



April 10, 2020

Ms. Pamela Grow

Dear Ms. Grow,

I'm writing to let you know that amidst the public health crisis caused by COVID-19, Caritas of Austin is still providing services, still providing food and we are still moving people into permanent housing. Connecting people with safe and stable housing is the best way to provide safety and wellness.

**As you know, Central Texas communities including the City of Austin and the surrounding counties have issued "shelter in place" orders which have forced most of our employees to work from home and have altered how we serve our clients and the community.**

Working with our clients to build their well-being is critical during this time. Many have lost their jobs and can't pay rent. Our community will be stronger if they do not return to the trauma of homelessness.

**Right now Caritas of Austin and the people we serve need your support more than ever. That's why I am writing to you today, to ask you to make an emergency contribution of \$25, \$50, or even \$100 right away.**

Our employment team is working to establish new partnerships with companies that are hiring temporary employees to keep our clients employed. We've offset the impact of closing our Community Kitchen, which every day serves 250 people a healthy meal, by making and distributing sack lunches.

For many of our clients, we are providing extra assistance to buy food, pay rent or utilities, so they can maintain the safety and stability of their homes.

Your monthly support has given Caritas of Austin a strong foundation. Because of you, we were able to provide every one of our clients with a phone so they can stay in contact with their Caritas social work professional and we can continue to serve them.

But the need now is so great, and it is growing every day.

Every extra dollar you can give will keep your neighbors fed, housed, employed, and comforted through this public health crisis—and beyond as we navigate the long term economic impact of the virus.

When I start to feel overwhelmed, I am reassured by the story of our client Lisa, who had been homeless for more than three years and has struggled with mental health issues for as long as she can remember.

While waiting for a home, Lisa met with her Caritas of Austin case manager weekly to get the mental health care she needs, set life goals, and create a plan to achieve them. Just a few weeks ago, on March 13th, Lisa learned that she had been approved for housing and could move into her new home!

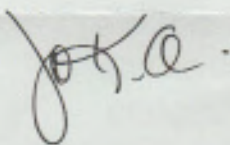
Five days later, we moved Lisa into her new apartment. She is happy to finally have a safe place to sleep and rest, especially now that life on the streets is riskier than ever.

Caritas is here to help people weather this storm but our ability to provide these important services is being stretched beyond our wildest expectations. I'm so proud of our staff, who continue to go above and beyond to keep our clients safe.

And I'm deeply grateful for donors like you who make it possible for us to be flexible and respond to needs in the fastest, most compassionate way possible.

We don't want to turn anyone away who truly needs us—please help us by making your additional generous contribution today. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Jo Kathryn Quinn  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**P.S. We can put your donation to work even faster when you give online.** With our gift-processing staff also working from home, your online gift will be immediately deposited and put to use. Please visit [www.CaritasOfAustin.org/donate/give/covid19](http://www.CaritasOfAustin.org/donate/give/covid19) to make your gift today. Thank you.



# Caritas of Austin

Ending Homelessness Together.

**WE BELIEVE** that when people have a stable place to call home, they can reach their full potential and contribute to the community.

**OUR VISION** is to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Austin and Central Texas.

Help keep your neighbors fed, housed, employed, and comforted through this public health crisis—and beyond.



[www.CaritasOfAustin.org/donate/give/covid19](http://www.CaritasOfAustin.org/donate/give/covid19)

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