



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

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We're In This Together

COVID-19 Update

Dear SEEC Families and Friends,

I hope this communication finds everyone healthy and safe.

It's hard to believe it's been a month since we suspended our day services. Since that time it has been incredibly busy at SEEC as we work hard not just to react to what is happening now, but to prepare for the future. SEEC was one of the first agencies in the area to proactively close our office and suspend our day services and to institute wearing masks, even before the order came from state and federal government. We anticipated the stay at home ruling and proactively set up a schedule to minimize exposure by decreasing the number of staff in and out of homes and increasing the number of hours worked. We have been soliciting donations of masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, wipes and protective coverings for weeks and have been so impressed and grateful for the way the community has come together for us. We are constantly revising our policies and procedures to keep up with the way things are changing, whether it's increasing sick pay for our employees, encouraging remote work or closing the office to all but essential staff.

I continue to be incredibly impressed and proud of the way the SEEC staff are coming together to make sure that the people we support are safe and healthy. Our employees continue to be out in the community and in private residences daily making sure the people we support are well taken care of, getting to the jobs that are still open, and staying healthy.

On a positive note, I am incredibly optimistic about how SEEC has grown bigger, better and stronger as a result of this experience. For example, our staff are taking the time to do trainings they otherwise would not have been able to prioritize, and learning how to use technology in new ways including email, video conferencing and sharing of information quickly and efficiently. We are having daily morning check-ins with the leadership team to stay on top of every change as it happens and to react in a way that is strategic and coordinated. We are developing processes and procedures and tracking

accountability in new ways. This has certainly been a stressful time, but it's also been one of growth and improvement.

Many of you have asked how you can help. We are always looking for donations of masks, protective coverings and hand sanitizers and wipes. Having secured enough masks for our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), we are now working to make sure that every DSP in the state of Maryland has a mask.

Additionally, due to COVID-19, we have had to cancel the SEEC gala, our biggest fundraiser of the year. SEEC needs your support to help us continue to do our essential work. Funds will be used to help cover rent, groceries, personal protective equipment for our staff and those we support, enrichment activities for people to do while in their homes and care packages for essential staff who are working around the clock during this crisis! Please visit www.seeconline.org and click Donate to help.

We received feedback that many people found the resources from last month's newsletter helpful, so once again we have provided a list of resources below we hope you'll find useful.

These are unprecedented times, and our top priority remains keeping the people we support and our employees healthy and safe. I hope you and your families are keeping well.

Best wishes,

Karen Lee
Executive Director

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SEEC's Gala Is Cancelled *But We Still Need Your Help!*

We have made the difficult decision to cancel the SEEC Gala.

With each passing day it became more clear that **right now we need to focus on the health and safety of our staff and the people we support.**

While so many things have been cancelled or postponed, the needs of the people we support remain and we are committed to helping them persevere through this difficult time. Many of the people we support have been suddenly taken out of their routine. Visits to the community centers, volunteer jobs, and parks have been cancelled and jobs and internships have been put on hold. In addition, our employees continue to be out in the community and in private residences daily making sure the people we support are well taken care of, getting to the jobs that are still open, and staying healthy.

Some examples of new items that we are funding include:

- Activity boxes for Supported Living department participants who receive 24/7 supports, including puzzles, craft supplies, stress toys, and weighted blankets
- Creating specialized curriculum for our participants, which will also be utilized by other area disability organizations
- Extra support for the people we support including virtual support from job coaches and assistance with unemployment insurance if needed
- Protective equipment for Direct Support Professionals
- Technology for the people we support and staff to stay connected



Despite cancelling our major fundraiser, **we are still trying to reach our gala fundraising goal of \$135,000** in net donations. We have currently raised \$109,000.

Will you please help us make up the difference? [CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)

Every dollar helps and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!



Masks donated by Girl Scout Troop 834

The Donations Are Coming In! But The Need Still Exists!

SEEC's dedicated employees continue to provide critical supports to make sure the people we support are well taken care of and staying healthy. With difficulty gaining access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for our staff, we asked the community to come together to help provide those we support and our staff with homemade surgical masks and other PPE.

Thank you to all who have given their time and services to donate. The overwhelming generosity of the community in response to this crisis has been truly inspiring! We have collected over 1,000 masks and other PPE that has since been distributed to SEEC's employees providing supports, and next to our partner organizations and other DSPs throughout Maryland and DC. Please continue to donate PPE to help us reach our goal of ensuring every DSP in Maryland and DC has access to PPE. This virus is not going away anytime soon, and our need for resources and assistance continues.

Click the link below for details on how you and your community can immediately help SEEC during this difficult time.

<https://www.seeonline.org/ways-to-give/>



Derrick Wilson, a SEEC staffer, delivers activity kits made possible through the grant.

Engagement and Comfort During Covid-19 Crisis

Thanks to a generous grant from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council administered by the Arc of Maryland, SEEC staff delivered activity kits to more than 40 people who receive our Supported Living supports. Each kit contained an array of games, art supplies and sensory items designed to give people the means to continued learning, social engagement and comfort as they adhere to our current stay at home order. This forward-thinking grant was awarded to multiple service providers in March to benefit hundreds of people with developmental disabilities in Maryland. We are grateful for this support as we continue to purchase items for additional activity kits to benefit others receiving SEEC supports.

<https://ww1.pgcmls.info/teacher-resources-444>

Brainfuse HelpNow

Live tutoring is available in English and Spanish from 2 pm - 11:55 pm ET. Subjects include math, reading, writing, and more. http://www.brainfuse.com/highed/helpNow.asp?a_id=D25BDBAC&ss=&r=

10 Teacher-Recommended Online Learning Resources Your Kids Will Actually Enjoy - Her View From Home

<https://herviewfromhome.com/kids-10-online-learning-resources-for-kids/>

FOOD

Can I still do takeout? Yes. You can read this link for more information.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/stay-at-home-maryland-virginia-dc/2020/03/30/167cba86-72a0-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html?arc404=true.

COVID-19: Local Food System Resources

<https://mocofoodcouncil.org/covid-19-local-food-system-resources/>

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

Free Streaming

<https://ew.com/tv/coronavirus-quarantine-deals-stream-for-free/>

"Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution" on Netflix

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81001496?s=a&trkid=13747225&t=more>

Prince George's Memorial Library System + Creativebug Present Online Video Classes

<https://www.creativebug.com/lib/pgcmls>

Library of Congress Engage! https://loc.gov/engage?mc_cid=6d11576200&mc_eid=e559fb28a6

Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids <https://stories.audible.com/>

STAY POSITIVE!

Coping with Stress and Anxiety During this time of heightened anxiety, EveryMind understands that you or a loved one may need someone to talk to. Phone, text, and chat call specialists are available 24/7 to listen and provide support. This service is free and open to all members of our community. You do not have to be in crisis to connect with them – reach out even if you are just looking for ways to support someone you are concerned about. Call 301-738-2255 or visit

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>

For a list of additional resources <https://www.every-mind.org/>

Warrior Canine Connection Live Cams

<https://explore.org/livecams/warrior-canine-connection/puppy-whelping-room>

301.576.9000 | www.seeonline.org

