



Housing and Health Care Community

March 27, 2020

Greetings family and friends of Brevillier Village:

As with so many of the elderly in our communities, lots of our Independent Living residents at Barnabas Court South and Conrad House have had to develop a new way of life during these COVID-19 restrictions. The families that they were used to seeing daily or several times a week are unable to come in and offer the supports that help these residents remain Independent. These family members and even some private duty care givers offer support and so much more. They help residents with medication reminders and set ups, with laundry and housekeeping chores, with groceries and pharmacy pick-ups, and with financial matters. Often these families and caregivers are the only people that residents see throughout each week and they are being sorely missed.

Even though our residents in Personal care have many more services available to them, the loss of the companionship of their families has been very hard. Our residents with dementia do not understand why they cannot see those who they love.

Our staff has been doing so much to fill the void left by these visits and our wonderful families have found many creative ways to stay in touch and bring sunshine to our residents. Skype and Facetime connections are being encouraged and a special computer with and IN2L system is allowing residents to connect with their families visually as well as sharing conversation. The social workers are connecting with families throughout the week to let them know that their residents are ok. The Recreation staff has been having numerous small groups of bingo and other activities without the allure of food and with the practice of social distancing. Families are arriving at the front doors of every building throughout each day with "care packages" of food and goodies for their loved ones, as well as notes and cards to help lift spirits. Residents are starting to get out and walk around on the good weather days. How good that sunshine feels! They are working on crafts projects and doing jig saw puzzles. Afternoon movies are big hits on dreary days. Many of the staff are trying to find unique ways to help residents stay connected and upbeat.





Occasionally family members will stop by to flash signs full of love to residents or to wave to everyone through the windows. One couple who have been separated by restrictions in the buildings has been enjoying visits in the nicer weather, him on one side of the courtyard fence, her on the other!

Family members have offered special notes of support to staff, and some have even sent in treats for all to share. This has really helped morale! The staff is leading residents in special moments of prayer. Deacon Chuck has been very visible in the buildings offering comfort and hope for those who are feeling alone.

Although the question most often asked is “how long will this last?”, now we all have become focused on “We will get through this!!!” And the love we share with our residents and families is what will get us through.

Sincerely,
Jean LaFuria
VP Residential Services
(814)899-8600

