

# INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR



**#StrongerTogether**  
**Our COVID-19**  
**Response**

For more than 33 years, the Front Door Agency has structured its programs around the changing needs of Greater Nashua. In the face of the current pandemic, we are committed, as always, to helping some of our most vulnerable neighbors.



Last week, I drove down Main Street in Nashua and was struck by how *quiet* it was. Normally, there would be dozens of cars and buses on the road, sidewalks filled with people hurrying into local restaurants for lunch. Now, there is no traffic and many of the businesses lining the street are closed. It's easy to feel lost in the uncertainty, but we must remember that **we are in this together**.

Maryse Wirbal, CEO

As you will read below, we've adapted some of our normal operating practices to protect the well-being of our clients, staff and volunteers. While it's not business as usual per se, we remain ready to provide assistance to those who need it during our normal business hours.

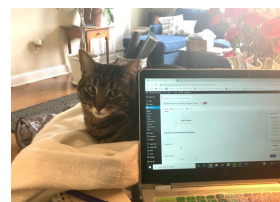
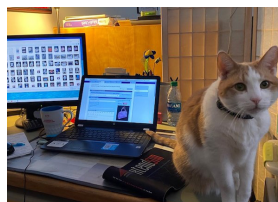
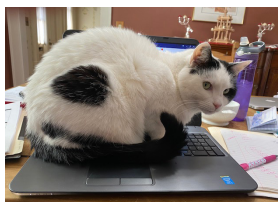
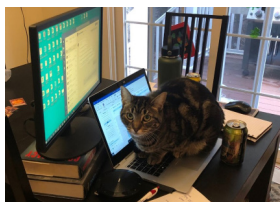
From all of us at the Front Door Agency, thank you for your ongoing support during this challenging time, be kind to one another and don't forget to wash your hands!

## Our COVID-19 Response:

*For full details, please visit [www.frontdooragency.org](http://www.frontdooragency.org).*

- **All program applications are now available online.**
- **We are restricting visitors to our main office and our employees are encouraged to work from home.** Instead of in-person meetings, case managers will schedule phone meetings. Our staff is fully available to assist those in need during our normal business hours (Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).
- **We are providing extra support to the families in our Transformational Housing program.** With schools closed and social distancing encouraged, we are ensuring that our families receive support to continue working toward self-sufficiency during this difficult time. This includes 24/7 access to case managers, food vouchers, assistance with transportation and more. Please visit our website for more details on how we are supporting these families, and how you can help.
- **All spring events have been rescheduled.** The 32nd Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 17. If social distancing guidelines are still in place at that time, a plan is in place to host an exciting virtual alternative. Mom Prom Nashua has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 7.

## NEW "COLLEAGUES" PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OUR REMOTE EMPLOYEES



## HOUSING STABILITY EXPANSION ALLOWS FOR COVID-19 AID

For the first time in decades, the state budget included new funding to aid in the prevention of homelessness. The funds, which are for the current and next fiscal years, will allow us to help more individuals and families with supportive services and financial assistance necessary to prevent them from entering into homelessness.

By adding a second case manager to our Housing Stability team, we are able to see more clients and reduce wait times. Julie Smiley joined us in December as our new Housing Advocate and Kristy Besada was promoted to Housing Stability Program Manager.

Additional funding also means we are able to help those who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, particularly those in the service and hospitality industries who have lost hours or have been laid off. Our goal is to help people maintain their rent or mortgage payments prior to the eviction process.

## Have you been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

*If so, we may be able to help with rent or utility payments. Visit our website for more information:*

**[www.frontdooragency.org/programs/housing-stability/prevention/](http://www.frontdooragency.org/programs/housing-stability/prevention/)**

**INSIDE:** Details about our COVID-19 response, including important program updates, changes to standard office procedures and information on upcoming events that have been postponed or canceled.

## COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS DURING OUR “NEW NORMAL”

Being stuck at home social distancing is difficult for many. But if you have a roof over your head, a job that allows you to work from home and a fridge full of food, you fare better than many families in our community. If you are fortunate enough to count your blessings during this uncertain time, please consider helping the young mothers and children in our Transformational Housing program who typically rely on school meals and public transportation each day. They need assistance getting basic **groceries, cleaning supplies and kid’s toys**. If you can help, please check out a list of urgently needed items online: <https://www.frontdooragency.org/give/donations-transitional-housing/>



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!



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## WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

### Making the Holidays Bright

The holidays might seem like a distant memory, but not for the **756** children who received toys, clothes and food from 85 local families, businesses and organizations. This year, you helped us fill the grand ballroom at the Courtyard by Marriott in Nashua with thousands of gifts!



“People are embarrassed or afraid to ask for help,” said Sasha, a single mother who makes too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to make ends meet. “I put my pride aside for my three-year-old son. Something small like this book or stuffed animal seems small, but they will make him smile on Christmas morning.”

### The Norwell Home Gets a New Look

Thanks to a generous grant from the Franklin Savings Bank Fund for Community Advancement and the talents of board member Melissa Swidler (owner of SWI Designs), the living room in the Norwell Home got a facelift! The renovation includes fresh paint, more durable furniture and kid-friendly decor.



One of our youngest residents enjoyed a snooze in the updated living room in the Norwell Home on Concord Street in Nashua, which houses up to eight single mothers and their children at any given time.



Thank you to the Church of the Good Shepherd for making 23 Easter baskets for the children in our Transformational Housing program! Your generosity provides a sense of normalcy during this uncertain time.