



Administrative Offices

1355 Third Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91911
(619) 426-3595

North Campus

856 Vale Terrace Drive
Vista, CA 92084
(760) 471-4210

www.MAACproject.org

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RE: Happy Easter & MAAC Staff Updates

Dear MAAC Familia,

I hope this Easter you find yourselves with the ones you love, even though we are physically separated, we can still stay connected with them, with our hearts, listening to their voices and seeing them in pictures or videos and the great memories we always carry with us. This year, it may feel like we are in a different place and time in this world but “no matter how long the winter, Spring is sure to follow”.

After 4 weeks of closing most of our offices, trying to figure out how to keep operating and worrying about what the next day would bring, I feel that we are reaching a point of HOPE in this crisis. We should still be concerned about our health and of those around us, but the measures taken these past 4 weeks have allowed us to understand how we move forward. I feel confident with the measures we have taken at MAAC, our focus has shifted from what will happen to MAAC and staff, to how we assist the over 2.2 million people who have filed for unemployment assistance in the state of California, those numbers will have a big impact in the number of people we serve in San Diego County.

We will start by employing innovative structures to reach those families. I am happy to share that our MAAC Community Charter School will initiate distant learning this Monday with 270 students enrolled; Child Development Program staff return from Spring break and we are ensuring we can increase our children and family engagement employing online and technology strategies, with plans to help those families in need of equipment in order to participate. At the same time, we are working to increase meal distribution to the enrolled children. Casa de Milagros and Nosotros have remained open for the entire time with services continuing to our residents; The Energy Assistance Program re-initiated their work this week and we have started processing utility payment assistance via phone and mail to ensure the safety of our staff and participants. Our housing programs have also remained in operation through this process and we have started understanding the impacts to our families, just over 25% of the households in our affordable housing have not been able to pay rent; we will work with those families to ensure they remain housed and can access the resources necessary for the short and long term recovery. This goes for all the participants in our programs.

Staff continues working on securing all the equipment & supplies we need to continue this work, masks, laptops, cameras, supplies, and other health & safety items. Securing these items is not just a challenge for us at MAAC or in San Diego, but for the world at large. While we work to secure them, I ask you to please think of and look for ways you can help fill some temporary gaps for our efforts to continue. Conversely, if there are specific needs or questions you have, please feel free to reach out to your supervisor. Your supervisors will continue to communicate with you to provide information about your roles and schedule.

It took a team to achieve what we've done over the past four weeks and I am grateful to be a part of this team moving forward in the coming months. Thank you for the work that you do and thank you for being an important part of this Familia.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Malpica".