



# FOLKS AT HOME

141 University Avenue • Sewanee, TN 37375 • (931) 598-0303 • folksathome.org

AUTUMN 2020

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*The Autumn 2020  
Folks at Home Newsletter  
is dedicated to the memory of*

**MR. TIM GRAHAM.**

*For his dedicated volunteer  
service as the Folks at Home  
board's development advisor,  
we remain grateful.*



*Gillian O'Connell playing violin for one of our elders who is sheltering in place.*



## LETTER FROM THE Vice-Chancellor



**G**reetings from campus! I am delighted that Folks at Home offered me the chance to introduce myself to a valued part of our community. I am the University of the South's 17th vice-chancellor. I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, attended the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Cambridge, and served as U.S. ambassador to the African Union before joining the

George Washington University as dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs. I began my work in Sewanee in mid-June, aware of the need to address two pressing issues that were not on our collective radar when I accepted the job last winter: a global pandemic and a national reckoning with race.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this semester will not look like any other semester in the history of the University. I am sure that the idea of bringing 1,700 young people back to campus caused some concern, especially for older members of the community. Faculty and staff members spent the summer planning everything we could to keep students,

Classes are being held in person, remotely, or a mix of the two, and many are held outdoors. The lectures, exhibits, concerts, and plays that are part of a typical semester—and that offer entertainment to the community—will be virtual, rescheduled, held outdoors, or otherwise changed to accommodate the “new now.”

Sewanee's COVID-19 strategy relies on both individual responsibility and our collective response. Individual responsibility will involve each one of us being diligent about practicing the “three Ws”—Wash your hands, Wear a mask, Watch your distance. (This is why I instituted a masking directive for the Domain.) The University's col-

*Faculty and staff members spent the summer planning everything we could to keep students, one another, and the community as safe as possible.*

one another, and the community as safe as possible. We have added public health officers to our staff.

lective response includes a vigorous program of testing and tracing.

*Continues • Page 2*

Students were all tested for COVID-19 the day they arrived on campus, and we are conducting regular testing of students, faculty, and staff throughout the semester.

I've been on the job as vice-chancellor for less than three months, so I still have much to learn about Sewanee. But I do know that Folks at Home has a longstanding commitment to bringing generations together on the Mountain, and I wholeheartedly support those efforts. I look forward to seeing the ways in which you and Sewanee students can assist and learn from one another. And I look forward to meeting each of you once we can gather in person again.

We find our true character, both as individuals and as a community, when we face challenges such as this. I believe that if we each do our part, Sewanee's strong community spirit and the palpable sense of *Ecce Quam Bonum* will see us through this tough time.

**Reuben E. Brigety, II**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of the South



LETTER FROM THE  
VICE-PRES.



As the coronavirus continues to infect more people, we all have reflected on what we really "know" about a pandemic that has gone on and on for almost six months. The virus has disrupted our lives in so many ways. Recently, I heard a term that resonates with my view of the current situation: "Corona Coaster." It's truly been a scary ride so far.

Since the virus began to impact our lives last March, we haven't been able to hug the people we love; we can't even gather to have a funeral for

those we have lost. We aren't allowed to visit those in nursing homes and hospitals. Many citizens have been left to endure a lonely existence at home alone.

Other changes in our lives saw elective medical procedures being delayed. Even haircuts and pedicures were "self-service". Eating out, attending worship services, and grocery shopping became new medical hazards. Worst of all, there does not seem to be an end in sight.

Infection rates are steadily on the rise. Rural areas are currently increasing at a faster rate than urban areas. A huge unknown, that will be clear very shortly, is what impact opening schools will have on the infection rate in our area. Patients will generally develop illness 5-11 days after exposure.

Testing is being done more frequently. The results are not reliable in many cases, and may take between 4-14 days to be reported. This long lag time keeps many workers from being able to return quickly from quarantine after exposure to the

virus. Asymptomatic patients who have positive tests are a huge enigma. They are likely to infect many more people than patients who have symptoms.

Following the numbers of patients admitted to the hospital, particularly to ICU beds, may be the most reliable indicator of potential patient deaths and the upward trend of positive cases. Critical care beds are at a premium in almost all areas.

Sadly, programs and services are suspended until there is a safe and effective vaccine available. Several are under clinical investigation currently. Until then, we are advised to wear masks at most times, and practice social distancing. We are tired of isolating and masking and not being able to enjoy getting out and about. But it's important... don't quit!

Folks at Home is poised to assist during this "Corona Coaster." Although some programs and services are suspended for your safety and ours, the staff is still available to help in many ways.

DR. JESSICA FAVALORO, M.D.

MISSION  
STATEMENT

Empowering folks to remain in their homes with dignity in the community they love.

*Without F@H, I would have to settle for less happy assisted living somewhere. Thank you!*

—Folks at Home Member—



LETTER FROM THE  
DIRECTOR



Greetings all! Folks at Home finds itself in uncharted waters and facing unique challenges. As

detailed in this letter, we continue to offer services that can be administered safely, while suspending those that cannot. Also below we share a silver lining in the cloud of this pandemic, namely being able to collaborate around new needs that have arisen in our neighborhood.

**Programs and Services**

Much to our disappointment, Folks at Home has had to suspend those programs and services that cannot be administered with safe physical-distancing. This includes transportation for now. We miss those programs and services (and we miss seeing you). *But they will return!*

A recent survey by the national Village to Village Network reported similar suspensions of services and programs among almost 70% of our sister villages across the country. The survey goes on to say that 86% of villages have been heavily affected by the pandemic. They report being challenged with an overall transformation of operations and services. Likewise, Folks at Home has been challenged to rethink itself.

**The New Normal**

Sarah, Lydia, and I continue to work from home. Phone calls are always forwarded, and we are diligent about checking emails.



## Folks at Home, McClurg Dining Hall and Sewanee Senior Center Work Together

*Chef Rick Wright*

When the Sewanee Senior Center (SSC) had to close in April temporarily, due to Governor Lee's coronavirus executive order, its lunch program for eat-in, pick-up, and delivery for the community stopped. Thankfully, Folks at Home and a team of community volunteers stepped up to continue delivering lunches to the Center's regular recipients and anyone else who wanted

lunch delivered to them. A BIG thank you to McClurg Hall (the University's dining services), for providing the lunches while the SSC is closed. We look forward to the time we can reopen and share meals and activities again. Meanwhile, we are so grateful for Folks at Home, community volunteers, and McClurg Hall for their service and support.

SUSAN HORTON  
SSC Board Member



500+

Meals delivered since March!

We still offer home visits (outdoors), and we make regular phone check-ins to all of our service members. We run errands when outdoor or drive-through pick-up options exist. Tech support has remained popular (from a distance). A new initiative, assistance with grocery orders, has been in modest demand. Check-outs of Durable Medical Equipment remain popular, as do vendor referrals.

In March, Folks at Home was privileged to partner with a wider group of community volunteers. With their help, we aim to offer assistance to any high risk individuals in our area, re-

gardless of membership. Since March, this "collaborative" has been delivering meals to homebound Sewanee Senior Center members. So, despite curtailing some of our usual programs and services, our service calls have risen dramatically since March!

In the days ahead we will, in collaboration with our members and the Board of Directors, continue to assess our options for safely serving the community. Let us hear from you! And, remain safe.

WALL WOFFORD

## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER



Fundraising fell short in 2019, which forced us to trim back on an already efficient budget. For the 2020 budget, we wanted to be careful; we needed to reduce the budget without hurting the foundation and integrity of Folks at Home (F@H). The end result was that we cut the 2020 budget by 14%, which involved some significant sacrifices. In January we created and passed our 2020 budget with no way of knowing that a global pandemic was about to be upon us.

March came, and the seriousness of this destructive virus then became apparent. As the most vulnerable of targets are the elderly, it became almost ironic; just when the pandemic causes most organizations and businesses to diminish, the need for F@H expands.

As it turned out, good fortune smiled upon us. Despite the pandemic, 2020 ushered in a financially forgiving spring. Actually, just before the pandemic, we received a gift of \$85,000 from David (C '79) and Debra Humphries. This gracious gift was designated for the payment of the F@H mortgage. Paying off our mortgage eliminated \$441 monthly expenditure from our budget. We are deeply grateful for this

unforeseen generosity on the part of David and Debra.

Later we received \$5,000 from the Cartinhour-Woods Foundation in honor of Tim Graham, a tireless volunteer for F@H. Additionally, we are grateful for the grant of \$5,000 from the Sewanee Community Chest, as well as \$2,540 from the South Cumberland Community Fund, and \$500 from the Walmart Community Grant Fund. We also received \$16,600 from the Paycheck Protection Program. So, we had a good financial first half of the year! This allowed us stay in the black. I have no doubt that these gifts and grants are a result of F@H being recognized for being an important and integral part of the community.

Folks at Home has kept its membership affordable since 2010. This means, of course, that we continue to be reliant upon donor support. Despite the good fortune in an otherwise troubled year, we still need to raise funds to meet our budget in 2020. Therefore, in order to secure our immediate future, Folks at Home must reach out to our friends, so that we can continue to help our elders live their lives in their own homes with dignity in this great community.

Richard W. DEUTSCH

*I feel that Folks at Home has done an exceptional job in attempting to meet the needs of the Folks at Home community throughout this extraordinary period that we have been traversing.*

—Folks at Home Member—



## Canale Spotlight MADELEINE RUMINGAN C'22

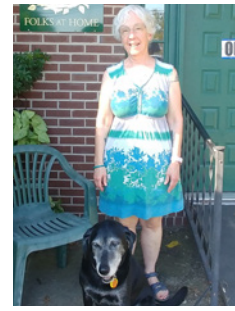
### INTERGENERATIONAL INITIATIVES

**M**y name is Madeleine, and I'm going to be the new Canale intern in partnership with Folks at Home! I was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia to a huge family, so I am very family oriented! Some of my favorite things to do with them include sight-seeing, traveling, and watching movies. I have three dogs, and one of them works as an emotional support animal at Sewanee with me. We love taking long(ish) walks down University Avenue in the morning, taking naps,

and going to Stirling's for study sessions. I love fashion, trying new things, and learning more and more about my studies in neuroscience every day. Some of my passions include fighting for racial equality and increasing my medical knowledge.

I am incredibly excited to be working with Folks at Home! I have been heavily involved on Sewanee's campus since I first arrived, including the Sewanee Academic Diversity Cohort, the Sewanee Asian Organization, Kappa Delta Sorority,

and many more. I have always wanted to reach outside of Sewanee's gates into the Sewanee community, and I am so glad to have the opportunity to foster relationships between Sewanee students and our community. I have been brainstorming some ideas on how to continue the great work that Sarah Cordell was doing with Folks at Home, and I'm eager to see what we can do. I can't wait to meet and get to know everybody during the remaining two years of my Sewanee journey.



**W**e all have had to change our normal day-to-day patterns because of the coronavirus. Wall, Lydia and I have been working from home since March. We agreed that one of the

most valuable things I could do is to check in regularly by phone with our members to make sure they are OK, to see if there is any way we can assist them, and to let them know they are not alone in this anxious time. The best part of my workday is settling down with my note pad, pen, and cell phone. Sabbath settles on "her" couch or in the sweet grass of "her" yard. Each day we call several Folks at Home members. Often people make me aware of "small" issues that they might not have otherwise called us about. I look forward to making these calls. It's been pure pleasure to have regular conversations with folks I know and to get to know other members better. When my office returns to the Folks at Home building, I plan to continue checking in with the kind people who make up our membership.

SARAH DOYI  
Services Coordinator



335

Calls since March

*The idea of providing help and support to seniors to allow us to remain at home rather than go into a retirement home is brilliant, and Folks at Home carries out that idea perfectly. The small staff is smart and eager to help, obviously well-suited to its work.*

—Folks at Home Member—



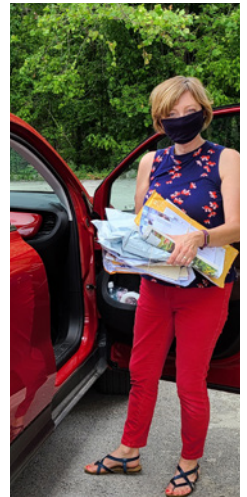
Dedicated volunteer Spike Hosch delivering meals to a long time community member.



A little gutter clean-out by our versatile executive director.



Ellen Copper delivering meals.



Teresa Miller delivering mail.

Folks at Home gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors



SEWANEE

The University  
of the South

Office of  
Civic Engagement

