



Oak City Cares Services Update May 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

The past 14 months have brought changes and challenges due to COVID-19, but we are grateful for the incredible partnership with our community and all the ways you have helped us through uncharted territory. The many transitions over the past year were made with the safety and health of our staff, partners, guests, and volunteers in mind. Thank you for your patience as we navigated this together in order to continue providing services in a safe environment.

Oak City Cares has successfully operated throughout the pandemic without any spread or transmission of COVID-19 among our partners, staff, and guests. Since January, we have operated weekday services inside at 25% capacity, and our Weekend Meal Program has served two volunteer-prepared meals onsite, and provided dinner to-go, on Saturdays and Sundays. Many of our partners have returned onsite to provide services at our center, and we look forward to the coming weeks and months as we welcome back more.

We are excited to share upcoming changes to our service delivery system to allow us to care for an increased number of guests experiencing homelessness inside our building. We have developed a thoughtful and deliberate phased plan for increasing our indoor capacity that is aligned with the most recent Executive Order. This plan will allow us to begin movement toward expanding and rebuilding our onsite community - a key purpose of our center.

As we prepare to scale up indoor services, we wanted to share our plan with you, as an important part of Oak City Cares. The phases of our plan are based on guidelines from the most recent Executive Order and CDC guidance, both of which will continue to be monitored to ensure we are altering services in a safe way.

The phased plan includes target dates for increasing our indoor capacity, both during the week and on the weekend, to 50%, 75%, and then 85% in the next three months. We will return to 100% indoor capacity at a point to be determined. The target dates will be closely monitored and adjusted as needed based on the trends in COVID-19 cases, CDC guidance, and future Executive Orders. These changes will be implemented in a thoughtful and deliberate way, with the health and safety of everyone involved as our top priority. We will continue our safe and healthy practices, including wearing masks, sanitizing high-touch surfaces frequently, and washing our hands.

As we increase our indoor capacity with each phase, volunteers will play an increasingly important role in the delivery of services. We are excited to welcome back volunteers and want you to know that your safety and health are incredibly important to us. The upcoming phases will require us to assign volunteers with more specific roles. These roles will help us ensure that we can maintain safety protocols and to monitor the number of people inside/onsite as we move through the phased plan. We will send out additional information on volunteer opportunities, including specific roles, dates, and times, soon.

Oak City Cares has weathered the past year with the love and help of many in our community. We could not have done it without you. As we increase our indoor capacity through our phased plan, we look forward to seeing more of you onsite, caring for our friends in need in a collaborative way.

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy and please know just how much we appreciate your commitment to serving our friends in need as part of our Oak City Cares family. Everything Oak City Cares is able to accomplish is because of your generosity and goodness.

With sincere gratitude,

Kathryn Johnson, MS, LMFT
Executive Director

