Dear Friend,

On behalf of The Arc of the South Shore, thank you for your incredible support as we respond to COVID-19. I want to assure you that the health, safety, and well-being of our clients, employees, and communities remain our top priority through these unprecedented circumstances— these concerns are at the heart of every decision we make.

Although it is a time of great uncertainty, I am comforted by the optimism, hope, and dedication of our Board of Directors, staff, and the families and individuals we serve. Our team has rallied together, and despite trying circumstances they continue to tirelessly support and advocate for our clients.

As you know, each year we serve more than 3,500 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, and today is no different. Whether working from home, connecting with families through the phone or video chat, or providing direct care in one of our residential homes, our team continues to provide help, hope, and opportunity for some of the most vulnerable individuals in the region.

Many of you have asked how you can help, and we are so thankful for your incredible support. Our mission is fueled by the generosity of friends like you, and with your gift we will ensure that families continue to receive the highest quality care during this extraordinary time of need.

Please visit [www.arcsouthshore.org](http://www.arcsouthshore.org) to donate today. With your support, we will:

**$1,000:** Help with soaring technology costs due to hardware and software needs to support our employees working from home.

**$500:** Respond to dozens of daily requests for help and support through our Autism Resource Center. For children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, routine is vital. With schools closed, many families are struggling to provide their children with the consistency they need. We are working to offer virtual resources, activity packets, and more.

**$250:** Offer phone and video appointments in lieu of home visits. Families in our Adult Foster Care, Personal Care Management, and Early Intervention programs depend on our daily services, and it is vital that we stay connected during this unprecedented time.

**$100:** Process new referrals for services, ensuring that there is minimal delay in new families accessing care.

**$50:** Personal Protective Equipment, Toilet Paper, Masks, etc.

This situation is constantly evolving, and we will continue to adjust our response as needed. We have temporarily closed our offices and adjusted our program delivery; however, our commitment to the goal of our mission—of empowering families and individuals of all ages with disabilities to reach their fullest potential—will never falter and we are here for you.

Currently, our day programs, Pathways to Possibilities and Day Habilitation, are closed. We will resume operations when we can safely do so. Our Adult Foster Care, Personal Care Management, and Early Intervention programs are continuing to operate with employees working from their home. In order to ensure the health of our clients, home visits are being conducted over the phone or via video chat. In addition, our residential group homes are now being staffed 24/7, thanks in part to our incredible day program staff who are working to cover shifts. Our Autism Resource Center and Administrative Staff is still responding to phone calls, emails, and requests for support. In addition, our Summer Soiree fundraising event, which was scheduled for June, has been postponed. We will let you know the new date as soon as it is confirmed.

Please be assured that we are closely monitoring this pandemic and will continue to update you via email, our website, and social media. We are working closely with local and state public health officials and are following all recommendations of the CDC. As always, please email Info@ArcSouthShore.org with any questions or concerns. You are our members, part of our family, and we will get through this situation together.

We hope that you and your families remain healthy and safe. Thank you for your incredible support.

Best,

Daryl Cook-Ivan

Executive Director