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Serving Children and Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities for 70 Years

PAUL TORRES
Executive Director

April 6, 2020

Dear AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

BOARD MEMBERS

Joseph Cassarini
John Smith
Joseph Zifchock

As we start another week in our determined efforts to respond to the impact of the coronavirus, I ask that we all pause for a moment to recognize that this past weekend we lost two people we cherish, one who lived in our residence and another who attended our day program. We must steel ourselves going forward in the recognition that more lives may be lost in the near future. We also must take the time to celebrate the joy and unique value that each of these individuals brought to so many lives. In addition, in the last week, five staff members have returned to health from quarantine and, after being symptom free and observing CDC and DOH guidelines, are returning to work. Their fortitude and commitment to those we serve gives us encouragement and hope.

Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures.

Every day, in fact every hour, I am moved by what each of you are doing minute-by-minute to keep the people we support safe, and to keep each other safe. You have one of the most difficult jobs in our nation right now. Our obligation and commitment to you is to be a strident advocate for all of the resources you need to get us through this pandemic, and to emerge as strong as ever in promoting the well-being of and opportunities for people with disabilities throughout Suffolk and beyond.

So, as we reflect upon the challenges, sorrows and successes of the past few weeks, please take a moment to thank those around you, be grateful for the power of working together for the common good, and do what is necessary to revitalize and take care of yourself in the days and weeks to come.

The African proverb that you have likely heard many times before, "If you want to travel fast go alone. If you want to travel far, go together." has never had more meaning than it does for all of us at AHRC Suffolk. We still have some distance to go, and the distance will continue to be extraordinarily difficult, but I know, based on what I know about you, that we will prevail.

#Inittogether

Stay well!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul H. Torres'.

Paul H. Torres
Executive Director