

Advent House Report for PEM March 1, 2021

Advent House:

The House remains on pause. It has been now almost a year and we are certainly looking to be a few more months until we are once again at full capacity. We continue to meet regularly with the other Monroe County Homes and most are hopeful to reopen late spring or early summer. The majority of them have a much larger paid staff and are not as volunteer reliant as we are. As you know, it will all depend on the COVID status and staff and volunteer availability. As one of the other “seasoned” directors stated it will be starting all over reimagining how we will go forward. Feels to be a daunting task to say the least. In the meantime, we continue to work on long overdue house maintenance. The patio doors in both resident suites have been replaced, Mike Matthew graciously stained the woodwork to reduce the expense. They are much better doors with great energy efficiency. Already we have noticed no breeze blowing in around the edges!! The hardwood floors in the Resident suites are being refinished. They have taken quite a beating after twenty-five years!

Staff: All continue to be very busy. Sadly, Laurie Eisele fell and fractured six bones in her right foot this past Monday. She sees the orthopedic doctor tomorrow to determine course of action. The estimated thought is that she will be out for at least six, possibly eight weeks. Jeanne Kremers our bookkeeper has announced her retirement effective July 1, 2021. This will be a very great loss to the House. If you know of anyone who would be interested and qualified for this position please let me know.

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 or so.

Sweet Charity:

Blessedly Sweet Charity continues to be very successful. We remain very busy with wonderful donations and faithful shoppers. Historically, January and February are slower months for retail but we are ticking right along well above anticipated income. Unfortunately, the staff there has also been struggling. Kitty Keller is out indefinitely with mobility issues, Susan Rhody has taken a leave of absence due to COVID concerns, Meg Sarnoff is recovering from abdominal surgery and her husband Bruce has been caring for her and not feeling well himself. Nancy Loughran has incredibly graciously volunteered to cover Meg’s hours until Meg is back to full time. Vicki and I will be working extra hours now as well without Laurie. We will be looking at 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.

Volunteers: Due to her accident Laurie will not be submitting a separate report. She keeps in contact with the volunteers regularly with short newsletters and updates. She participates in the Houses Zoom meetings and has been working at the store. We miss our volunteers. We are most hopeful to gather as a group in the spring. More folks are expressing an interest in returning as the vaccine is becoming more available and the numbers decline. We now have about 48 willing to provide resident care and a few new volunteer applications. There are sixty- three slots a week to fill and very few of these volunteers are willing to commit to a regular weekly schedule. There remains the concern that the agency may not be able to provide the overnight aide. Many challenges.

As ever, I thank you all for your involvement and support.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director