



10 March 2021

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS

As the leaders of five not-for-profit senior living communities in the Chicago area, we the undersigned invite you to reflect upon the last year.

Twelve months ago, COVID-19 took its' first American lives. When the virus began to target seniors with relentless and unprecedented cruelty, long-term care communities like ours became the front lines of the fight against COVID-19.

In order to be stronger in this fight, our five independently owned and operated communities came together to create an informal alliance based on sharing and supporting. And we are better for it.

Collectively, our communities represent 600 years of service to Illinois; we employ more than 1,000 people and we provide care to more than 1,500 seniors and their families.

Together, we wish to offer our profound gratitude but also to mourn.

Together, we mourn with those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. To them, we offer our condolences and deepest sympathies. Please accept our love.

Together, we thank the people and organizations who have supported our communities throughout this pandemic. We are grateful to our families, boards, donors, members, volunteers, and partners at LeadingAge as well as in all branches of government, especially the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Most of all, we are eternally grateful to the incredible people who live and work in our communities – and to the families who love and support them. It is said that in crisis, comes character. In the midst of this most challenging of crises, we have seen the true character of our colleagues and our residents shine through adversity. Their commitment to caring has been instinctive, intentional and inspirational.

## THANK YOU FOR CARING

COVID-19 may have changed the field of senior care, but it cannot and will not change the strong values upon which our communities are built. Our values are why families trust us to care for their loved ones. Caring is in our DNA. We have cared for generations of families and we remain here for you now.

This virus still has our seniors in its cruel sights. So, it is on their behalf that we implore you to do your part, be COVID-careful and when it is your turn, please take your vaccination shot.

We wish you now, and in the times ahead, good health. Be well.

Sincerely,

Gus Noble, CEO  
Caledonia Senior Living

John Larson, CEO  
Cantata Adult Life Services

Dawn Mondshein, CEO  
Central Baptist Village

Terri Bowen, CEO  
King Bruweart House

Jay Biere, CEO  
Plymouth Place