Good Afternoon Sojourner House Volunteers & Supporters,

I wanted to take a moment to update you on what is being done at the Sojourner House regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. As I watch the community around us slowly start to shut down, we at the Sojourner House continue to provide services to some of our most vulnerable community members. On Friday, you may have received our agency wide notice on how we are addressing the Coronavirus (Covid-19). At Catholic Charities we take this threat very seriously and want to make sure you are aware of our current practices and any additional practices we are taking to mitigate this threat.

At the Sojourner House, we are working closely with Public Health and our community partners to ensure that we are maintaining the highest of standards in providing services to people experiencing homelessness in the Eau Claire community. As our biggest supporters, I understand that you may have some questions about what we are doing to prevent the virus spread amongst our community. I am hoping to answer some of those with an update on practices at the Sojourner House:

- We are working closely with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the shelter is prepared and there is a community plan for any type of infectious disease outbreak, this now includes the coronavirus.

- We continue to take regular precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our guests, volunteers, and staff.

- These include but are not limited to: strict routine house cleaning, sanitary inspections completed by the director, use of gloves, handwashing, and sanitization stations. In addition, we have added several other cleaning tasks to our routine list to ensure the upmost sanitary conditions.

- We are adding additional precautions by having sanitization stations installed throughout the house. You will begin seeing those this week by the entrance, bin room, dorm entrances, activity room entrance, and kitchen/laundry area.

- We encourage guests, volunteers, and staff to practice good hygiene especially including hand washing regularly and properly.

- If a guest presents to shelter and appears to be displaying symptoms consistent with an infectious disease they will be offered a face mask and staff will screen them prior to their entrance to the shelter. A protocol is in place to provide for the health and safety of all.
• You may also notice signage from our local health department and the Centers for Disease Control throughout the house to encourage best practices in the prevention of infectious diseases. We are doing regular announcements with our guests to remind them of these practices and asking them to make sure they are following these diligently. If there are any concerns of any specific guest, please notify staff so that we can follow up with them individually.

• We have supplies available and encourage regular glove use.

• We continue to require food handlers to use gloves in any type of food handling at the Sojourner House. We are now asking that volunteers are serving all food items that they bring for dinner. There should be no community bowls for guests to self-serve for the time being.

• We would encourage volunteers to use gloves when handling any guest materials including but not limited to towels, sheets, bags, clothes, etc. There are gloves in the bin room for volunteer use while working.

• If volunteers would like, they can utilize gloves at the check in table as well.

• Finally, if you are feeling ill or displaying symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness, we ask that you please take care of yourself and stay home. We want for you and our guests to remain healthy!

At the Sojourner House I am working hard to take the precautionary measures necessary to keep our guests, volunteers, and staff safe and healthy. I will continue to work closely with our local, state, and federal partners. With the seriousness of the current Coronavirus pandemic things are very fluid and changing on an hourly, daily, and weekly basis. I will continue keep everyone up to date on how we are mitigating this ever-changing situation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Feel free to contact me or our Community Relations Specialist, Clare, with any questions or needs that you may have at this time:

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Clare Nelson, Community Relations Specialist
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Thank you for your continued support for the important work that we do at the Sojourner House. Without your dedication and support we would not be able to continue to serve the people in our community who are currently without their own home in this difficult time. With the uncertainty among us, I offer my prayers to you and your families, our guests, and my team. May God protect us and give us the strength to continue to serve in His name.

God Bless,
Brianne Berres
Sojourner House Director