



Spring 2020

FHO News

A newsletter for our friends and supporters.

From the Director's Desk , Nancy Egner, LICSW, MPA

Hi All! To say a lot has happened since our last newsletter would be an understatement! For everyone in the world, as well as with FHO. I am talking about COVID-19, of course. Many ups and downs, fear, anxiety and challenges that have been met successfully thus far! The whole gamut for sure. But luckily and blessedly we are all here, though our administrative offices are closed and we are working remotely, everyone thus far associated with Fellowship Housing is safe and non-infected. This latest pandemic emergency has yet again reminded me of the importance and necessity



Day and evening staff from Fellowship House, dressed and ready for our new 'normal'!

for community! We are all in this together. The government has stepped up and helped a lot. This has included a supply of protective equipment for Fellowship and extra food stamp benefits for a number of our tenants. We also have been blessed to receive some financial assistance from NH Charitable Foundation and others to assist us in increasing staffing at Fellowship House which we felt to be very necessary. We have been blessed in smaller but no less significant ways too. We asked friends and community members to assist us in making cloth masks available for our tenants and residents, and we received double of what we asked for from a number of sources! Thank you all!

We have certainly made some changes and adjustments to our day to day operations. Our office is closed to visitors except by appointment only, and our admin staff are still working from home frequently. We decided we had to temporarily suspend our in-home outreach program for our apartment tenants, but instead have been reaching out to everyone via phone at least weekly. Our maintenance staff have been focusing mostly on outside work - only completing necessary work inside the apartments. But the properties look fantastic!



FHO's Fayette Street property with new beautiful landscaping.

All in all FHO is faring well. None of the staff, residents or tenants have become ill. A true blessing. We did have a scare with two of our Fellowship House residents but they were tested and thankfully their tests were negative for COVID-19. I am truly grateful how everyone associated with Fellowship Housing has stepped up and doubled down on their efforts to best care for our residents, tenants, ourselves and our community. It is truly a blessing for me and a source of a lot of pride to be part of this organization.

Our biggest challenge at this point seems to be, now what? It is very apparent that this will not end as quickly as it came upon us. We are in this for the longer haul. We are trying to figure out how we can best move out of crisis mode and move towards a new longer term 'normal'. We are working on how to best provide services for our tenants and residents, while keeping them safe and our staff safe. We are working on how to best engage our supporters and larger community and fundraise in new and different ways. And we are looking at how to acquire new properties to serve more people someday. For all these things our 'team' may change a bit, flex a bit and expand to include new members. None of which are bad things, and I am confident we are up for the challenge!! We will grow as a result of this challenge and grow to be even better!!

Be safe all, Nancy

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www.fellowshiphousing.org
www.facebook.com/FellowshipHousingOpportunities

Check out the story entitled
"Talking with Nancy About
Fellowship Housing"

in the Concord Sentinel online at
www.concordsentinel.com.

Thank you to Mike and everyone
at the Concord Sentinel!

Plans for the Future

Thanks to a very generous grant from The Dobles Foundation we are working on developing several videos about FHO, our services, our residents and tenants and our staff. Our hope and plan is that these will enable us, in a different and hopefully very effective way, to share with the community what we do, how we do it, how valuable our services are and how our community can assist us. We are looking forward to this and will keep you posted!

Why we do what we do... A Resident's Story

Reprinted by permission from a letter written to us by a tenant in one of FHO's apartments.

Dear Fellowship Housing Staff,

May 2020.

Words cannot begin to express my appreciation for your patience, your understanding, your care and your support during these very challenging times for me.

Because of this, I was able to focus on myself without the additional stress of financial stresses.

I am now at this point further along on my life long journey of recovery.

At this time, I am still faced with many challenges but with the support of my family, my excellent treatment team at Riverbend and my FANTANSTIC (writer's emphasis) team at Fellowship Housing Opportunities, I have greater hope for success. Many thanks and much gratitude.

Ways to Assist Fellowship Housing

Many people have asked us how they can offer assistance to Fellowship Housing. This is a great question as there are many ways. Some of these include:

Time: This includes being a Board of Trustees member, or trying out such a responsibility by joining a committee first and seeing if you might be interested in making the commitment to joining the Board for a three year term later. At this time in particular, the Board is hoping for someone with some interest and experience in fundraising and marketing. We are lucky to have a terrific and active Board, but several members will be moving on soon. Please contact Nancy Egner the Executive Director if you might have any interest or know someone who does.

Attention: This includes following us on Facebook, sharing this newsletter and/or sharing what you see with your friends, family and contacts. Talk about us in general and share your enthusiasm! Join us and bring your friends to our events. If you have ideas for us, please let us know!

Resources and Knowledge: FHO is hoping and wanting to purchase more properties in the future to expand our services to more folks. We find that we are not able to be very competitive on the open market currently, especially as multi family buildings are VERY much in demand in Concord. If you know of a building or property, even if distressed and needing a lot of work, that is or might be renovated to accommodate smaller one bedroom apartment units and may not yet be on the market, please consider letting us know!

Money: This is a given of course as we are a non-profit. In addition to general operating funds, we have a need to increase our Home Fund. This assists people moving into an apartment with Fellowship Housing who may have almost no household supplies to get started. This fund assists them. Also, NH Gives this year is June 9 and 10th, and we are participating! Please consider giving us a donation if you are able. You can give by using the donate button on our website, using our NH Gives link or sending us a check. Thank you!