Dear Many Mansions volunteers and supporters,

Many Mansions, like the rest of the community, is working through a lot of changes during this crisis. Since we don’t have any upcoming volunteer opportunities, I wanted to update you on what we’ve been doing to keep our residents safe and healthy...

Our Case Managers are still actively assisting our formerly homeless residents. Each resident is being assisted on a case-by-case basis for their household’s individual needs. While complying with social distancing guidelines, our Case Managers are still doing all they can to make sure the residents are being supported during this difficult time. The biggest concern is food, but with quick planning and our amazing partnership with FOOD Share, Many Mansions has been able to increase food deliveries to residents.

Children Services has been unable to work directly with our youth. Program is closed for now, and we are still unsure as to when Homework Club or our other programs will be reopening. In the meantime, staff are helping our families at home by handing out free breakfast and sack lunches, provided by the Conejo Valley Unified School District. Although the food is being handed out at 4 sites, all of our residents can participate at either a Many Mansions site or at a school closest to them. They are also trying to keep our young residents’ spirits up by continuing to create a fun-tastic Summer Camp. While dates for camp could change, we have no doubt that an exciting camp is coming their way!

As you may have seen elsewhere, the rest of Many Mansions is working remotely. Fear not, we are still continuing to develop more affordable housing, reschedule events, fundraise for the organization & residential programs, and manage our properties. However, at this time, staying healthy is our primary goal, and not just for us and our residents. It’s also for you, our amazing volunteers and community supporters.

Please make sure to follow the government guidelines. Stay inside, wash your hands, and remember we can get through this TOGETHER.

Best Wishes, Jessica Lawson

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Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast Update!
We have decided to move the event to Saturday June 27th 9:30am-11:30am

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Our staff and new coworkers *woof* practicing social distancing.

MM youth residents staying on top of school work from home!
Congratulations! Every month, our volunteer program has an unsung hero, someone who has shown dedication and passion for their work with Many Mansions. This month, that person is you. Yes, all of you. In this time of social distancing, we here at Many Mansions want to express our deepest appreciation for each and every one of you. Without you, none of what Many Mansions does would be possible.

Many Mansions currently has 342 volunteers. From tutoring to bagging food to manning the front desk, each one of you plays an important part in growing our mission and giving back to our most vulnerable neighbors of the Ventura County community.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

During our stay at home period, some in the community are thinking about how to help and how to make things better for their neighbors. Many Mansions has been fielding many emails from volunteers and organizations about different ways they can assist.

Volunteers who are thinking about our students and kiddos at home have offered to help tutor through Zoom conferences! They have also been sending over free and fun learning websites like Minecraft Education Edition, Ancestry.com and PBS SoCAL with their At-Home Education site. Other volunteers have reached out to see if we have at-home projects they can tackle for the team. Some concerned about how our residents are doing on food, wanting to donate grocery gift cards.

Organizations have been stepping up in a big way too. While we appreciate any help to cover resident food insecurity, Many Mansions is extremely grateful for FOOD Share and the Conejo Valley School District’s support. Other organizations that have reached out to assist our residents include Senior Concerns. They specifically wanted to discuss residents that can benefit from their Meals on Wheels program. Similarly, the Conejo Senior Volunteer Program at the Goebel Adult Community Center had let us know about their free Senior Nutrition Lunch Program running during the week. A few individuals has contacted us to donate, hand sown masks for our Case Managers, Children Services Coordinators, Property Managers, and Maintenance workers still working on site with our residents. So creative!

Many Mansions is also getting a big help from our own next door neighbors, Extra Space Storage. While staff work from home, no one is at our main office to accept the mail, so our friends next door are collecting it for us. If you or your organization has more ideas on how to help out, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Time and time again we’ve seen our community rise up and come together to support one another. Thank you to all who keep Many Mansions in their thoughts and or reach out to help.

In 2020 alone, volunteers have accumulated and saved our organization 1,229 hours. Every volunteer hour given is a multiplier, greatly expanding the work that staff are able to do in a given day. It allows us to serve more children at Homework Club, answer more phone calls about housing, and submit more grants for programs.

A day without a volunteer is truly a sad one. Unfortunately, we may have many more days ahead of us without you. But when it is safe to do so, we will happily invite you to come back.

This month, please know that you all truly mean so much to Many Mansions. When I say we wouldn’t be where we are without you, it’s meant heart and soul.

Thank you for all of the lives you help improve. Thank you for all of the homes you helped build. Thank you for all the ways you keep us thriving. Even in the toughest of times you still stand by us and for that you deserve this!

We look forward to seeing you again.

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