

Affordable . . . Innovative . . . Inspiring
Pulling Together and Staying Strong

**“SMOOTH SEAS DO NOT
MAKE SKILLFUL SAILORS.”**

—African proverb

OVER THE last six months we have all seen roiling waters. At The Redwoods, we have been navigating by focusing our efforts on continuing to keep everyone safe and engaged. As a result, we are proud to report that we have been able to both prevent any residents from catching the virus and introduce several innovations to maintain a high quality of life during this turbulent time.

How is it that The Redwoods is able to have such an impressive “no-COVID-19 cases” track record when other senior communities have suffered? “For one, we implemented Shelter in Place early on,” reports Hunter Moore, CEO, “even before it was required by the County. Equally important, we have had infectious disease protocols and programs in place for years—so we knew what to do. Bar none, a key factor has been the incredible cooperation of our staff and residents. Consistent with our culture, everyone has pulled together to make a difference.”

Safety First

The Redwoods has been following



Staff and residents maintain good spirits and celebrate working and living in a healthy, safe environment.

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the CDC, California and Marin public health guidelines. Since March, when Shelter in Place began, our Facilities and Environmental teams have not only kept everything clean and safe, but also played a chief role in screening at the main entrance and at residents’ apartments. Early on, they pivoted to help with the delivery of meals to residential living, while the Dining team continued to provide

terrific, nutritious meals to apartments/suites or to-go.

Being Creative!

Innovation is one of the hallmarks of The Redwoods and COVID-19 has accelerated the pace. We have found creative ways to keep most programs going—inside and out.

Some examples are courtyard concerts, family visits by Zoom, Skype,

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LETTER FROM J. HUNTER MOORE, CEO



FIRST AND FOREMOST, thank you! Whether you have shared your time, talents or treasures, it has made a huge difference to the residents and team during this particularly difficult period.

Earlier this year, we began using three words to describe the essence of The Redwoods: Affordable... Innovative...

Inspiring. Today, I would add another word: Resilient. The Redwoods residents embody resilience; they have lived through wars, disease, economic downturns, and personal trials—and today, are weathering this new storm, standing together (although 6 feet apart) to support one another. Now, they not only have the challenge of COVID-19, but are concerned about social unrest, an early start to the fire season, and a fascinating election process.

Calm, Positive—and Planning

I can tell you firsthand that everyone at The Redwoods—residents and staff alike—are remaining positive and calm. In addition to hoping for the best, we are planning. Our infection control policies and programs have enabled us to keep COVID-19 at bay from the residents through mid-September. Emergency plans are in place and we are well-prepared to address potential issues related to the inevitable fires—and almost anything else. We have been active on social issues such as Black Lives Matter and encourage you to make your voice heard this political season.

In the midst of all this, a number of important projects are moving ahead, including updating the remaining Independent Living apartments (see p. 4) as well as renovating Residential and Health Care hallways. We are coming up with new ways to share information and programs (check out our YouTube channel), finding ways to support our friends and neighbors, and are also having fun celebrating special food days—always in an appropriate, safe manner.

We will continue to innovate as part of our on-going efforts to keep everyone safe and provide opportunities for engagement and entertainment. We couldn't have done this without you, your ideas, support and assistance. Together we are an innovative, inspiring, affordable, and resilient community of seniors.

J. HUNTER MOORE
Chief Executive Officer

- “Here at The Redwoods, I don't feel I'm in lockdown.” —ROSALIND PATERSON
- “With the staff constantly cleaning, I feel comfortable.” —RON DAWSON
- “Despite COVID, I can still do what I love with the people I love, just 6 feet apart.” —SANDRA MASSEN
- “I have plenty to keep me active and entertained.” —DON BOWDON

**Let's learn from the residents—
if they can do it, we can do it!**

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and Facetime, safe in-person visits through the Calendly system, a new YouTube channel with videos featuring updates and events, and weekly food day celebrations like Lemon Meringue Pie Day and birthday cake delivered directly to residents' doors.

All program information is now available on Comcast channel 994 and through the Connected Living Redwoods App.

Lifting Our Spirits

It has been particularly inspiring to see the Care teams each day. They not only continue to manage residents' health, but play a key role in assisting residents through isolation periods by continually lifting everyone's spirits.

Residents have played a big role. They have found ways to keep up connections, strength and community through their own programs. Residents in the Health Care Center found ways to give back by painting “love bugs” distributed to essential workers by Good Fairies Marin. All are doing their best to keep COVID away.

Much of our success during this time is thanks to you. We couldn't have done the above without individual, community and foundation support. The virus has pulled us together, through literally hundreds of acts of kindness, to help us be a better, more generous, supportive, creative, and safe community of seniors. ■

A Unique Opportunity: Completing the Health Care Center

HALF OF the Redwoods' Health Care Center (HCC) was updated as part of the creation of the North Bay's first and only in-patient comfort, palliative and hospice center—The Grove. This fall and winter, updating of the HCC will continue, with renovation of staff work areas and the dining/ program activity rooms.

That has left many of you asking, *what about the second hallway and the remaining resident suites?* We are pleased to report that work has already begun! In September, we purchased new ceiling lights, replaced and relocated sprinkler heads in the hallways, replaced handrails and baseboards, and installed new carpet. That leaves

the 14 resident suites that still need to be revitalized. When all the work has been done, the HCC will look like a modern health care center and match the quality of care.

The Timing is Ripe for the Final Renovations— and Your Support.

Although The Redwoods could address resident suite renovation over the next several years, we would like to get this done on a planned, systematic basis and take advantage of our temporarily lower census due to COVID-19.

The virus has presented us with a unique chance to move HCC residents to vacant suites and maintain their primary caregivers.

Importantly, the work can be completed efficiently and safely, with construction workers entering each suite directly from the outside, thus presenting no additional risk to residents or team members.

Each suite renovation will cost roughly \$25,000, with an estimated total cost of approximately \$350,000. A considerable sum, it is more than The Redwoods can fund on its own from operations.

In order to take advantage of this window of opportunity, The Redwoods must raise the funds between now and the spring of 2021. If you can help, please contact **Christian Mills** at (415) 383-2741 or cmills@theredwoods.org.

Estate Planning: Ensuring the Redwoods' Future

Help The Redwoods with a Planned Gift

DID YOU KNOW there are many ways you can support The Redwoods without spending your funds right now? By including a gift to The Redwoods in your estate or financial plans, your support for our work lives on for generations. *"The most popular way to make a planned gift is through your will or trust,"* explains Christian Mills, Director of Fund Development, *"but no matter the type of planned gift you choose, it is reassuring to know your gift will allow you to extend your impact into the future."*

"My mother, who recently passed away at age 107, spent 12 wonderful years at the Redwoods, blossoming and growing with the love of the staff, and with such activities as line dancing, spiritual yoga, movie nights and musical events. I am making a planned gift to The Redwoods so that future generations including those with low income can continue to enjoy these experiences." —JUDY DICK

Thanks to your support, you can feel confident in the fact that The Redwoods will be here to carry out its mission of providing affordable care for years to come.

For more info, visit our website at www.theredwoods.planmylegacy.org, or contact **Christian Mills** at 415-383-2741 or cmills@theredwoods.org.



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Revitalizing Independent Living Apartments: Halfway to our Fundraising Goal!



Elizabeth Merriman enjoys making watercolor paintings in her newly revitalized apartment.

DURING THE first phase of Revitalization (completed in 2017) we renovated the majority of our Independent Living Apartments, and this spring, we announced a generous \$1 million matching grant from the Bettye Ferguson Trust to complete the remaining 37 apartments. The grant will match, on a \$2-for-\$1 basis, up to \$500,000 raised by the end of 2020.

The good news is we have raised \$260,000—a bit over halfway to the goal!

Earlier this year, The Redwoods Board—acting on faith that the remaining funds would be raised from the philanthropic community

—approved moving forward with the project.

Now, we need your support. We are looking to you to help us close this \$240,000 gap by the end of the year.

“The Redwoods can serve more very low—and extremely low-income seniors if we renovate all of our Independent Living Apartments,” explained **Jim Lynch**, Board President. *“If affordable housing calls to you, we encourage you to help.”*

To make a gift, please contact **Christian Mills**, Director of Fund Development for The Redwoods at (415) 383-2741 or cmills@theredwoods.org.