



INSPIRE • EMPOWER • CONNECT

April 3, 2020

Who could possibly imagine the realities the impact of a pandemic such as COVID -19 would have on our lives? It has been almost two weeks since we suspended our Day and Prevocational Services. The atmosphere at Ascend has changed. Our days are very quiet as we all do our part to follow the "Social Distancing" and "Stay-at-Home" orders. Life has changed significantly for everyone. We are resilient and we patiently wait for the day that we can welcome our staff and participants back to Ascend Services and once again return to the vibrant organization we were before this.

Ascends Production Service has continued operating as a supplier to area businesses that are essential manufacturing companies. We have retained a limited number of staff to continue to perform production services. We continually seek work orders to keep this staff employed, but are starting to see the slowdown in orders. Even with continuing our production, the reductions in other services have resulted in a significant drop in our revenues that began in March.

The coming weeks and months will challenge us all and we want to stay connected. We need to find new ways to do this. We will continue to reach out to our participants on a weekly basis until we are able to resume services! Please tune in to 1240 WOMT daily to hear the birthday announcements. We have partnered with them to announce our participant's birthdays each morning. This is just one way to keep a bit of normalcy and celebrate their special day!

Over the past week I have spent the majority of my time reviewing the CARES act, and how this act passed by our government, might help us. Like other organizations, we will utilize every part of this act to try and support all of our staff. As soon as we have more updates on this, I will communicate it directly to our staff.

The Ascend Services team is a family and while we may be apart during this difficult time we want you to know that we are here for all of you. If there is anything we can do to support you during this time please reach out to us. We will get through this together by each of us doing our part.

If you have questions, please contact:

- Deanna Genske, Executive Director
- Deb Keil, Director of Social Services
- Dale Cayemberg, Director of Operations
- Marcy Salm, Director of Financial Operations
- Barbara Nack, Human Resources Manager

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna L. Genske".

Deanna Genske
Executive Director