



September 2, 2020

Susan Hoskins
Executive Director
Friends Foundation for the Aging
P.O. Box 1081
Langhorne, PA 19047

Dear Ms. Hoskins,

The Hickman is very grateful for the two gifts we received this year from the Friends Foundation for the Aging, \$5,000 for COVID-19 relief and \$1,000 in support of a virtual reality system through the Innovation Fund. The funds have had a great impact on our ability to keep our residents safe and secure during this unprecedented time.

When the pandemic began in March of this year, The Hickman immediately put costly measures in place to safeguard our community. As the virus progressed, we have continued to implement new protocols and policies based on information from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Chester County Emergency Offices. Thanks to the funding from the Friends Foundation for the Aging we were able to purchase crucial personal protective equipment and sanitation and disinfectant products to keep our residents and staff members healthy. To date, we have not had any of our residents test positive for COVID-19.

As we have focused on keeping our residents physically healthy, we have also worked hard to keep our residents mentally sound and their spirits high. Our vulnerable resident population, average age is 87-years, has been quarantined and unable to leave our community or welcome visitors. We have revised our community-wide programming to one-on-one and socially distanced small group activities.

Our staff members have been assessing new programs that would better support our residents during the pandemic, including the implementation of a virtual reality system. Incorporating this type of programming would allow our residents to safely "leave" our community and have the experience of visiting places from their pasts or exploring new territories. Currently, we are reviewing a system that we believe will meet the needs and wants of our seniors. The \$1,000 from the Friends Foundation for the Aging will supplement our funding to purchase a state-of-the-art system and training. We plan to purchase this system in the next couple of weeks and will provide you another update once our residents are using the program.

Again, thank you for your continued support of The Hickman.

Sincerely,

Charles "Ebbie" Alfree III
Director of Advancement