September 25, 2020

Dear Senior Friends and Community,

First, WE MISS SEEING YOU ALL AT THE GATHERING PLACE AND OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE!

I wish we could open The Gathering Place Senior Center and that we were returning to some type of normal operations. The safety and well-being of our patrons are at the forefront of every decision we make during this pandemic, and currently Benzie County has had over 20 new positive cases of COVID-19 in just the month of September. With the predictions of a second wave this fall and into the winter, we have decided to keep both The Gathering Place Senior Center and our Administration Office closed until further notice.

Although our buildings are closed to the public, please rest assured that we continue to offer many of our core services. Ensuring food security is one of our focuses and we are doing this by continuing to accept new Home Delivered Meals clients to the program during this crisis. Curbside Meals are also still available Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at The Gathering Place.

We continue to provide In-Home Healthcare Services such as Personal Care, In-Home Footcare, Medication Set-up/ Management and Respite Care. Other services that we still offer are Homemaking; Project Lifesaver; Dental Healthcare Financial Assistance Vouchers; Dining Out Vouchers; Essential Needs Financial Assistance Funds; and Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program. Soon we will be offering the Snow Removal Program and will be available to answer questions and assist seniors during the Medicare Open Enrollment period of October 15th – December 7th.

Just recently we have collaborated with your Benzie County Libraries to develop an extensive list of reading materials and training DVD’s for family caregivers to help support them as they navigate the challenges of providing care for a loved one.

We are available Monday through Friday via phone from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. to assist those who need guidance and reassurance. Updates will continue as we are regularly evaluating our services and timeline on when we can safely resume those programs we have had to pause. Please call 231.525.0600 for more information.

During these challenging times we have continued to provide services to our senior friends. We are here for you!

Please remain healthy and safe. Sincerely,

***Douglas Durand***

Douglas Durand Executive Director