

April 8, 2020



To: Willow Brook Christian Village Residents and Families
From: Nicole Ketron, Executive Director

Greetings from the offices at Willow Brook. We continue to closely monitor the residents and staff for symptoms of COVID-19. Thus far, there have been no cases yet identified on our campus.

However, we are actively preparing to care for Willow Brook residents who have confirmed or presumptive COVID-19. We've set up the Willow Brook by Day area as a make-shift isolation center for any resident who may need to be served.

It is a difficult time to work in healthcare. We've had some staff who decided the risk is too much. But that has not been the overall consensus. At Willow Brook, our mission is to serve people, and this is the same reason most of our employees chose to work in healthcare. I decided to ask our staff why they elected to embrace nursing as a career or to work in healthcare. Just listen to these responses:

"I followed in the footsteps of an admired parent. I used to come to work with my mom and just knew it was my calling. I have always felt compelled to care for other people even above what I need." Jayne Jordon, Centrum Nurse

"I dreamed of being a nurse since I was a little girl. I just care about other people's health and well-being." Melinda Sumner Centrum Nurse

"I knew I wanted to be a nurse at a young age when my aunt who was a nurse patched me up after a bicycle accident. I enjoy helping people and feel an obligation to help all people. You know you can't pick and choose who you want to care for. It's kind of like a marriage....for better or for worse. Nurses just have a special passion to help others heal." Lori Lewis Cherith Nurse

"I like helping people and just taking care of others." Jessica Vancil Cherith STNA

"I enjoy a fast-paced environment and caring for people. The days are busy and never boring. People are looking for us to help them, and it can be very rewarding. They trust us to care for them, and in turn we have a big responsibility." Kaitlyn Mayer Cherith Nurse

"I enjoy exercise and assisting people to reach their functional goals!" Jeremy Martin
Physical Therapy

With National Nurses Week coming up May 6-12, it's a good time to honor all of our staff. I consider each one of them heroes! Not just the nurses but all the departments. It takes an

army! Our staff has not hesitated to care for our residents during this difficult time. They are sacrificing time with their loved ones and hunkering down to protect our residents.

Many of them have canceled their vacations and chosen to stay at home. It is not worth the risk of bringing something into our community. We are all doing our best. I understand these are difficult times. I ask for your patience.

Please continue to respect our visitor restrictions, and please do not meet outdoors. I heard today that the 6 feet distance is for talking only. A distance of 20 feet could be required if someone sneezes or coughs. It is just not worth the risk. Hang in there. We will get through this together!