

September 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying the beautiful September weather we are having and that this letter finds you well and safe. As usual, the pace of life picks up at this time of the year and ESS is looking forward to some exciting new ventures.

Top of mind is the opening of our new Centre at 30 Rosemount Avenue at Weston and Lawrence. This week the final construction activities will be completed and work will commence on installing the kitchen and new appliances. Thanks to everyone who donated so generously under the GIVE65 campaign, which has supported the purchase of these vital furnishings.

In advance of opening the site to clients, we are planning to offer tours to anyone who might want to see the facility first-hand. These would be scheduled very carefully, limited to one or two visitors at a time, to ensure physical distancing and infection prevention.

For those who many not feel comfortable visiting the site in-person, we will be working with the real estate agent who helped us find this location, to prepare a virtual tour that we will post on our web site. This will not only allow community members to safely see the site but also will be available for potential clients interested in booking our Rosemount facility.

We plan to reopen our Adult Day Services (ADS) program, first at our Alderwood site (525 Horner Ave.) in late September, three half-days a week. There will be a limit of five clients per session, with one-to-one staffing ratios to ensure physical distancing. Provided all goes well, the length of the program days and the number of days when the program is offered will slowly increase. The same approach will be taken at Rosemount, once the site is open in mid-October.

What this means is that the number of people who will be able to attend group ADS programming will be limited. We have heard from many caregivers the need for relief is great. For this reason, we will continue to expand our virtual programs and begin to offer in-home visits by scheduled appointments with an ADS Coordinator. These visits will be focused on providing activation and therapeutic recreation for clients who are unable to attend in-person, onsite support.

If you know seniors who are caring for their adult children with disabilities, please encourage them to reach out to us as soon as possible as we are launching a new program to support seniors in this situation in the fall.

I also wanted to bring to your attention another program that we are engaged in involving Grief Counselling. Together with Dorothy Ley Hospice, the goal is to reach out to volunteers and other members of the community with the invitation to become involved in this program. We will share more information on how to become involved in the near future.

As we head into autumn, hopefully yours will be bright and sunny. We continue to send our best wishes and as always, if you or anyone you know, might need our help, please call (416) 243-0127, access us through our web site at www.esssupportservices.ca or by e-mail at agency@esssupportservices.ca.

Regards,



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