



# Newsletter

UPDATE FROM  
THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.



SUMMER 2021



Although we're starting to take a turn in this pandemic, we're not out of the woods yet! Thank you to our staff for all you're doing for Phoenix each and every day! We see the hardships you face – and we can't thank you enough for everything you do! It would be easy to call in and not make an effort to come to work, but that is not the case for the two outstanding DSP staff who are our Spotlight Superheroes in this edition of *Close the Gap*. Two absolutely amazing staff who are excellent role models when it comes to showing up! Thank you for supporting our staff during these difficult times!

*Jackie Larson, Public Relations & Development Coordinator*

## Committed DSPs Show Up When the Going Gets Tough!

### *In the Way of Danger*

Take Ruth Okai, for example. Ruth got called in to work the overnight shift at Janet Court last April. On her way in in the pouring rain, she ran into road construction and needed to reroute her GPS. She pulled into an empty parking lot to do so—little did she know, that was where Daunte Wright had been fatally shot by police the night before. That night, the city had a curfew.

When the police pulled her over, she couldn't hear them over the loudspeaker because of the heavy rain. "I was shaking and crying...I didn't know what to do," said Ruth. She was so scared, she stayed in her car for nearly 5 minutes. The incident escalated so quickly that the police had their guns drawn when they approached her car. "I don't even know how to describe the fear I was in...I was so traumatized."

Despite the tragedy, Ruth's commitment to Phoenix helped her persevere afterwards. She would like to thank Phoenix for the compassion and care they showed her following the incident. "I have never felt such warmth before from a company," said Ruth. "I'm happy to work for a company with such caring leaders."



### *Displaced from Home*

Or take Amina Siddique's story, for example. This last spring, she had to stay in a hotel for four days because she couldn't get to her home in Brooklyn Center. This too was a result of all the social justice protests happening in the city. "I had to stay in the hotel so I could continue to work," said Amina. "This pandemic has been hard. I've had to work 13 – 14 hour shifts before...it's hard to make time for your family."

To read more about Ruth & Amina's stories, please visit [www.phoenixresidence.org/news.html](http://www.phoenixresidence.org/news.html)

# Workforce Shortage Continues

## Close the Gap Update

Together, we have raised **\$481,722** for our Direct Support Professionals!

Not only that, but we need to thank all our staff for everything they are doing. We have had our administration team working shifts on the floor, our nursing team working tirelessly to train in new staff on medication procedures, and our Assistant Program Directors for filling in when we don't have a manager. Thank you to each and every one of you for helping us fight this pandemic! We will get through this together!



## Close the Gap Hits 2-Year Milestone

Who knew when we launched our *Close the Gap* campaign, the impact it would have our staff today? Here we are two years into a global pandemic and a racial justice movement, and the staff need our help more than ever before! **So we are going to make this a 5-year campaign.** The workforce shortage is not going away anytime soon—and we need to do everything we can to help our staff!

Can you sign on as a sustaining donor to help carry us into the future? Help us raise \$15,000 a year with a monthly or annual gift? For about the cost of a daily cup of coffee, your modest gift can help The Phoenix Residence invest in our DSPs by providing them a competitive wage and benefits.



*A gift of \$13 is equal to one (1) hour of Direct Support Professional services*

*A gift of \$26 is equal to two (2) hours of Direct Support Professional services*

*A gift of \$39 is equal to three (3) hours of Direct Support Professional services*

*A gift of \$104 is equal to eight (8) hours of Direct Support Professional services*

Or, choose the amount that feels right for you. Thank you for your support during this difficult time!

## Phoenix Launches Matching Donation Program

Great news! We launched our Matching Donation Program! We have a family member who will graciously match up to \$30,000 in donations to support our *Close the Gap* campaign! Thank you very much to this generous family member for your matching gift!

Help us reach this goal by **Texting MATCHING to 26989** or visiting [www.phoenixresidence.org](http://www.phoenixresidence.org) to make your gift today! Be sure to choose Matching Donation Program in the drop-down fund category. *Thank you for your generosity!*

**DONATE TODAY TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!**

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