December 2020

Dear Friend,

As you know, the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a devastating impact on the economy, healthcare workers and those who have lost a family member to this plague. Another profound result of the Covid-19 pandemic has been compelled isolation for millions of individuals—not only in the US but throughout the world.

All of us have now experienced what it is like to be trapped at home or with few options to venture outside. The mental health experts warn of “the other pandemic” as the protracted loss of vital human connection and interaction threatens loneliness, boredom, and depression.

Within our community, isolation and the mental health threats that come with it have been a fact of life. For those new to isolation, emotional lifelines have come through technology: remote work meetings, virtual religious services, social video platforms with family members. Yet, imagine if those tools were not as accessible. Imagine the pandemic-driven isolation as a permanent condition driven by a physical or mental disability - one that kept you home for years, if not a lifetime. Then imagine that you were unable to visit family and your doctor won’t see you for a home visit.

Now that you know what prolonged separation can be like, please help us provide the tools for the relief of isolation.

One tool that has become an absolute necessity is a camera on laptops. Doctor appointments, job interviews (for our friends with disabilities who can work), religious services, and classes are mostly done through video apps like Zoom now.

The importance of communication, through live video, cannot be emphasized enough. Video captures gestures, smiles and images to add context and nuance to the conversation. It’s as close as we can get to face-to-face interaction during periods of forced isolation.

A WORD FROM PERLEATHA

Thank you for the computer I received from you. It has saved my life! I have been depressed and lonely because of Covid-19 but the computer has helped me keep in touch with my son and my friends.

Every day, I learn a little more on how to see and talk to people on Facebook. I would like a camera so that I can see my family and do videos with them.

I don’t know what I would do without your program!

Perleatha,
NHU Grant Recipient
Your monetary gift or in-kind donation of laptops with cameras or external second-hand cameras significantly improves the lives of people with limited mobility and resources. Sometimes, though, members of our community lack tech skills. A monetary gift from you could purchase one hour of personal computer skills training. And then, as with a car and driver, users still need directions to get where they want to go. The gifts from our friends like you can help us create resource lists, articles, and guides for hundreds or thousands of users with disabilities. Will you help us to provide information to enhance the training and technology that we provide?

For a more complete list of services, programs and technology that we are able to provide through your donations, visit: www.new-horizons.org.

We know that some of our friends are doing better than others and with that in mind, we want you to know that if you are not in a position to give like you have in the past, we understand. We will gladly accept a gift that is both practical and meaningful for you.

If you are in a fortunate position, we ask that give a little more than you traditionally do as we have lost much of our fundraising opportunities for 2020. Any amount above your normal contribution would help us to be more productive and continue to provide training and equipment that will help individuals with disabilities to feel less isolated and alone.

We look forward to 2021 with your contribution.

Sincerely,

Art Miller
President

P.S. Double your impact! Every donation made during the month of December will be matched up to $2500.