

Advent House Report for PEM June 7, 2021

Advent House:

The House remains on pause. It has been determined by staff and Finance Committee that we will not attempt to reopen until September. Our volunteer numbers remain very low and there are multiple issues regarding staffing to resolve before we feel it is safe to welcome Residents and their families. We continue to meet regularly with the other Monroe County Homes. The Homes that have opened have had multiple issues with staffing and non-compliant families. Three Directors and one Volunteer Coordinator have resigned and both houses report multiple volunteer resignations. The other major concern is minimal support from the home care agencies not only with overnight staffing but with Resident concerns including pain management.

In the meantime, we continue with house and garden maintenance. A wonderful group from Paychex came on the day of caring and tended to many indoor and out door jobs that had been accumulating including planting flowers, bushes, major weeding and cleaning and getting the deck furniture out of the garage. A Boy Scout troop is coming this weekend to mulch and weed the back gardens. Mike Matthew is resolving an outside lighting issue and we are investigating an air purification system for our furnace.

Staff: All continue to be very busy. Laurie Eisele is making progress and is now able to go to PT. Her hope is to be able to return early July. Jeanne Kremers our bookkeeper has announced her retirement effective July 1, 2021. We have been blessed indeed to hire, at Kevin's reference, a lovely young woman named Amy Hiller to take over this position. She has a long history in finance and is a former bank branch manager. She is very familiar with our needs and is a perfect fit for our team.

Finance Committee: Heartfelt gratitude to this committee of dedicated professionals that have so wisely shepherded our finances. We are meeting more regularly and I am so very appreciative of the additional support. We will be meeting again in the next month.

Sweet Charity:

Blessedly Sweet Charity continues to be very successful. Vicki and I continue to work extra hours now as well without Laurie. We have hired a twenty- hour summer person and will be looking to hire again in the fall. We are restructuring the use of volunteers prior to welcoming them back. The general consensus is that we need the continuity that staff provides to maintain the excellent professional hands- on service that our customers have come to expect. We are trying something new this summer called Summer Saturdays. Steve's Diner is crazy busy on early Saturday mornings with a long wait line so we thought why not see if they would like to shop while waiting?!!! So, our new hire and myself will be opening the store for business at 9AM instead of ten on Saturday mornings. Hopefully, this will be worth the while.

Volunteers: Due to her accident Laurie will not be submitting a separate report. We miss our volunteers. We are most hopeful to gather as a group in early August and start refresher training as well as new volunteer training. Laurie is planning many recruitment activities upon her return. Despite the vaccine and decrease in numbers our volunteer list has shrunk again. We have about 30 hands on caregivers willing to return but none on a regularly scheduled shift. There are sixty- three slots a week to fill and very few of these volunteers are willing to commit to a regular weekly schedule. The agencies have stated very definitely that they will not provide the overnight aide and will be able to only provide minimal nursing and social work support. Also, if a Resident or family member tests positive for COVID once they are admitted to the Houses it is our responsibility to resolve and find alternate placement not the agencies. Many challenges. Sigh.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director