

# Closing out 2020

*A Personal Note from the Executive Director*

**“And our hearts cry out, “How much longer? How much farther? How much more can we endure?”**

I saw a quote recently that stated **“I thought about quitting but then I noticed who was watching!”**

A simple quote with a picture attached of a father looking back upon a child. It made me think of all who watch and observe as we go through life...the good times as well as the difficult times. **The ultimate measure of a person is not where one stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where one stands in times of challenge and controversy...and for 2020, where one stands in regards to the Coronavirus Pandemic! It made me think of the Seniors that we serve and those watching our efforts and attitudes as we serve .**

**This past year I have had the privilege of going through some of the most difficult times in my career with some of the most courageous people on this planet.** Individuals who were willing to do what nobody else would do, in a way that nobody else could do, in spite of all we were going through and facing with COVID-19; that is our team at Casa de Modesto.... From nursing staff carrying out their necessary duties along side of our CNA's, RCA's, RNA's who provided caring and compassionate support as residents have had personal, medical and emotional needs during these challenging times, along with our Administrative staff attempting to do their best to help and support all while going through the policy changes, regulatory requirements, and staffing struggles to ensure all areas were covered from a financial, compliance and care perspective.



We have had our struggle with COVID-19 in 2020, and it has been hard to understand how this virus works. We have had multiple surveys that state we are doing things correctly with no deficiencies but sadly, we have still had our losses. This is difficult to deal with by staff as well as residents and their family members. This alongside of our usual struggles as a nonprofit trying to keep a balance between our mission of care and compassion to those seniors needing a place to live at a reasonable rate, and maintaining a business that requires funding to keep supplies in place, staff working despite the challenges of the virus, and all of the added costs because of this year's challenges has been difficult at best. In 2021 we face again the minimum wage increase of 9% and staffing compression issues having to be addressed. Many are struggling to make ends meet as they face the reality of 2020 and 2021 yet to come.

I had to put this into perspective immediately and understand that the struggle for our residents has not been any easier than the struggle for our staff going through these times. The separation from family and isolation, along with financial challenges has been difficult to deal with by all. Resident's struggle with the impact of Covid on their lives; struggle to manage on a fixed income, facing the concerns of where would they go if they could no longer stay in their home here at Casa de Modesto. I am grateful for the benevolence fund support, however there are not enough donated funds to cover the annual costs for those in need. Discouragement and desire to give up are often close by when staff think about the responsibility we have for our senior's needs. With that said, those struggles also have motivated me and our staff to do the very best we can to attend to the needs and requirements of our population and keep moving forward. This is why we do not give up, because this is what each of us has been called to do for our community in response to the lives we serve and the times we face both now and in the future.

***As Victor Frankl, Austrian Holocaust survivor stated:***

***The last of the human freedoms: to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.***

**We will check our attitude and efforts on a daily basis and take on the challenge to move forward with the needed efforts as we face 2021 at Casa de Modesto!**

Blessings to all,

**Curt Willems,  
Executive Director**

