April 8, 2020

To all involved with ABLE

It seems so strange to be writing this letter, in the middle of this historic Covoid-19 pandemic when we are in the middle of what most of us refer to as Holy Week, with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then Easter. This Easter time, is a time of solemnity and introspection combined with the hope and joy of knowing that things will change. That is what we need to hold on to.

I am so thankful and honored to serve as a board member for what I believe is one of the finest providers in the country. We have an amazing staff from the direct service people who continue to work every day, despite what is going on, to our management staff that are above standard and continually looking for ways to improve what we do and being innovative at the same time. We have exactly the kind of people we need in the situation we find ourselves in.

As a parent, I can understand the fears and concerns that you must feel regarding your family member. It is very traumatic to not be able to hug your loved one, or to see them in a normal setting. I miss my grandchildren very much. But I do know that staff are doing everything they can to minimize that sense of loss of normality for your family members. ABLE has always put the needs of those we serve first and will continue to do so.

We, as a board, have been meeting weekly via telephone to keep updated on what is happening and giving what input we can. We have concern for the safety and wellbeing of not only those we serve but for our staff as well. ABLE has gone beyond that standard when it comes to putting protections in place and I jokingly said today that the current theme song should be “leader of the Pack” All joking aside, I want to assure families that your loved ones could not be in finer hands. So perhaps, if you happen to be driving by one of the homes or individuals residences hold up a card or honk your horn to let them know they are not alone.

It may take some time, to get through all this, and we will find ourselves in a new normal but we will survive. I look forward to the day when we can once again be face to face without fear. IN the meantime, keep your distance, wash your hands, wear a mask when you are out and about, remember we are all in this together.

As Tiny Tim would say “God Bless us everyone!”

Shelley Flaget