

COVID-19 Update

From Founder & Chairman/CEO Connor J. Archer

Sunday July 5th, 2020

Greetings Courageous Steps Community!

2020 has presented many challenges for all of us, in many different ways. We are all on a journey that is unique unlike any other in our lifetime.

While we've had to make adjustments to our events/programs, we've have been doing everything in our power to rethink our programs and events to ensure that our organization continues to serve those in our communities in the Eastern Maine region.

Virtual Events/Programs Update

On Sunday June 20th & Saturday June 21st, we held our **7th Annual Dylan McInnis Walk-Run**. We had great support despite the fact that we were not in person.

For the entire month of July, we encourage you to run a 5K or 10K through our **All In Together 5K/10K Challenge**. Medals will be given to all finishers and participants, but you **MUST** register online. Registration is open now and all are encouraged to register and learn more: <https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Stillwater/2020VirtualAllInTogether5KChallenge>

On August 1st, our **Step Forward 5K Challenge** will take place virtually. We encourage you to get out with a friend and run a 5K together for a great cause. Runners will receive finisher medals, and top times will be posted on our social media page. You can register for this event with the following link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Stillwater/StepForward5KChallengeMileFunRun>

Our **7th Annual Back-To-School Drive** will feature some different aspects unlike ever before. Because of generous funding by two great foundations, we are able to make this program possible without putting a huge burden on our supporters. Here are some changes that we've made:

- We will be suspending our supply collection bins.
- Monetary collection bins are still being discussed with a decision coming soon.
- Our physical event will also NOT take place this year.
- Schools will have to fill out an application online to be eligible to receive supplies (schools who have applied and received supplies before will have top priority).
- Supplies will be purchased in bulk and will be sorted in accordance with CDC and State Guidelines.
- Supplies will be delivered to schools in accordance with CDC and State Guidelines as well.

In-Person Events/Programs

We are beginning the process of evaluating how we can hold in-person events/programs. We are anxious to get back to hosting events in a safe manner as we head into the coming months. With that said, we are pleased to announce some in-person events/programs starting after August 1st.

On Saturday August 8th, we will be hosting "Summer Sangria", at the Morgan Hill Event Center in Hermon. This event will be capped at **50 people**, with tables/seats made available to all guests separated six feet apart. CDC guidelines will also be implemented all throughout the venue such as frequent cleaning and sanitizing. Plexiglass barriers will be installed throughout the facility as well. Registration has been released, and we hope that you consider registering for a fun time! Adjustments will be made as the guidelines continue to change!

There will be a Bambino Buddy Ball session later this summer/early fall, in some capacity. Whether it will be entirely in person or more individualized is still being evaluated. We are waiting for some more guidance on use of outdoor spaces before releasing official dates.

On Friday October 23rd, we are planning to host our rescheduled 2020 Masquerade for Awareness, also at the Morgan Hill Event Center in Hermon. This is taking place the Costumes & Cocktails event that we'd normally be having. This event will be also monitored and adjusted as the months go by. More details to come later this summer.

On Sunday December 6th, we will be hosting "Cookies and Cocoa", at the Morgan Hill Event Center in Hermon. We will continue to also update you on this event, and will release registration as we get closer to the event in an effort to monitor the COVID-19 situation.

While COVID-19 has drastically changed our daily lives for the foreseeable future, we are committed to ensuring that we can continue to fulfill our mission and vision in the safest ways possible based on what we know from a state and national level. It is no secret that this will have a profound impact on our organization for the next few years, but we are remaining flexible and open-minded in an effort to create better processes and models that will allow us to do more in the future! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: connor@thecourageousstepsproject.org.

With Appreciation,

Connor J. Archer
Founder & Chairman/CEO