



As we shared earlier this week, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the government made the only decision they could and closed all Community Dining Programs, Social Adult Day Programs and Senior Centers, and suspended all social and recreational programs for 30 days. Unfortunately, one of the main unintended consequences of this decision is that now thousands of our older neighbors have been separated from ALL of their social supports and are home (often alone), afraid, and not knowing where to turn.

We cannot abandon our older neighbors, when they need us now more than ever. In response to these closures, on Tuesday (March 17th), LifePath opened and staffed three Senior *Assurance Centers (in the City of Albany, Cohoes, and Watervliet)*. Staff at these Centers are calling the seniors who use our services to check in, reassure them that they are not alone, and determine how we may be of assistance. Since the opening of these, we have made **over 300 calls**, worked with Albany County to register more than 60 people to receive Meals On Wheels, and have coordinated efforts to provide additional services to those older adults in immediate need. We continue to work collaboratively with others in our community to establish how to best support our seniors.

Based feedback from the staff of the Senior Assurance Centers, the majority of the phone conversations focused on providing reassurance and helping people to manage their increased fear and anxiety. According to the staff, seniors were very appreciative and some of these calls became quite emotional.

LifePath's biggest issue right now is that, as a result of our inability to provide most of our traditional services, our income has **dropped by 65%**. Without additional funding, 45 LifePath employees will need to be laid off and our capacity to provide these crisis related support services that so needed will cease.

Our original goal was to secure \$70,000 to help us survive the initial 30 day closure. We are thrilled to report we have **raised \$60,000** and our staff is ready and able to continue these critical calls for a few more weeks!! We are asking for your help to secure the **remaining \$10,000**, enabling us to sustain the **Senior Assurance Centers**, as we recognize the critical need for seniors to have support and reassurance during these uncertain times. We also anticipate that other needs will increase in the weeks to come.

Thank you to all who have already shown your support by donating. Our fundraising efforts will go on as long as necessary, ensuring that we are able to continue providing critical services to our scared, isolated, elderly neighbors for the duration of this crisis. **Contributions** of any size are welcomed and your support during this difficult time is not only needed, but greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please contact Maria Jones, in our Development Office at 518-465-3322 x 103, via email at mjones@seniorservicesofalbany.com, or visit our website www.lifepathny.com. Checks made payable to LifePath can be sent to 28 Colvin Ave., Suite 2, Albany, NY 12206 - please note COVID-19 Emergency Fund. <http://bit.ly/LifePathEmergencyFund>