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Dear Friends,

These are difficult times as we all seek to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 virus. I hope that this message finds all of you healthy and safe.

Like so many other organizations, we are making changes to the way we are fulfilling our mission to prevent child abuse and neglect given the restrictions put in place to keep all of us safe. That being said, protecting children is crucial, and is all the more critical in uncertain times. Many of the families are faced with loss of income, food shortages and fear of sickness. Stress levels are high in some families, and those stresses can be exacerbated by the additional isolation brought on by social distancing and having to shelter in place.

We want to assure you that we are taking to heart the recommendations and restrictions being provided by federal, state and local agencies. Our greatest asset is our staff, and we are making operational changes to help keep them safe. That means that most staff are working from home, and only a few staff come to the office for essential functions, and do so on a staggered basis. However, we are not shut down, we are continuing our work to the extent possible using other approaches. All staff can still be contacted via email and they are checking it routinely throughout the day.

We are in contact with our partners and our AmeriCorps members throughout the state and have set up policies for their protection. However, we are most concerned about the vulnerable populations we support, families in need and foster youth who are now displaced from their schools as well as their families. We are continuing contact in ways that are safe for them.

We would like to hear any wise counsel from you about ways you are continuing your work and maintaining safety as there is much we can learn from each other. We will keep doing all that we can to ensure parents and caregivers are receiving the resources they need to keep their families strong and safe and that foster youth do not feel abandoned. We appreciate all of you, and your support for the children and families that we serve. We will get through this, and we look forward to partnering with you again soon.

For the Life of a Child,

Sheila Boxley  
President & CEO