

# COVID-19 Update



The safety and well-being of the people we serve is our top priority.



To our Volunteers of America MN/WI Community,

I certainly didn't expect that my first message to you as the new President and CEO of Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin would be discussing COVID-19.

The news can be worrying right now, but amongst all the tales of people being quarantined around the globe, there are also wonderful examples of the beautiful human spirit. Italians sing from their open windows, Minnesotans organize blood drives, neighbors offer to buy groceries for their neighbors, and the list goes on.

We see the same at Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin. Where there is cause for concern, we also see cause for hope. With hardship, we see resilience, and despite very real worries about sickness, we will continue to help build well-being

Our mission has always been to help and comfort people in need, so the safety and well-being of the people we serve is top priority. And in this environment their safety has become paramount, especially since we work with thousands of seniors and many other people whose health and immunity may be already at risk.

Alongside that overriding concern, we are working to keep our staff safe and healthy. Our teams are working around the clock to keep our facilities and our supportive services as safe as possible. We are especially careful at our residential facilities where staff have been implementing safety protocols from the earliest signs that Coronavirus posed a threat.

The people we serve include many without a societal safety net. We are actively caring for older adults and people with disabilities, providing for basic needs such as meals, a warm bed, and other support services.

With many schools closed in response to the Coronavirus, including our own VOA High School, it will be up to organizations such as VOA to step up and help families.

The needs will no doubt strain our resources. And we are committed to those who depend on us. VOA has been an integral part of the community fabric for nearly 125 years. Together we'll meet this challenge, applying both innovative and battle-tested responses which have been honed from over a century as one of America's most time-honored care providers.

Thank you for all you do with us, and prayers for your health and safety!

With gratitude,

Julie Manworren  
President and CEO  
Volunteers of America MN/WI

