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

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December 4, 2020

**PAUL H. TORRES**  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

**JOHN MCGUIGAN**  
Chief Operating Officer

With COVID-19 positive cases currently climbing throughout Suffolk County, our resolve to keep the individuals we support and our staff safe remains. Back in the height of the original COVID-19 surge this past Spring, certainly there was worry and fear of the unknown. However, there was no time to focus on the *what ifs* or to let our worries delay our actions. Individuals, families and staff were forced to adapt, adjust and take measures to ensure their own safety, as well as the safety of those around them. We continued to provide services and supports and we reinforced the new *safer* ways to do so.

**CHRISTOPHER VEROS**  
Chief Financial Officer

**OFFICERS**

**JOHN SMITH**  
President

**JOSEPH ZIFCHOCK**  
Treasurer

**JOSEPH CASSARINI**  
Secretary

Our commitment to stay the course must remain the same now, and we must help assure and assist those feeling fear or worry. Sharing stories of how we overcame challenges and persevered will help strengthen us all, to remind us that we are not alone, and to remind us that together, we are stronger.

**DIRECTORS**

Deborah Pflieger

*“To be courageous...requires no exceptional qualifications, no magic formula, no special combination of time, place and circumstance. It is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all...The stories of past courage can define that ingredient-they can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each [one of us] must look into [our] own soul.” John F. Kennedy*

As predicted and feared, the colder weather has brought a continued increase in positive cases to our area. Suffolk County is currently at a 4.9% COVID-19 positive rate on a 7-day average, and experts anticipate trending growth as we advance into the holiday season. It is difficult to remain separated from loved ones and it is disappointing to miss out on special events and traditions. However, the circumstances require us to remain vigilant in order to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. I encourage you all to continue finding new safe ways to connect with loved ones and new safe ways to share holiday cheer. We must do all we can to keep people safe. #InItTogether

I would like to invite you all to join us at our 60th Annual Candlelight Ball, celebrating our essential workers. This year’s virtual event is next Wednesday, December 9th. Log on to our [event site](#) at 7:00pm to enjoy a brief video highlighting our frontline workers and our individuals; highlighting how we have adapted to changing programs and needs these last 10 months. **It’s not too late to donate to the event and help support AHRC Suffolk!** Click [HERE](#) for our sponsorship page. Any amount you can give will be meaningful and appreciated. The need has never been greater.

Stay well, stay safe and thank you for all you do,

Paul H. Torres  
Chief Executive Officer



There’s still time! Please help us celebrate our essential staff on December 9th at our virtual Candlelight Ball: *Highlight Our Heroes*. Visit our website, [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/60th-annual-candlelight-ball](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/60th-annual-candlelight-ball), for more information.

Join the AHRC Suffolk Team! Visit [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers) to see our current openings at various locations. Apply today!

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