

**Disruption is in our DNA**

October 31, 2020 marks the 503<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. While many know about the Reformation, fewer realize the fundamental transformation that took place in healthcare and social services at that time—or how it relates to the work we do today.

Early Lutheran reformers didn't want people begging in the streets as they had for generations. Instead they brought an entirely new way of seeing the world that broke with the status quo of the day; one that recognized that when individuals achieve their full potential, both they and their communities thrive. They pooled resources across the community, taking a holistic approach to provide not only food and shelter but healthcare and job training so that people could thrive and become active contributing members of their community. New service and funding models were created, new partnerships formed, and people advocated for the government to play a role in helping people and communities to thrive.

In short, a fundamental rethinking and change in the delivery of healthcare and social services took place that evolved over time and perseveres today in Lutheran social ministry.

Today we're at an inflection point with a once-in-a-life time pandemic, deepening economic crisis, and calls for racial justice. We know we're not going back to the ways things were in January 2020, yet the way forward in the midst of upheaval and disruption is uncertain.

While we don't know what the future will bring, as Abraham Lincoln once said "The greatest way to predict your future is to create it." As a faith-based network that works with one in 50 Americans each year, we have the opportunity to create a better future--one built on our deeply-held shared values—where all people can reach their full potential. One where all children can grow up to be healthy productive adults, where seniors and people with disabilities can live with purpose and meaning, and where systemic racism ends so that everyone truly has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

This is *our* opportunity to chart a new path forward, one that leads us to the future that we want. For 500 years, we've risen to the challenge. Once again the world is ripe for disruption and we are rising to the challenge.

"Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Martin Luther)

In gratitude for all that you do,



Charlotte Haberaecker



President and CEO

**CEO Update**

October 26, 2020