

December 10, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

I want to start this letter by acknowledging our incredibly dedicated staff and our resilient residents and their families, who show up when it matters to serve each other. I know that every one of us has been touched by the last 22 months in deeply personal ways. Parents have fallen ill. Children couldn't go to school. Partners lost their jobs. We couldn't see our families. It's been an incredibly hard time for all of us. While I am confident better days are coming, our community – residents, their families and staff – are still hurting, frustrated and just plain tired. It is the tough times that test an organization's culture and values, and our community lived our mission and loved and supported each other through it all with a deep commitment that is extraordinary. That commitment was never made clearer than through the gift that Beatitudes residents and their families gave to our staff last Friday. Throughout the past year, our residents raised a record-breaking amount of nearly a quarter of a million dollars -- \$245,036.72 to be exact – that was distributed to staff last Friday at our Employee Christmas Party. This party marked the first time that our staff got together as a group in two years. As you know, Beatitudes employees are not permitted to accept personal gifts, gratuities or tips. So, to show their appreciation to the staff, our residents mobilized their forces to raise money for the Employee Appreciation Fund, which culminated in individual gifts to employees, based on their service hours. We are humbled and privileged by the way our residents respect and support our staff. Thank you for this astounding act of kindness and generosity.

I will continue this letter with more sobering news. Since the fast-spreading omicron variant of the coronavirus reached the U.S. over a week ago, it has now been reported in at least 25 states, including Arizona. The first Arizona case was documented this past Wednesday in Yavapai County, north of the Phoenix area. Although researchers are concerned about the transmissibility of the omicron variant, much remains unknown. Health experts say that the current COVID-19 vaccines have remained very effective against the Delta and other variants and will still fulfill their roles in preventing severe disease and hospitalization. Omicron's emergence underlines the importance of vaccinations, boosters and basic precautions like masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

On Wednesday, Beatitudes Campus hosted a COVID-19 booster clinic and 156 residents and 84 staff lined up to get their booster shot. Many residents and staff had already received their booster on their own prior to the clinic. We encourage everyone who is eligible to get a booster to further protect themselves. They are available at pharmacies such as CVS, Walgreen's, Costco, Safeway, Fry's and many others. Making an appointment to get the booster is easy – just call or go online to schedule a convenient time. As of today, more than 95% of residents have received the initial vaccine doses, and we are gathering information on how many have received a booster. As of today, 94% of staff are vaccinated, and 6% received approved medical or religious exemptions.

Beatitudes is continuing its COVID-19 testing program with regular testing of staff. Studies have shown that the rapid tests that we use at the campus are effective in detecting the Omicron variant.

Other preventive measures we have been taking include the daily screening of all staff and visitors. We recently installed a system called the Accushield Sign-in and Health Screening Kiosk, which replaces the paper sign-in logs and orange “visitor” stickers. You simply answer a few CDC-recommended COVID-19 screening questions, lean in to record your body temperature have your temperature taken, and a sticker with your name is printed out. These kiosks are located in our licensed areas (Health Care Center and Assisted Living) and in the Administration lobby and the facilities and maintenance building. In addition to screening, the system will send immediate email and text alerts based on sign-in activity at the kiosk and can print daily reports of staff and visitors. For visitors visiting our Independent Living residents who drive through the guard gate, the self-screening forms currently remain in place.

Last week, two of our Assisted Living residents tested positive for COVID-19, after visiting family over the Thanksgiving holiday. One of the residents recovered in their home, and the other resident is in the hospital, but doing well. Because these cases were unrelated, we did not have to lock down Plaza View for visitation. At our regular staff testing, two staff tested positive for COVID-19. One staff member was a support worker who works mainly in the Health Care Center. This person is fully vaccinated and mildly symptomatic and recovering at home. The other staff member is a direct caregiver, and the last shift worked was on December 2. This person has no symptoms. We extend our thoughts and prayers for continued recovery for all these individuals.

It is with much sadness that we report that one of our staff members passed away two weeks ago due to complications from COVID-19. He was part of the Beatitudes team for nearly 6 years, and worked in our maintenance team, particularly paying attention to our Plaza View Assisted Living Building. He was beloved by residents and his coworkers. We will miss him greatly.

Thank you for your support, your resilience and your strength. Stay safe.

My best,



Michelle Just, President and CEO

