



Presbyterian Home for Children, Talladega, AL  
COVID-19 Response  
March 23, 2020

At this time of growing concern surrounding the COVID-19 virus, we want to assure the community that the Presbyterian Home for Children and Ascension Leadership Academy are closely monitoring developments and that we take this situation very seriously.

As always, our top priority is the safety and well-being of the children and families we serve as well as our staff. We have already taken several precautionary steps to prepare for any potential impact due to COVID-19.

- **Ascension Leadership Academy** has transitioned their online classes to online classes at home as of Monday, March 16. in coordination with parents and houseparents (Presbyterian Home resident caregivers), and students are successfully continuing their studies. Classes are continuing with daily support from administrators and teachers through telephone and messaging contact. Student progress of assignment completion is monitored daily and, as needed, contact is made with the student or parent.
- Staff and residents have been trained on best practices for hygiene and safe contact.
- **Residential programs** have always had restricted access to anyone not living on campus. Residents are restricted to campus except for essential travel and are being encouraged to practice social distancing in other interactions.
- No new residents are being accepted in the Secure Dwellings or Transition to Adult Living programs without the healthy completion of a 14-day isolation period.
- Social workers and Therapists are substituting Skype, Zoom, and other technologies, to maintain face-to-face contact as much as possible and, when not possible, using telephone conversations. The Home is a provider of mental health and rehabilitative services and is permitted to provide services in this way if needed.
- Most Transition to Adult Living (TAL) clients are students enrolled at Talladega College. With the college closing for the remainder of the semester, many TAL residents are moving to alternative living arrangements in other communities, thus lowering the population density in this program.
- The **Thrift Store** is closed and pick-ups are not available. Donated items may be left by the building in Talladega, but other drop-off locations are unavailable. We ask that you hold donations until a later date.
- **Volunteer work days** have been designated for the summer, but they are not currently being scheduled until more is known about the length of time the campus will remain restricted. Any group wishing to plan ahead may contact Jeremy Hardy at [jhardy@phfc.org](mailto:jhardy@phfc.org).

The Home and School have no specific needs for supplies at this time, but will rely on the continued financial support of donors so that we are able to provide the services the families need, especially at this difficult time.

For additional information, call 256-362-2114.

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