

March 24, 2020

*ORION offers hope for individuals and families experiencing hardship due to poverty, disability or illness by building bridges that lead to self-reliance*

*We believe that every person deserves shelter, food, clothing, transportation, access to healthcare and respectful human interaction. ORION listens at the street level and responds to the unmet needs of our most vulnerable neighbors with creativity, compassion and collaboration.*

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Dear Valued Orion Volunteers,

Wow! What a different world we're living in with so many changes in such a short time! If you did see not our most recent eblast, Orion is still open and meeting the increasing needs of our community in innovative ways that include a desk in the front display window, computer on the inside facing out with a keyboard and mouse on the outside plus a baby monitor 😊  
<https://us8.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/show?id=4178285>

With information changing daily about how the COVID-19 epidemic is affecting lives, we want to thank you, our fabulous volunteers! The dedication of **132 volunteers** was evident last year with over 7000 hours of time donated. The federal government values your gift at almost \$200,000 and that's a really big deal! You fill roles and provide services that we would not be able to do without you and we are so grateful!

Looking forward, opportunities to volunteer are starting to re-emerge. With our STARS kids going into the third week of being out of school or with our families who are struggling to make ends meet as work hours have been shortened or layoffs have occurred, here are some of the ideas:

- Would you like to create activities for the home bound children or read a book on Facebook Watch to share?
- How about deliver educational resources (books & games) to families? Maybe drop off prescriptions or basic essentials to a family or an elder who cannot get out?
- Make home-made sanitizer or laundry detergent for Orion families?
- Are you up for cleaning and sanitizing Orion's office?
- Would you like your name added to Phoenixville's new volunteer list?

Do you have other talents or ideas you could offer? We will continue to assess needs and update our webpage [www.OrionCommunities.org/get-involved](http://www.OrionCommunities.org/get-involved) as new opportunities are identified or contact Melinda at 484-202-6423 or [mizzo@orionhope.org](mailto:mizzo@orionhope.org)

Thank you for being an essential part of neighbors helping neighbors!

  
Melinda Izzo  
Operations Manager

  
Kris Keller  
Executive Director

  
Keith Burress  
Board President