

REACH BULLETIN

REACH AND COVID 19

As most of our readers realize an emergency shelter for the housing deprived faces many challenges during this epidemic. As the crisis has built up we have been blessed by the wisdom of the REACH Home leadership in doing all that they can to ensure the safety and care of our guests.

Early this month our REACH Home Chair, Andy Carey, drafted a protocol for the management of our home as we do all we can to keep our guests safe. We are aware that living in close proximity to one another where there are multiple surfaces being shared we have some steep hills to climb to create an environment with optimal safety.

Yet we are also committed to making sure that our vulnerable guests are always treated with dignity while they are helped to contribute to the safety of the whole community. We are most thankful for our staff who are taking the brunt of this public concern and know that they are doing their very best to ensure that each day we take a step toward being more safe.

We are indebted to those who arrange for supplies and meals for our guests. Our meal coordinator, Carol Santos, is working well with those who supply our evening meal and has created a system that keeps risk at a minimal level to both our donors, volunteers, staff, and guests. During the week days we continue to be thankful for the support given us by St. Peter's Kitchen.

Personal hygiene is a crucial matter and we are coaching our staff and guests on the need for regular self care, especially washing their hands. We have an excellent laundry program now well supervised by our staff ensuring that no guest has to go without clean clothing. We have a screening program in place and a triage number to call in case of an emergency. And we have an ample supply of hand sanitizer.

Please keep REACH Home, our staff and our guests, in your thoughts and prayers as we create a compassionate community of care during this otherwise frightening reality.

As an organization we plan to do all of our meetings via electronic means. Be assured that we will continue to engage in our basic mission: to assert that **housing is a human right**.

Thank you for your support

Peter W. Peters, Co-Chair.

Action Requests

While our nation's political leadership is wrestling with both the health and economic challenges of this epidemic, we are concerned that those who are at the margins of our society, the housing vulnerable (the homeless), the very poor, and those living without regular income, are not being included in the current bills before both our state and our federal leadership.

Please join the campaign of support for the **Home Stability Support** bill now making it's way through the state legislature. Ask Governor Cuomo to sign the bill this year. To sign on [click here](#). This is a proven way to lower the number of people who become housing deprived.

On the Federal level, please consider immediately contacting your elected officials to be sure that the current emergency bills being considered include all those who are at risk and most vulnerable at this time. Here is a helpful website from which you can make your views known. [Help the most vulnerable](#).

Thank you for your interest and support of REACH.
For more information please check out our Website at reachadvocacy.org.
and please like us on Facebook!

