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Rogerson's Virtual Welcome Home Gala Celebrated our Frontline Heroes and 160 Years of Rogerson Serving Seniors

ogerson's Virtual Welcome Home Gala was live-streamed on YouTube and emceed by Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, cohosts of GBH's Boston Public Radio. The 21st year of Welcome Home, and the first time ever as a virtual event, included a conversation with award honorees Governor Michael Dukakis and Kitty Dukakis, as well as a celebration of Team Rogerson for meeting the challenges of the pandemic and drawing on 160 years of experience in keeping elders safe. The YouTube link remains available to watch at http:// tinyurl.com/rogerson2020 (or search "Rogerson Boston" on YouTube).

Rogerson's mission for 160 years has been to provide seniors with supportive affordable housing and caring, compassionate assisted living and memory care. 2020 proved a year when Rogerson's expertise and excellence were needed more than ever. The facts are troubling, COVID -19 disproportionately affected lowincome communities and older adults. This pandemic intensified our country's challenges - demonstrating racial disparities in health outcomes, housing inequality, and the vulnerability of our elders.

We have a model that worked to keep our residents safe during the pandemic. We were able to respond quickly to



Hundreds of Rogerson's supporters have watched the Virtual Welcome Home Gala which live-streamed on YouTube September 30th . The 45-minute program can be watched on any computer or smart device visit: http://tinyurl.com/rogerson2020

protect our residents, many with underlying health issues. Affordable housing has the power to create positive change.

Many dignitaries and leaders sent video greetings. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, ABC's lead anchor and political analyst, George Stephanopoulos, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Secretary of State John Kerry congratulated our honorees and praised Rogerson's commitment to seniors.

We are grateful to all who joined us at the Welcome Home Gala on September 30 and invite you to watch, share, or revisit this important tribute to Rogerson's critical work.





Salute To Rogerson's Frontline Staff!

his certainly has been a year like no other. The coronavirus pandemic sweeping across the nation and the world making Boston one of the early hotspots; the fatal COVID-19 most threatening to the elderly and frail and deeply affecting lower income and minority communities. Rogerson rose to the challenge, providing safety for its residents, comfort for families whose loved ones depend on us. The threat of COVID-19 is still present. Rogerson's strong leadership, a dedicated, informed staff, and the ability to act quickly led to our success at the outset. Still there remains hard work ahead to keep everyone safe. Rogerson will continue our 160-year mission to deliver affordable, independent housing where elders can live with dignity.

Rogerson's frontline staff responded quickly and cared for our vulnerable seniors throughout the height of this pandemic. We are incredibly appreciative for the commitment of staff and for all they do. Their courage, compassion, and dedication to our residents' physical and emotional needs is an example of what it means to be on the Rogerson Team.



Residents, participants, family members, and staff have joined the ranks of local leaders in praising Rogerson's frontline workers for their incredible response to the pandemic.

Rogerson's Virtual Welcome Home Gala celebrated the lifesaving work of frontline staff. Many dignitaries sent messages and spoke to their gratitude for Rogerson's team. This message from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley was among several videos from leaders thanking Rogerson's team for their tremendous work.

"For 160 years Rogerson has been at the leading edge at the fight for housing as a human right - working to assure our elders and low-income families in and around Boston have the housing and services they deserve. In the face of the COVID-19 crisis Rogerson's properties for older adults, like so many of us, faced impressive new challenges. They found themselves at the early epicenter of the pandemic which has disproportionately impacted seniors and communities of color. The care, compassion and experience of the frontline workers who comprise Rogerson's staff, and risk their own well-being for that of the residents, have helped keep seniors safe and healthy. Let us take a moment to celebrate these workers who are and have always been essential. I'm so grateful for the work they all do every day for some of our most vulnerable neighbors in Massachusetts."



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley was among the many public officials and leaders who have praised Rogerson's response to COVID-19 and thanked the frontline workers for their commitment to keeping seniors safe.

Adult Day Health Programs Keeping Seniors Safe

dult day health programs temporarily closed during the lockdown, however, Rogerson staff reorganized and provided Telehealth services to keep at-risk seniors and disabled adults connected to nurses and staff who provided vital supportive services. Then with equal commitment and precautionary preparation the programs reopened in August. Participants were happy and grateful to return, though many had lost progress in their health, including diminished weight, strength, and the onset of grief as family and loved ones were lost to the virus.

Rogerson has strategically remodeled the day programs' interior. The entire program layout has been re-imagined to provide maximum social distancing. Furniture has been repositioned to create small pods of table seating with ample distance between pods. Our multi-person tables now have Plexiglass barriers for safe socialization. While the day programs were physically closed, Rogerson was able to install new flooring, thanks to a generous foundation grant. The day centers were also re-painted, giving them a bright, refreshed look.

For the increased safety of our participants, we are currently operating the program at reduced capacity, in line with state protocols. All program staff have been trained in COVID-19/ Infection control and utilize appropriate PPE at all times. We gratefully acknowledge Rafi Nova for donating cloth masks for our participants. Our Activity Coordinators have implemented alternative and modified activity programming to ensure participant safety. Our participants have begun to flourish again surrounded by caring staff providing supportive



health services in a community setting. Special thanks to all Rogerson's adult day health program supporters including:





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We are grateful to these funders for their special support during the COVID-19 crisis:

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