

Tomorrow is the first day of fall. This year it's not a normal fall—with a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, devastating wildfires, threatening hurricanes, civic unrest and ongoing systemic racism. It's a fall that tests our sense of hope. But as a community of faith-based providers, we come together with a shared mission and values that define what's most important to us.

At Lutheran Services in America, we come together to:

- ***Advocate*** and demonstrate strength in numbers and power in the collective voice of a faith-based network that cares for one in 50 Americans, especially now when Congress should not leave town before passing additional [emergency relief](#) for nonprofit organizations
- ***Gain actionable insights and practical tools*** through CEO Summit Series: 2020-2021 which starts on September 24 with a two-part seminar on [Navigating Chaos: Leading Effectively Through Crises](#). It's not too late to [join us](#)
- ***Learn valuable lessons from each other***, joining colleagues from Lutheran Social Services of New York, NYU Langone Family Health Centers, and Lutheran Child and Family Services who will share their candid challenges and successes in addressing racism on [October 20](#)
- ***Share innovations*** with David Gehm of Wellspring Lutheran Services and Kevin McFeely of Tacoma Lutheran on [October 29](#) who will demonstrate ways they are using innovative technology to keep residents, families, and staff connected and engaged through the pandemic. Please invite your team to attend
- ***Celebrate Front Line Heroes*** in your organization who are doing extraordinary work and lift up the stories so that everyone recognizes the essential work that you do, the lives you save, and the people you lift up because you are mission-driven.

Most important, we come together to share hope in the future. Author Annie Lamott wrote that “Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.”

In gratitude for all that you do,



Charlotte Haberaecker  
President and CEO