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## Opportunity Partners Update

### April 8, 2020



It has been a surreal few weeks. We hope you all are doing well and staying healthy during this time of tremendous stress and uncertainty.

At this time, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and our Governor's orders, our five day programs must remain closed. This closure impacts more than 750 people at our Anoka, Asplin, Bren, Karlins and Koch campuses. We miss everyone very much! It's just not the same without you, but we must stay closed for now with the plan to re-open as soon as it is safe to do so. We will keep you informed through email and updates on our website.

### ***What is happening at Opportunity Partners now?***

Our residential programs are open, keeping 300 people safe, happy and healthy at home. We are putting in extra hours to serve those who are typically at day programs or jobs, and some of our day program staff are helping by picking up shifts! In an effort to keep everyone uplifted during this time, we've asked our staff to send us short videos of people in our group homes and apartment programs. Here's one we think you'll enjoy from Josiah at Girard residence.

We are still supporting about 100 people working in their essential community jobs or guiding them to apply for unemployment, and providing them other critical supports through this health crisis. The people we serve need us now more than ever.

Our largest production centers are still operating, meeting the packaging needs of customers in industries deemed essential. With no persons served here to work, some of our programs staff have stepped in to fill roles on the work floors. It is truly a team effort all across OP.

Thanks to our caring community, donations are coming in, helping us with some of our increased costs. We've also received many kind comments from family members like you. One parent recently reached out to say, "Vicki loves being a part of Opportunity Partners, and is concerned for all her friends' safety and well-being." You can read more kind words at: [opportunities.networkforgood.com/](https://opportunities.networkforgood.com/)

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*April 8, 2020 Update Continued*

We've put a call out on social media for homemade face masks to use at residential sites and on our production floors. Many of you have shared our call-out via social media and your community networks. Thank you for helping us stay safer. If you are making masks and can donate some, email [info@opportunities.org](mailto:info@opportunities.org)

We are working with our disability trade associations ARRM and MOHR to contact federal and state legislators about the need for emergency funding to help organizations like ours get through this turbulent time. Watch for action alerts and how you can help on our OP Facebook page.

When it is safe to open again, we've already been planning how we can incorporate social distancing measures and other new health and safety procedures at our day locations in order to keep us all safer.

We will continue to send you updates as we go through this together. Please reach out to [info@opportunities.org](mailto:info@opportunities.org) if you have questions or need additional information. Stay strong!