

Hi Everyone,

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.” (Essayist, Hamilton Wright Mabie) And let’s not forget the immortal Grinch’s raising of his glass to toast, “To kindness and love, the things we need most.”

It is the holiday season! Hanukkah started on December 10th, Christmas is on December 25th and Kwanzaa begins December 26th! All three are typically celebrated with the lighting of candles, singing, special foods and gathering with family and friends. Unfortunately, our time together this year will be very limited. May our altered celebrations serve to remind us all how grateful we are to have them in our lives.

You have all worked so very hard these several months and the stress throughout the year has piled on immeasurably. I am so proud of how you have supported each other at extreme levels throughout these very difficult times. You make UCP of Greater Cleveland a special place and I thank you for that. We will learn and grow from this experience and rise with even greater strength and perseverance to serve the children, families and adults who depend upon us.

I offer a special shout out to our Edendale and Memphis staff who are working 24/7 to make the holidays warm and comforting for our group home residents. You have all done phenomenal work this year to maintain your health and the health of our residents and to truly be there for them.

The vaccine has arrived! The daily news reports have shifted now to focus on the initial world-wide distribution. While it will take time for all of us to have access to it, we know it is coming. It is like standing at the bus stop for an hour wondering and worrying if the bus will ever come and then...you finally see it in the distance! Relief sets in and you know that all will be okay even though you need to wait just a little longer. It is comforting to know that concerns of illness of ourselves and our clients will end and that we can hopefully resume a normal life sometime in 2021! A New and Improved Year!

Please do what you can during these next few weeks to relax, reflect and refresh! You must take care of yourself before you can take care of others. We will return in January with renewed energy, hope for the future, and a continued focus on our mission to empower children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence, productivity and inclusion in the community. You do that so well.

Happy Holidays to you all,
Trish