OPEN FOR BUSINESS—LOW AND SLOW

As Ohio eases back into operation, so does UDS, with careful planning to keep our employees and the individuals we serve safe and healthy.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODDO) has been issuing guidelines to agencies like ours indicating what services can be provided, how, when, and to whom during the COVID-19 pandemic. Returning to center-based group services is not beneficial to everyone at this time. A risk/benefit assessment will be completed for each individual to determine if returning to a small group setting is appropriate for them and their placement. For those very few individuals who cannot safely stay at home, we will continue to offer virtual programming and 1:1 community-based activities.

Read more about the steps we’re taking to ensure a safe environment as we begin to resume programming.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

From the start, UDS has been following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, state and local health department orders, and guidance from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODDO) in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. The health and safety of our participants, employees, and visitors to our facility is our top priority.

Before COVID-19, UDS consistently implemented high standards of health and safety with our use of universal precautions and decontamination protocols. Now with the COVID-19 virus, new, greater levels of precautions have been implemented by all employees and participants during their program services.

We look forward to the opportunity to expand the number of individuals we can get back into programming with the foundation of safety being a priority for us.

Learnt about the precautions we’re taking to keep our employees and the people we serve safe and healthy.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

As an organization, we are deeply affected by recent events, and we want to take a moment to stand with others in the fight for equity and justice for everyone. We will not be silent.

At UDS we advocate for the rights of those whose voices often go unheard. Disability does not discriminate and we are committed to seeing everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve.

We are so grateful for those working out of their own need to create a better world where differences are appreciated and all individuals have full and equal access to opportunities that allow them to live fulfilling lives in an inclusive community.

STAYING CONNECTED

UDS staff members are helping people stay connected through a variety of means including phone calls, video calls and even virtual activities to keep people from living in their homes active during this time.

UDS Community Outreach Specialists have continued to provide support to individuals like Birdie throughout these challenging times. Antimicrobial services have been added for high-risk individuals to assist with grocery stores and malls so they can stay safe at home. Virtual check-ins and one-on-one visits have been critical to the people we serve as their safety remains our top priority.

Contact us today for more information on our community outreach services.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you to the following community members for making food baskets and donating them to UDS: Andy Othol, Carrie Funk, Harley Johnson, Jason Chisholm, Laura Conte, Bonnie Warmus, Alicia Swiets, Patricia Jurkiewicz, Debbie Gray, Gaiy Taniguchi, and Bruce Janko. You’ve received more than 300 meals that are available for consumers and visitors who do not have one.

Special thanks to Science Main, a digital printing service in Chicago. They provided some of their equipment to produce personal protective equipment to help fight COVID-19. They’ve donated thousands of face shields to hospitals and nonprofit organizations, including UDS. You’ve received 500 clear face shields to help protect our front line employees. Dr. Cheryl Reed, director of Ohio Vision Services, is seen here receiving the new gear.

UDS will continue to accept mask donations. If you or someone you know is able to make masks and donate them, contact Program Director at 330-762-9725.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The last few months have been a challenge for all, including UDS. Our staff members have been working hard to create new ways to provide services that keep everyone safe and healthy. As we return to normal, it has been a joy to see some of the people we serve so much.
a part of our daily lives, we are looking forward to the
days ahead when others are safe.

The pandemic hit the agency’s budget pretty hard. We
must raise emergency contributions for much of the
money that pays for everyday operations and keeps the
agency running forward. Borrowing a line from the
Da Vinci, right now we could really use a little help from
our friends. If you are in a position to give, we hope
you will think about making a cash donation. Big or
small, every gift will make a difference and we will be
so grateful for your kindness. If you are not in a position
for you less, consider throwing a few extra items in your
weekly cart to donate to the agency. Just like at home,
we are buying a lot of these things that keep us all
healthy. Hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, paper
towels, face masks and thermometer are all needed.

You can make a cash donation by mailing a check to
ICSA, 4341 Development, 799 South Main Blvd,
Akron, Ohio 44319, or secure online. Donated
items can be dropped off at the front of our 791 South
Main Street facility.

Life is a little happier right now, but we all get through
this together. We have good friends, family and
elements and we’re hoping you will consider providing a
helping hand.

Forward to a friend

To ensure your email address is included, please add our
email address to your address book.