

March 31, 2020

Dear Methodist Senior Services Team Members,

You amaze me and I am honored to be going through this time with you. There are no better persons on the face of the planet that I would trust the elders' care to in a time like this.

To be sure. This virus is serious business. It is an evil plague, especially because it does its damage the most on those most vulnerable in our society—the frail and elder. That means our work is even more important now than it ever has been. Before we come out on the other side, there will be many losses. You will probably know someone who has gotten sick or died. My prayer for you is that just when you feel you can't go one step further, somehow God makes His presence and strength known to you and you *rise up!* I am already inspired by the stories of the heroes and leaders from all of our campuses.

I believe that each of you has been called to serve at this time and at these places because you have special gifts to give. I believe that God has placed us all at work in a company that puts people ahead of profits. We will do whatever we can to support you in any way that we can. I've said to our board members and leaders across the state—do whatever it takes to care for the elders and the employees, and we will sort out the regulations and costs later.

Be aware that the longer this goes, the greater toll it will place on all of us. We will be physically, emotionally, and mentally exhausted. Sometimes we will feel alone and helpless. It's good in those times to step back and care for yourselves. Even for the introverts of the world like me, "socially distancing" eventually will take its toll. We were born to live in community. When this is all over, since I'm a hugger, I am coming to every campus to give and get a hug from every single one of you!

Don't ever forget the words in our Scripture: *The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it. John 1:5*

We are not alone!

Steve McAlilly
President and CEO