

Buckner Retirement Services Weekly Update

June 15, 2020

Dear Buckner Residents and Families,

Thanks to hard work and cooperation from everyone involved, we completed the community-wide testing initiative last week, in compliance with Gov. Greg Abbott's order from May 11 that all nursing home residents and staff in Texas be tested for COVID-19. We extended the testing to include residents and Members who chose to participate in all levels at all six of our Buckner senior living communities.

Earlier during the pandemic, we initiated two campaigns through Buckner that have caught on and we are seeing tremendous results. The first of these is a letter writing [campaign](#) to encourage and lift the spirits of residents. I am so grateful to everyone who took the time to write a note. Here are the results to date:

- More than 1,000 letters have poured into our six communities.
- Letters have come from all over Texas and the country.
- Mail has included drawings from children, letters from high school sports teams, letters from church groups, holiday cards, bejeweled cards, photos, and even a letter from a dog.
- Some of the letters have been words of thanks and encouragement to our associates that the chaplains and life enrichment team have passed around.

This resident letter writing campaign has been so successful that we are now encouraging people to write letters to associates as well. Let me ask you to take a moment to write a letter encouraging our wonderful frontline staff for the work they do everyday to keep us safe while Inspiring Happiness. **You can address the letter as "Attn: Inspiring Happiness STAFF."**

Another way to directly support our associates is by making a gift to the Buckner Employee Assistance Fund. To do so, visit [Buckner.org/EmployeeAssistance](https://www.buckner.org/EmployeeAssistance). Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

Last week, I shared a brief video with you about my personal feelings for the associates at Buckner who do extraordinary work every day. Please take a moment to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/6BalrkEmDw>.

The second campaign we launched was the "Going Gold for Senior Living" initiative. If you haven't yet displayed a gold ribbon outside your home, I urge you to do so. The Going Gold for Senior Living campaign is about all of you. The ribbon campaign has expanded outside Buckner, with LeadingAge Texas, the association for nonprofit senior living in the state promoting the campaign to its members. We have also received recent media attention for the campaign.

Please continue to visit the BRS website (www.BucknerRetirement.org) for a real-time tracker of any PUIs or cases our community may have. Also available online is a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) related to the Governor's orders and our community-wide testing for your reference – and you may call 855-754-3338 with questions at any time.

It is a pleasure serving you and I am grateful that you are part of the Buckner family. As families tend to do during a crisis, we have pulled together during the past four months and I believe we are all better for it.

Sincerely,
Charlie Wilson
Senior Vice President
Buckner Retirement Services