

August 2020

As the days of Summer grow a little shorter, we wanted to take this opportunity to look back on the unprecedented events of the last five months. While these months have been challenging, they have also made us even more aware of the gifts of our residents and team members.

In mid-March, our nation was facing a virus we knew little about. What we did know seemed to change daily as knowledge about the virus grew along with the number of those infected across the country and the world. Shelter-in-Place orders went into effect to slow the spread of COVID-19 which we thought would be over in early April. In those first few months, we saw shortages of many items we took for granted, like cleaning supplies and toilet paper, and supplies of Personal Protective Equipment ran low throughout the world. Sourcing and procuring quality PPE was a key challenge.

April came and went with the extension of Shelter-in-Place orders. Regulations continued to evolve along with CDC guidance, while businesses were forced to extend their closures, and the number of those infected with the virus kept growing.

By May, it appeared we might be through the worst of it with numbers leveling off and talk of reopening the economy. We coined new phrases like “Phase-Gating” to describe a phased reopening aimed at opening businesses gradually and in a way to avoid spikes in new cases.

As we entered the Memorial Day weekend and into June, hopes were high, and many were feeling positive about moving past COVID-19. However, the current spike in daily case counts across the country is linked to both the Memorial Day weekend and opening of indoor spaces like bars.

Through July, daily case counts have hit all-time highs across the country and here in California. At the same time, surveillance testing in California senior living began with the aim of being another tool in limiting the spread to a more vulnerable population.

2020 has presented unforeseen and extraordinary challenges. We know many families are experiencing significant financial hardships due to business closures and layoffs. Our hearts go out to everyone in this position. At the same time, challenging times like these can sometimes make us acutely aware of the gifts in our lives – our family and friends, time together, the beauty of the natural world.

As we at Elder Care Alliance reflect on these last months, we feel blessed and incredibly grateful to serve and be in community with our residents. Our residents have seen and overcome many challenges in their lives, and serving them provides us with a sense of deep purpose.

We are humbled and blessed by the work of our team members who are tireless in their dedication to our residents and one another – even as they carry the care and stresses of their

own families. Their passion and positive attitude are on display every day, living out our core values of dignity and caring.

We continue to fight the spread of this virus through strong infection protocols, testing, and appropriate supplies of PPE. We want to take time to say “Thank You” to all of you who support us and make our jobs a little easier, our days a little fuller and our future a little brighter. We are blessed to be doing the work of serving people.

Elder Care Alliance

We also want to take this opportunity to let you know there are several ways you can help us in our mission of serving older adults. As a non-profit organization, we welcome contributions to our various initiatives. If you are interested in donating, please look at giving opportunities at the following websites:

Mercy Brown Bag Program: <https://mercybrownbag.org/>

Charitable Care Program: <https://eldercarealliance.org/giving/>

COVID Response Fund: <https://www.GIVINGECA.org>