While the severity and impact of COVID-19 on most individuals is still emerging, it is undeniably clear that the virus is a serious threat to most individuals with complex disabilities. Even though the organization has taken unique actions for this unique challenge, the staff at St. Joseph Home have proven to be well equipped to handle difficult times.

“The foundation that the Sisters built for us has been easy to see on a daily basis as our staff tackles every new hurdle,” said Dan Connors, president and CEO. “The team has been flexing the same muscles they normally use to care for the people we serve. Creativity, flexibility, commitment and love are all words I would use to describe how we’re responding.”

Amidst the ever-evolving news regarding COVID-19 and the impact on daily life, the staff at St. Joseph Home remain a ready, responsive and steady team. With each new development, they quickly jump into action – adapting to ensure the best care keeps happening.

When the news came from the Ohio Department of Health to restrict all visitors, including family, the SJH staff went to work – within hours – ensuring alternative communication tools were in place to keep families connected.

“With all the fear that’s out there, our people are still coming into work,” said Theresa Brockert, VP of ICF Services. “They know that they’re essential and realize, now more than ever, that our residents need them.”

Through all of the swift changes, updating protocols, and the need to be flexible – there’s still an air of calm reassurance at St. Joseph Home.

“We’re all in this together,” Theresa continued. “And it’s reassuring to me to move into each new phase of this knowing I have the strong team that I do.”

We are so grateful for our community and for the precedent of leadership set for us by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Please keep us in your prayers and we’ll be sure to do the same as we weather this storm together.
As the organization continues to strive to provide compassion and quality of life to those it serves, Bayley staff members have come up with creative activities to bring joy to residents during this difficult time of visitor restrictions and social distancing. Residents are able to enjoy the beauty of spring in bloom on the enclosed patios. Activities include hallway Bingo, virtual visits (video chats scheduled with loved ones on tablets in each unit), activity packets delivered daily to each resident, sing-alongs and chair exercises led by staff on their in-house TV station and more!

DePaul Cristo Rey High School after senior Paul Aulis of Price Hill (third from right) was named High School Student of the Year by the English Language Learning Foundation (ELLF). Also pictured are five additional DPCR seniors who received ELLF scholarships for college and DPCR graduate Sandra Ramirez Puac ‘18 (far right), a Mount St. Joseph University student, who was recognized as the Tutor of the Year. All were honored at the February ELLF Breakfast at Northern Kentucky University.

Mount St. Joseph University where, as is the case with all educational facilities in the state, MSJU is closed until further notice and distance learning has taken over. One of the highlights, however, is that head wrestling coach Charles Mason, was named NWCA Regional Coach of the Year. The MSJU Board of Directors has implemented a program called SEE, for Strategy, Engagement, and Education. Board members implemented their first meeting under this acronym, having lunch with students to learn more about their dreams and experiences. They then moved to assigned tables where the deans of the university rotated to each table, summarized the achievements of their individual schools, and expressed the greatest needs in their schools. All board members have said they learned from the experience and will join in the efforts to advance the university from the suggestions made. Finally, MSJU is working to address the increased need for food for its pantry as many students are out of work.

Seton High School where students participated in a school-wide day of service. Several groups did projects at Seton while a handful went out into the community, but all together the student body supported 28 different nonprofits throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. The morning began with students eating breakfast together with their mentor groups and sharing goals for the day, then they listened to guest speaker Nick Jackson share his faith and stories about the importance of being of service to others. Following this, the groups dispersed to their service locations, doing activities such as packing boxes of toiletries, organizing and packing donated books, making cards, making blankets and so much more.