



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

April 20, 2021 • 2:00 p.m.

The COVID Briefing has now transitioned to a weekly **COMMUNITY CONNECTION** and will continue to provide information of interest to the Fowler Family. We hope you will prioritize Tuesday at 2pm and tune in to Channel 6 as a time of connection, community, and communication.

- **Good afternoon Fowler Family!**
- **COVID UPDATE:**
 - Vaccinations continue to be the highest priority
 - Because of the current low turnout for vaccinations, experts fear that a resurgence will happen in the fall
 - The strategy behind managing COVID was to get 60% of the population vaccinated before the summer months
 - Why the summer months: During the summer it is believed that the infections will be reduced and therefore it will give us a false sense that the pandemic is over. This is not the case – the virus will still be circulating
 - If we do not reach 60% by summer, it is believed that the virus will come back with a vengeance putting us at risk for another shutdown
 - Meanwhile in Dallas County, COVID is still making a life and death impact – the 7-day average has been 202 new cases per day and in the last 7 days, 97 Dallas citizens have lost their lives
 - **Today's COVID MYTHBUSTER:**
 - **MYTH:** We can achieve herd immunity by letting the virus spread through the population
 - **THE FACTS FROM THE MAO CLINIC:** Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune. There are some significant problems with relying on community infection to create herd immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19. First, it isn't yet clear if infection with the COVID-19 virus makes a person immune to future infection. If it does not create immunity, herd immunity will not work.
 - Even if COVID-19 infection creates long-lasting immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, a large number of people would have to become infected to reach the herd immunity threshold. Experts estimate that 70% of the population in the U.S. — more than 200 million people — would have to recover from COVID-19 to halt the epidemic. This amount of infection

also could lead to serious, and potentially long-term, complications and millions of deaths. If many people become sick with COVID-19 at once, the health care system could quickly become overwhelmed. Basic healthcare would be impacted, and our economy could worsen.

- Experts state our chance for slowing the spread of COVID-19 lies in vaccines
- It is imperative that everyone get the vaccine – your decision to not vaccinate impacts other lives, not just your own

- **FOWLER UPDATES:**

- This Thursday, we will welcome 3 new pianos to our community!
 - The pianos were donated to us by Central Christian Church; we have 3 areas that have been identified as the recipients
- We have said all along that living with COVID means we need to be flexible; The rules provided to us by the state of Texas Health and Human Services continue to be amended
 - **We have been notified that independent living residents and residents within our licensed areas cannot do activities together – this is a change from what we said last week**
 - This means that we cannot have people from both areas in the chapel for worship at the same time
 - We are not going to prevent anyone from attending worship services.
 - We will have to rotate who is in the chapel – please know that when you arrive for services on Sunday morning, you will be directed to specific seating.
 - We do have a few residents who volunteer as musicians for other services throughout the week; those volunteers may continue their volunteer service with the addition of a new volunteer training

- **This month is Child Abuse Prevention Month**

- Today we are going to share the story of Amy, a resident at The Ebby House
- Last summer, The Ebby House received a call from a social worker at The Bridge, a homeless shelter in Dallas. The social worker said that she had a very young woman who had been at The Bridge for a couple days who she felt would not be safe much longer at the shelter. With severe trauma issues as well as some developmental delays of unknown depth, the young lady was extremely vulnerable to harm and exploitation from other adults at the shelter.
- They were looking for a place that could decipher her needs and help with appropriate resources while keeping her physically and mentally safe. It was anticipated that Amy's stay at The Ebby House would be temporary until suitable housing could be secured.
- Amy arrived at The Ebby House that same day with a backpack containing one outfit of dirty clothing. She had not showered or slept in two nights. After eating a meal, Amy gave the site manager her clothing to be washed as she showered. In return, she was handed new pajamas and another change of clothes. She climbed into her bed, freshly made, and slept, literally, for 24 hours. She arose the next day to warm food and a peaceful surrounding.

- Soon Amy's story began to unfold. Her mother had decided it was time for her to be in "the real world" and told her to leave. Amy left walking and ended up in downtown Dallas where a Dallas police officer picked her up and brought her to The Bridge.
- Although she was in an acute crisis and had been traumatized throughout her life by her mother's abuse and neglect, it was also learned that medical issues in early childhood had created physical, mental, cognitive and emotional delays. It was also learned that she had been attending Poteet High School in Mesquite.
- With a quick call to the social worker at Poteet High School, it was discovered that they had been very concerned about Amy and they were thrilled to know she was safe. The social workers, counselors and teachers at Poteet High School were eager to fill in the blanks of Amy's story and aided where they could.
- That partnership has been instrumental in Amy's progress at The Ebby House. What started as a temporary stay has solidified into a long-term, supportive opportunity for healing. Amy is capable of being more independent and has fewer cognitive challenges than first suspected.
- At The Ebby House, Amy gets herself up each morning, does chores, prepares her own breakfast, gets ready for school, and meets the school's transportation. She attends classes and returns each day afterward.
- She has blossomed and what a gift that has been. The social workers at school and the staff of The Ebby House collaborate to make sure she has what she needs while encouraging her healing and independence. She is truly in transition. Amy is set to graduate in May 2021!
- Throughout the holiday season, Amy shared stories of her mother's family and traditions brought from Mexico. She is a wonderful storyteller and we enjoyed hearing the meaning behind each story. Although she is missing family, Amy is surrounded by many who love her.
- She continues to surprise us with her resiliency. She has slipped into the role of "little sister" at The Ebby House and is fondly watched over by the other young women, who themselves are healing from past wounds.
- This is just one of many lives we are touching at The Ebby House.
 - The Ebby House has served more than 50 young women, all with similar stories of abuse and neglect.
 - **The program relies 100% on donations to the One Heart Fund.**
- **RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS!**
 - 4/23- Mattie (FCA)
 - 4/23- Alexis (FCA)
 - 4/25- Kay (FCA)
 - 4/25- Suzanne (FCA)
 - 4/27- Deborah (FCA)
- **RESIDENT MOVE-IN ANNIVERSARIES:**
 - 7 Years- Edward (FCA)
 - 6 Years- Sheila (FCA)
- **GREAT PLACE TO WORK - ERIN**

- We are currently at 79% participation on our Great Place to Work survey. Thank you to the team members who have completed the survey so far!
- Teammates, if you haven't completed your survey yet please do so. This is your opportunity to anonymously tell us what we do great and what we can do better! You make a difference completing your survey.
- **TEAMMATE TUESDAY!**
 - April 22 is Ramoneika Russell's birthday. Happy birthday to you, Ramoneika!
 - Happy 2 year anniversary to Dwight Ausbrooks! Dwights anniversary is on the April 22.
 - April 22 is also Derek Browns 2 year anniversary! Happy anniversary Derek!
 - Yesterday Yensi Dozier joined the team. Welcome Yensi. Sher will be serving as Dining Service Aide. Yensi previously served as Dining Service Aide at Minneola Healthcare in Kansas. We are so happy you are here Yensi.
 - Welcome to Jay Thomas our newest Facilities Technician who joined our team yesterday! Jay previously served at Village at Lakewest as Maintenance Supervisor. Prior to that he served in Maintenance at 3700 McKinney and at Acon Cooperations. We are so pleased you joined us, Jay!
 - FCA Service Coordinator, Lubia Gwak, who joined the team last year and has served the residents at FCA with a loving heart will be leaving Fowler. An opportunity for her husband presented itself and they cannot pass on it, which is causing them to relocate out of state. Marylou, Lubia's daughter, has been serving as a Universal Teammate since last summer and Saturdays during the school year will be graduating from high school and moving with her family. Marylou has made a great impact by serving the FCA AL residents with life enrichment fun since last summer. We are sad to see them go, but excited for their opportunity as they uproot from Texas and move to Nevada. We are grateful for all the contributions Lubia and Marylou gave to Fowler and we will definitely miss this sweet family. Lubia and Marylou's last day will be April 29th.
 - I'm excited to announce that Sanurette Shelley has accepted the position of FCA Service Coordinator!
 - Sanurette has been part of the Fowler Family for 15 years, getting her start in the former Children's, Youth, and Family Services (CYFS) program, which closed in 2010 and that's when she joined the FCA team.
 - San has served as the FCA Administrative Assistant for close to 12 years and is a valued teammate, always jumping in and serving in whatever capacity she is needed. I have seen San helping clean up after a pipe broke and flooded the building, to serving residents dinner when someone didn't make it into work from dining services, to running the COVID Screening Table schedule to ensure we had full coverage, to qualifying residents for Friends Helping Friends and running the program.
 - While at FCA, San has completed her undergraduate degree and is about to complete her master's degree! With her "Can Do" mindset, she has taken on numerous projects at Fowler and FCA, giving her the ability to grow and demonstrate the skills that will make her successful in her new position.

- San has a fierce love of people and has touched so many lives in her tenure at Fowler. San is beloved and trusted by her teammates, the residents, and family members and will continue to shine as Service Coordinator. We are so excited for San as she takes on a new role at Fowler! Congratulations on this promotion, Sanurette!
- We are so excited to announce that after this pay period we will no longer be issuing live payroll checks. If you currently are receiving a live check and would like your payroll to be deposited into your checking account, please fill out a direct deposit form and return it to HR by next Wednesday, April 28th.
 - For anyone who does not have a designated checking account on file with HR on April 29th, we will issue you a Skylight One visa card before the payroll ending on May 8, which your payroll will be deposited. Teammates who receive the cards will be able to use them at ATM's in many locations as well as use their cards to make purchases just like a bankcard!
 - We feel transitioning to Netspend is a positive! No more waiting in lines to cash your paychecks, no more fees to cash them either and best yet, no waiting until after 2pm to receive your paycheck. Having this card will absolutely make a difference for you.
- **Make it a great day on purpose!**

All COVID Updates are posted on our website – www.fowlercommunities.org/covid19/

COVID Hotline: Phone: 214-515-7184 • Spanish Speaking Line: 214-515-1385

Email: Covid19info@fowlercommunities.org

COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week toll-free at 833-986-1919