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wartburg.org

Wartburg Service: A Message of Thanks, Healing & Hope, and Steadfast Values

When asked to describe our 154 year old social ministry organization, we say Wartburg is Service. We provided service during the time of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic when Wartburg didn't have doctors or nurses on staff. It's unknown how many Wartburg children, seniors, and staff came down with the Spanish Flu or how many died, but the losses hit the community hard. As the deadliest pandemic in more than a century sweeps through our region, it hits just as hard today.

Message of Thanks

On behalf of Wartburg's Boards of Directors, we are thankful for our nearly 700 professional healthcare workers, employees and leadership team who serve over 800 people on a daily basis. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wartburg staff worked tirelessly to protect the population they serve, most of whom are elderly, or suffer from underlying medical conditions. In the best of times, many in this community would have no recourse other than Wartburg to receive the care and services they need. In the current crisis, Wartburg's service has become even more indispensable.

We are awed by the staff's commitment who, in the face of this pandemic, place themselves on the frontlines day after day, while managing their own personal health and the health of their families, and we honor their heroic acts of compassion. Our gratitude for their continued service during these unprecedented physically and emotionally challenging circumstances is everlasting.

We are also proud to be able to receive a continuing flow of COVID-19 patients from area hospitals into our facilities as it was inconceivable in this time of need to turn our backs on infected patients. We are humbled by the community support and for those who have responded in truly extraordinary ways—such as making surgical masks, donating personal protective equipment, monetary donations, donations of food for staff, and for sending messages of love and support via email & social media. Thank you.

Healing and Hope

Wartburg provides healing and hope to all members of our extended Wartburg family. We comfort them when they hurt; we grieve when they lose a friend, neighbor, or family member. We share laughter, joy, and show love and compassion. In normal times, we express ourselves in typical ways with a hug, a

pat on the back, or holding their hand. But these are not normal times and our inability to express ourselves in these ways makes this time even more difficult for all of us. Yet through it all, this community has shown resiliency and it has been remarkable to witness.

Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have passed from the COVID-19 virus. The virus has disproportionately and virulently affected those in our community of advanced age and frailty. We consider each of these individuals as family members and we are deeply saddened by the collective loss.

Looking forward, we are heartened that our overall percentage of positive cases is flattening, many long term residents are recovering from the virus, and some post-acute patients are returning home. Also, we are starting to see our staff recuperating and eager to return to service after their medical clearance, this too gives us hope.

Steadfast Values

Our Administrative team is in continuous contact with regional leaders, hospital systems, state regulators and other stakeholders working to keep current with the latest information available. There is tremendous cooperation by all parties to keep the health and safety of the general public a collective top priority. Moving forward, Wartburg will be focused once again on enabling seniors to live life to their fullest through excellence in healthcare and housing, which nurture body, mind and spirit. We will do this work, guided by Wartburg's immortal belief system and steadfast values.

This pandemic reminded us that the strength of Wartburg and the human spirit behind it is beyond measure. It is due to this strength and spirit that we have absolute confidence—with the support of our healthcare workers, support staff, management, volunteers, donors, and the greater Mount Vernon community—that Wartburg will endure through this COVID-19 pandemic, and just as it did in the aftermath of the 1918 Spanish Flu, it will gain strength and we will continue our mission for another 154 years and beyond.

Most sincerely,



Robert Ranieri
Home Board Chair



Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti
Foundation Board Chair