



April 24, 2020

B&GH Leadership Update:

I want to tell you how proud I am of our entire Boys and Girls Homes team for continuing to focus on taking care of children and young people during these most unique and difficult times. I know the impacts of COVID-19 are different for each individual in their homes and at work. I want you to know because of you the State of the Homes is strong. Unlike many across the world and in America, we are blessed to still be open and providing full employment to all of our staff. As a team, we are stepping up to meet the challenges across the board. Whether you are now working from home, working in the cottages with the children, running an academic school of excellence at Thomas Academy, maintaining the facilities, grounds, farm or still supporting from the office everyone is being highly productive. You are doing a fantastic job. Thank you.

I want to provide you with a brief update of our activities.

In Residential we are taking care of the youth on campus and we have recently had three new residents join our campus population. We are continuing our 14-day quarantine of new residents arriving on campus before they are introduced into the various cottages. In the cottages and Solomon, the staff has done an incredible job of engaging our youth and providing new and diverse activities for them. I especially want to thank our front line workers, Residential Counselors, Advisors, food preparation and our therapeutic and medical team. You are providing incredible work under very difficult circumstances!

In Community Based Services, we have conducted 10 placements over the past two weeks to include foster care and therapeutic foster care. We are restricted from home visits by our caseworkers, but they have been creative in using various video platforms to continue their support and monitoring of our children in foster homes. They are demonstrating creative problem-solving and going the extra mile while social distancing, taking care of their own families, and providing

Community Services. We continue also to be very successful in establishing “forever homes” in our adoption program. Additionally, we have been conducting forensic interviews as part of our new CAC program, and also providing critical therapy to children who are victims of crime. And, thank you to the staff of The Janet Mitchell Winstead Cottages for continuing to provide excellent service to our teen moms and their babies.

The farm, grounds and maintenance teams have continued their work while abiding by the rules of social distancing. You will see our campus is as beautiful as ever and functioning at a very high level. With the recent power outage we had a chance to operate our new cottage generators and they performed flawlessly with no loss of function or disruptions in the cottages. It is a great testament to our commitment to provide consistent and high quality care that minimizes individual traumas for youth.

While the Country Store is temporarily closed, the staff have been working very hard organizing our clothing warehouse and other storage areas so we are even better prepared to serve the public when the store reopens as COVID-19 “leaves town”. Thank you especially to the Country Store staff for the quick response to shift and protect donations from the elements when a limb punctured a hole in the ceiling during a storm last week. The roof has since been repaired, and our country store inventory is now safe and ready for the sales floor.

Thomas Academy continues to be creative in serving our students. Administration and staff are staying in touch with students regarding their academic progress and expectations. Lessons are being taught through ZOOM, Google Classroom, and in the case of five students, paper/pencil packets are being delivered on a regular basis because they have no internet. We have furnished many students with laptops when needed. Thank you Thomas Academy staff for continuing to put education for our students as a priority at this challenging time.

Our Executive team and Flemington support staff continue to provide our organization, and me with tremendous support. They are doing this while taking precautions to prevent introduction of COVID-19 to our organization. We could not continue to operate without their dedication and tireless support.

Finally, our Development team is using phones, videos, emails and letters to maintain contact with donors and supporters. We are keeping donors informed

and they in return are providing us with the financial resources to continue operations and employment for everyone without interruption. Our latest COVID-19 appeal has demonstrated the tremendous generosity of friends and supporters.

Besides our Development team seeking alternative funding opportunities, we also applied for the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program. This “promised” government funding has now been provided as indicated and it will ensure the stability and continued mission of Boys and Girls Homes through this season of uncertainty.

I am very excited to share with you, that as a result of the Paycheck Protection Program, we will be able to provide an amount in your next paychecks (4 paychecks for B&GH staff since you get paid twice per month, and 2 paychecks for Thomas Academy staff since you get paid monthly) which will be identified as **PPP COVID-19 HAZARD PAY**. There will be two amounts determined by whether or not you are direct care (such as cottage staff, cottage support staff, teachers, CBS direct contact staff, etc.) or non-direct/support staff. This has been a very trying time, but each of you have risen to the occasion like the “champions” for children you are! Again, we are very excited to be able to share this news with you. You are most deserving! You have earned it! You have made the welfare of our children a priority!

Last, but not least, I can’t say enough, about the tremendous job of the Finance team! In addition to starting to plan the next budget year, they are taking care of payables and receivables in great fashion. They also played a key role in the Paycheck Protection Plan application and will now make sure that all of our fiduciary responsibility is met and maintained in the use and accountability of this “grant.”

Thank you for your tremendous support. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for caring about the Children we serve.



Gary Faircloth
President/CE