Dear Friends,

Our amazingly devoted staff have been showcasing how flexible and understanding they are no matter the circumstances. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they have risen to meet these challenges because this is what they do for our individuals. However, the crisis is impacting our individuals significantly as these sentiments are indicative of their feelings:

Amanda shares, “The Coronavirus has made me realize how grateful I am for my parents. They leave packages at our front door and come to the balcony to see and talk with us. Vicky and I have grown closer, but it really stinks not working. I love my job at TJ Maxx in Saratoga, miss my co-workers and really can’t wait to take art classes at Creative Endeavors. We are trying to stay positive, safe and healthy.” Her roommate Vicky chimes in, “I miss my mom and dad too and was bummed to have my birthday without them. And, I want to go back to work at Price Chopper/Market 32!”

“I am SO tired of being cooped up.” Kathy emphatically says as Kelly shouts, “Me too!” Then, Kelly yells, “I really just want to go back to work at the Clifton Park TJ Maxx;” with Kathy giving a resounding, “Me TOO at Price Chopper/Market 32!” These roommates say they are tired of wearing masks and want to go back to their normal routines.

Gary says, “The virus has made him feel closer to God, but I miss my family and friends at Exit 9 Wine and Liquor. I cannot shop, get a haircut or do any of my normal activities; but most of all, I want to return to work and see my great co-workers who are my extended family.”

Given our foremost concern is the health, wellness and safety of our individuals and staff, we have been vigilant in implementing protocols to ensure the spread of the virus is minimized. This is why we created a COVID-19 Relief Fund. Your donation provides the necessary resources for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), vital supplies and the ever-changing needs as the crisis unfolds.

Can we count on YOU to give generously to our COVID-19 Relief Fund?

An Anonymous Donor just pledged to give YOU the opportunity to DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT by making a $20,000 Matching Gift! Amanda, Vicky, Kelly, Kathy and Gary each wanted me to tell YOU that your donation will make sure they, their friends and staff will continue to be healthy, safe, creative and happy. They want everyone to really understand their staff support them to be better people!

Please complete the form below and return it or go online to saratogabridges.org. Feel free to contact Kelly Armer at karmer@saratogabridges.org or call 518-587-0723 ext. 1266 for more giving options. Together, we are confident that we will work through this and be stronger, yet kinder, to one another. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Together and Stay Connected!

Lawrence Fein, MD., President of Board of Directors and Jonathan’s proud Dad

*Or donate online at saratogabridges.org (COVID-19 Relief Fund)
Stewart’s Shops can make an impact on our COVID-19 Relief Fund by ensuring we have the necessary resources to keep our individuals and devoted team healthy, safe, connected, creative and happy! We wanted to share these stories:

Rachael wants everyone to know how the Coronavirus has impacted her by sharing this, “Being home this long makes me miss my Mom terribly and my friends and staff at Alpha. Doing art projects with my great staff like Donna Allen (pictured right) makes me feel better, keeps me busy, helps me relax and be more focused. I have been coloring, creating handprints and a pot of gold for our #518RainbowHunt window and taking beads, ironing them and creating magnets to give to the Riley Rescue at Benson’s Pet Center where I volunteer. Please give to Saratoga Bridges to help buy more art supplies to make my friends and me happier and our lives brighter!”

Day Services DSP Morgan Chase cheerfully works in our Alpha building, but since our day programs have been suspended, she has been understanding, patient and flexible working with people in their homes. She feels the impact of COVID-19 and says, “It is important that the community donate to our COVID-19 Relief Fund because my co-workers and I are using PPE and vital supplies to make sure many immune-compromised individuals are healthy. Truly, we are essential workers and do not have positions where we can work at home. We don’t come to Saratoga Bridges for a paycheck, we come to support the individuals whom we come to adore. Our own safety comes second to theirs. With all of that being said, obviously none of us knew this horrible virus was coming and Saratoga Bridges did not budget for this. This makes your donation that much more important in helping myself and the rest of our staff stay healthy as well as keeping every single individual we support safe and happy!”

Ginger Whitman becomes very emotional when she describes the impact COVID-19 has had on her. She says, “I have not been able to see my son Eddie in person and all I want to do is give him a hug & kiss. Normally he spends every other weekend at my house, and I stop in frequently to visit with him and his friends. Truly, they are my family. I am keeping everyone we support in my prayers and they all are in my heart forever. Likewise, I cannot express enough positive sentiments and genuine gratitude to our staff and agency as a whole. And, feel that Valerie Muratori’s leadership has been exemplary!