

# A Message from Janice

Dear friends,

COVID-19 has had an impact on almost all of us. We've had to change how we work, socialize, practice our faith, and recreate. But for communities of color, these impacts can be devastating.

According to data released last week by Johns Hopkins University, African Americans and other people of color are much more likely to get sick and die of COVID-19. In New York City, African Americans are dying of COVID at twice the rate of total population. In Washington, Latinx people represented 29% of confirmed cases, even though they are only 13% of the population. And while COVID-19 doesn't discriminate, these data paint a clear picture that the effects of COVID-19 are revealing long standing historical racism. African Americans, Latinx, people of color, and immigrants are more likely to:

- Work essential jobs where working from home is not an option;
- Live in neighborhoods that lack access to healthy food, clean air, and safe recreation opportunities; and
- Lack access to quality, affordable health care, free of racial bias.

The people most impacted by this pandemic are Neighborhood House clients. We are on the front lines of this crisis, helping people stay safe, giving comfort to sick and disabled seniors, and connecting individuals and families to help and hope for the future post COVID. We're helping people apply for unemployment benefits over the phone and online, sending out rental assistance checks, delivering and arranging for food and supply deliveries.

We can support our community because you support us. Thank you! Together, we got this.

Janice Deguchi



## IN THE HOUSE

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

### Census 2020

The census is a once-in-a-decade opportunity: the data collected helps determine funding for critical public resources as well as representation in our government.

Please remember to talk to your communities about its importance, especially during this time. Census questionnaires can be completed online, on paper, over the phone, or in person.



### Neighborhood House is Hiring

These are challenging times and we continue to operate to serve our community. See all open positions and descriptions, and learn more about joining the team at [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org), under the "Careers" tab.



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## THANK YOU!

To sponsors of our 114th Anniversary "What Matters Most" Anniversary Digital Event!



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# What Matters Most Right Now

At this moment, the individuals and families who come to Neighborhood House are especially vulnerable, both in terms of their health and economic stability, and they need our help.

Our agency has provided employment and housing services for decades, and these programs are at the forefront of emergency assistance to our community during this public health crisis. Not only are our employment specialists helping those that are currently seeking jobs with securing positions, they are also undergoing vigorous training to stay up-to-date on the policies and procedures around unemployment. We are even cross-training staff across departments to meet this need. Our staff have helped hundreds of clients navigate benefits and they provide these services in the languages our community members speak.

Our housing services have seen a significant increase in inquiries in the past two months. Every week, thousands of dollars in checks are written for rental assistance and move-in fees for those in our housing stability programs. Our work doesn't stop there -- a recent client needed emergency housing when the home she and her family were renting caught fire. Our staff were able to conduct



*Housing Stability team run programs for our unsheltered community members.*



*Care Coordinator Tram calls clients regularly to make sure they have access to food and medication.*

a virtual move-in inspection for a new apartment and even provided a gift card to set them up in their new place. Even though this outbreak has distanced us physically, we are here to make everyone feel less alone.

We have connected many clients to health services, including access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. Our staff who provide assistance to older adults and those with disabilities are also helping set up telehealth services at home. When in-person interactions are necessary, our staff are there to help navigate critical needs such as essential medical appointments.

Schools may be out, but our programs for children and youth serve as many as before. Teachers in our child development programs have been checking in with families on a regular basis to go over home learning activities and connecting them to other services across the agency. Afterschool STEM and tutoring programs for kids and teens are meeting through video chats. And we are continuously working with all our families and clients to connect them to the things they need -- from food and supplies to technology to stay connected.



*Kamaria works to help secure jobs as an Employment Specialist.*



*Wendosen, in our Aging and Disability Services team, provides up-to-date public health information to clients.*

**Watch agency staff talk about how they are responding to COVID-19 on our Facebook page**

## Happenings at the agency

**To be a part of the work our staff above are doing, please consider making a gift by using the enclosed donation envelope or online at [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org).**

Join Neighborhood House with helping to meet the critical needs our immigrant, refugee, and low-income communities.

To see how else we are responding to the public health crisis, including a list of resources, visit [www.nhwa.org/COVID-19](http://www.nhwa.org/COVID-19).



**DONATE NOW!**

### Spotlight on Administration



Those in our administration department are truly the backbone of the agency. Our tech support staff are screensharing and troubleshooting gurus, and they have been ensuring everyone is set up to work from home successfully. Our accountants continue to crunch budget numbers and reconcile all incoming revenues. Our human

resources specialists answer countless questions about benefits and how to navigate health resources during this time. Our data analysts tell us how this public health crisis has affected the number of clients we serve and provide crucial data for grants. Last but not least, our office services and facilities professionals continue to check in at our sites to ensure they are safe, take care of all mail, and coordinate any essential in-person needs. We couldn't do what we do without these incredibly hardworking teams.