

New Horizons Un-Limited Outlook



Winter 2020

Volume 17 Edition 4

NHU Outlook Newsletter is published quarterly by New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (NHU), a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization based in Milwaukee with a mission to make information and life experiences more accessible to **people with lifelong disabilities**, their families and caregivers. Our programs are made possible through the generous contributions of our community partners, member and donor families and many in-kind donors. To contribute to New Horizons Un-Limited, see page 6. To learn more about NHU, visit our website at new-horizons.org or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!"

~ Helen Keller, American author, lecturer, political activist

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NHU Outlook Newsletter published quarterly by:

New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
811 E. Wisconsin Avenue,
Suite 937
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 299-0124

www.new-horizons.org
horizons@new-horizons.org

New Horizons Un-Limited Together We Can Do So Much!

COVID-19 has certainly made life more difficult for us all. Although recently we may find it easier to get our groceries or find masks or disinfecting products, the recent increase in coronavirus cases may have us once again staying at home, distancing ourselves from family and friends and observing safety practices for our health and well-being with a renewed vigor. We are tired though and may feel depressed and isolated from all that we hold dear and wish life could return to before the virus.

Isolation is not exactly a new thing for people with disabilities. For people with disabilities this reality never goes away. The pandemic has made them even more vulnerable to problems already at crisis for them in the U.S.: isolation, loneliness, mental health struggles, poverty and illness. In addition, barriers accessing transportation, housing, communication, education, employment, services, technology, and voting have become even more difficult during the pandemic for people with disabilities.

With the shutdown in March and the speed to accommodate much of the nation's workforce from their homes; for students to learn remotely, you can imagine people with disabilities are wondering why this was so difficult to imagine, implement and accommodate for them in the decades prior to the pandemic. For some employment and schooling opportunities may have improved, but, unfortunately, the Internet is not free in our country, and unless one has access to technology, one remains disparagingly left out due to disability, poverty or minority.

It is through your help we have continued to reach out to people with our NHU Computer Grant and Support program to bring people access during these difficult times. Thank you for your donations of laptops and your continued support via our fundraising efforts!

We hope you will continue to help us reach out to people with disabilities who need a computer to connect with family and friends, services and health care. You might now better understand due to the pandemic the life challenges for a person with a disability; their social, physical and economic position. We hope you will join us to work together to reevaluate our views and responsibilities to bring opportunities, health, and hope. *(Continued on page 2.)*

(Together We Can Do So Much, Continued from page 1.)

COVID-19 has taken a greater toll on people with disabilities

We hope you, your family, and your associates are safe and healthy and remain so during this pandemic. You may have experienced or someone you know has had job loss, loss of income, or family members who have become ill or perhaps even loss of a person that was close to you. We want to express our sincere sympathy and we hope you are finding assistance during these difficult times. We hope you will encourage your Senator to at long last pass this next relief bill.

In October, this fall, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) reported in their letter to the U.S. Senate that 40% of COVID-19 deaths are people with disabilities. This equals more than 80,000 people. The AAPD, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and 50 other organizations for people with disabilities strongly object to the U.S. Senate. Instead of passing needed relief legislation this fall, the Heroes Act, which would protect health care providers and the people with disabilities they serve who are highly at risk for contracting and dying of COVID-19, (the Heroes Act has been before the Senate since June) the Senate rushed and promoted the nomination of Judge Barrett this fall who Senators know will put people with disabilities at risk of losing their health care and/or health insurance during this pandemic. Visit the AAPD letter at www.aapd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Opposing-Nomination-of-Jude-Amy-Coney-Barrett.pdf .

"AUCD supports previous Supreme Court rulings upholding the constitutionality of the ACA, and affirms the Court's decisions that any changes to the Act be legislative and not judicial," said John Tschida, executive director of AUCD. "Repeal of the ACA would negatively and disproportionately impact people with disabilities..." Visit AUCD position article at www.aucd.org/template/news_id-15025

The U.S. Senate has discriminated against 61 million citizens with disabilities and their health care providers during COVID-19 by ignoring the passage of relief legislation and nominated Judge Barrett to strike down the Affordable Care Act when it comes before the Supreme Court here in November. The Affordable Care Act has helped people with disabilities, expanding coverage to people and allowing insurance for pre-existing conditions. In the midst of the pandemic legislators moved to dismiss this safety net in health care.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that adults with disabilities are more at risk from adverse outcomes from COVID-19 and those with developmental disabilities are twice as likely to die as those without disabilities, due to preexisting conditions, or their care workers were not considered essential, so ineligible for (PPE) Personal Protection Equipment, less support and resources to stay safe. People with disabilities who have limited mobility or require more care have close contact with their direct support providers and family members, or live in congregate settings with limited resources which also puts them at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and having serious outcomes as well as risk their health providers and family members. Stay safe, follow CDC COVID-19 guidelines. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-disabilities.html>

There are consequences of society underpaying group home staff and paying less attention to people who live in other care home settings such as group homes. These casualties are the consequences of under resourcing health care and health care providers during a pandemic. With hospitals reaching capacity news of health care rationing has become apparent but this too is not new to people with disabilities and groups have spoken out about this discrimination fear. Who deserves to live? Who deserves to die? The ADA does not cover health care rationing. The pandemic has shined a light on the limited support and resources we give to the most vulnerable in our society.

What gives you hope through the pandemic?

Many people have given so much to help all of us through, doing their part to keep the infrastructure of our daily lives going, working to save lives from a difficult virus, or to make a difference in the lives of others. You may have been part of a neighborhood effort to look in on the elderly or people with disabilities in your community. Perhaps you have supported efforts to feed America. People are working together, zooming together, offering their support.

In this article from UN News, Lindsay Lee, WHO Technical Officer who works on issues related to people with disabilities, was speaking during a Q&A at the UN health agency when she expressed concern for people with disabilities during the pandemic. "Existing barriers that people with disabilities face can be exacerbated during a crisis, but if government and communities are willing to work together, risks might be mitigated." Visit Preventing discrimination against people with disabilities in COVID-19 response news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059762

(Together We Can Do So Much, Continued from page 2.)



We at New Horizons Un-Limited hope you will give to help those with disabilities this year, whether it is a donation to New Horizons Un-Limited or helping a person with disabilities you know directly. Reach out and check on family, friends or neighbors you know that are facing the coronavirus with a disability, or lend your voice to advocate and tell the story to others about living with disability.

It is only through your help we at New Horizons Un-Limited have been able to continue to reach out to people with disabilities and offer hope. The pandemic has brought to light the disparaging of safety nets for those who are marginalized thru disability, poverty, and minority. Even the smallest gifts impact lives in realistic ways. Help others through the gift of your donations, time, goods, or your voice.

We hope that among the many worthy causes you are assisting during this pandemic, you would consider giving to New Horizons Un-Limited Limited at new-horizons.org/donate.html

It is only WORKING TOGETHER we can continue to bring hope to each other so we can do more than survive the pandemic, so we can all thrive.

Purchase Scrip Gift Certificates from NHU

Do not procrastinate! Do your shopping early! .

Scrip orders are due:

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Thursday, December 3, 2020

You purchase scrip gift cards thru NHU, redeemable for the exact amount you pay for them, the retailers pass discount savings on to NHU.

To place your scrip order with NHU, print the NHU Scrip order form at new-horizons.org/pdf/scrif.pdf

Then, fill out and send your order form and your check or money order to NHU.

Please Join NHU in Our Grassroots Effort to Care Enough NOW To Plant the Seeds of Hope!

Our NHU 2020 Annual Appeal will arrive at your door or via email soon for year-end-giving. Although we hope you give the same, tax deductions for charitable giving may no longer be available to you. For strategies, see our End of Year and Planned Giving Brochure at new-horizons.org/doneyq.html and your tax advisor.

YOU CAN STILL HELP! Help NHU reach more individuals by giving the enclosed flyer to everyone you know or meet who might have a connection to our mission, about the good NHU is doing and about your involvement with NHU! (or print from new-horizons.org/pdf/anappl.pdf)

Your continued support has offered and continues to offer people with disabilities, to assist them with the tools to face their disability armed with self-esteem and hope.

What Can YOU Do?

NHU's Information and Referral Program

- \$50 will provide new resources, articles and guides monthly to individuals seeking assistance.
- \$150 will provide, one edition of our newsletter, *CommunicAbility*, reach more family members with disabilities and many more via email.
- Do you enjoy browsing the Internet? Volunteer for our Disability Research Assistant team.

NHU's Computer Literacy and Grant Program

- \$25 will provide one hour of in-depth computer skills training to four individuals with disabilities.
- \$30 will provide (5) Windows 10 Operating Systems for refurbished computers for 5 individuals with disabilities.
- \$40 will provide information on our *Access Tech Tips Forum* for our computer recipients.
- Volunteer to assist to refurbish or setup computers, answer helpdesk or enter a computer tip.

NHU's Employment Skills Training and Work Experience Program

- \$50 will allow us to promote people with disabilities and their capabilities to employers in a month.
- \$100 will provide employment skills training to an adult student in our work experience program.
- Be part of the solution! Evaluate your needs as an employer, offer a job to a person with a disability!

NHU's Seek and Promote Opportunities to Respite, Recreation and Cultural Activities Program

- \$25 will provide new respite resources information for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

New Horizons Un-Limited**We Appreciate YOU! - This Past Year's 2019 -2020 Sustaining Donors**

from our end-of-year 2019 Annual Appeal through October 2020 general and in-kind donations!
 Every donation, whether \$2 or \$5000, helps us carry out our mission and is very much appreciated!
 Learn more about our fundraising events at: new-horizons.org/funeve.html

2019-2020 - Annual Appeal Sustaining Donors**Corporate Donors**

[Chicago Switchboard Company](#)
[Power Construction Company, LLC](#)

[Hartmann Electric Company, Inc.](#)

[Klass Electric Company, Inc.](#)

Individual Donors

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Paul Hapka | Thomas Miller |
| Janet Lee Brodhagen | John Hartmann | Paul Nakian |
| Anthony Brown | Elizabeth Hermann | Patrick and Germaine Noble |
| Sandra Burr | Arlene Hermann-Leitzke | Ken and Karen Nycz |
| David and Lisa Drumel | Nishat Iqbal | Scott OBrien |
| William Eder | Paul Keuler | Eric Owens |
| Terrence and Janet Falk | Carol King | Brandon Pierce |
| Don and Carol Fischer | William Klass | Paul Quick II and Mary Reinders |
| Sharon Fleck | Bill Krieger | Peter and Kathryn Schieler |
| Joel and Joan Francoeur | Debra Levine | Judith Suberman |
| Jeffrey and Doreen Fredricksen | Susan LeVine | Paul Sukowaty |
| Robert Gallo | Kevin Mackey | Anne Valentin |
| Edward Hannan | Doug Mader | Elizabeth Walloch |
| David Hapka | Therese McCormack | Mamie Ward |
| Michael Hapka | Marie Mellott | Paul and Patricia Wegehaupt |
| | Lynn and Bob Mielke | |
| | Halli Miller | |

Honor and Memorial Gifts:

Elizabeth Walloch to honor Dr. John Schneider Paul Sukowaty in honor of Naomi Miller, a good friend
 In memory of Richard Brown Therese McCormack in memory of all parents
 Arlene Hermann-Leitzke - in memory of Stephin P. Leitzke and Tony J. Gazzana

2019-2020 Access Technology Computer Equipment In-kind Donors

Eliminate e-waste, give a gift that keeps giving.

Corporate In-kind Donors

Milwaukee Public Schools Power Construction Company LLC

Individual In-kind Donors

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anonymous | Tom Erickson | Jeffrey and Jody Steren |
| Pam Bjorkman | Eleanor Rathke | Ted Thyberg |
| Linda Britt | Jarrett and Carrie Rathke | |

Please contact us if you gave a donation and your name does not appear on this list.

**Thank you to everyone who shopped through Goodshop and our Gift Certificate Scrip Program.
 Thank you to everyone who contributed or purchased from our
 2020 Spring and Fall Flower Bulb Fundraisers!**

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811 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 937
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
www.new-horizons.org

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For more COVID-19 assistance resources visit NHU's *Coronavirus Pandemic Guide for People with Disabilities* at - new-horizons.org/qdecrv.html

**Please accept my contribution for NHU
in support of our community
members with disabilities:**

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$

Name:

Address:

City State: Zip:

Phone:

I would like to designate my contribution in memory of:

I would like for my gift to remain anonymous. Do not include my name in any publication acknowledging donors.

I am interested in volunteering for NHU. Please contact me.



--New Horizons Un-Limited Outlook--

--Newsletter--

**Your gift will ensure that our community
members with disabilities
are given access to the opportunities that will
improve their lives!**

Make check payable to **New Horizons Un-Limited**
and send to:

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202