and the community every step of the way.

As a trusted partner to communities for over 50 years, we remain committed to continuing our mission of transforming the lives of individuals with diverse abilities. Our mission is one that is deeply rooted in the values of service and compassion. These same values will continue to guide us and pave the way forward in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

In the meantime, we will be adding some fun and interactive activities to our website and social media platforms that consumers and families can do at home as we all continue to practice social distancing. We look forward to resuming normal operations soon. Until then, we encourage you to stay safe, healthy and positive. We will keep you informed throughout the coming weeks with relevant updates and specific ways in which you can support REACH.

Remember..."Together we triumph" - we will get through this together and emerge stronger than ever!

Dr. Felita Jones
CEO

Yolanda Garcia
Board President

P.S. Our organization will likely face enormous financial challenges as a result of this pandemic and will undoubtedly need support for some time to come. If you are able to do so, please consider donating via our website at www.reach.services or to REACH's GoFundMe page. Funds from this fund will go directly to support REACH Housing, Education and Communication Programs. You can find the link here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/serving-persons-with-development...>



THANK YOU so much for your continued support as it means the world to us!