

BASCA and COVID 19 Update



It is said that in times of trouble we should look to the helpers, BASCA is blessed that our "helpers" come in the form of our dedicated staff, incredible volunteers and generous supporters!

BASCA's Healthcare Heroes

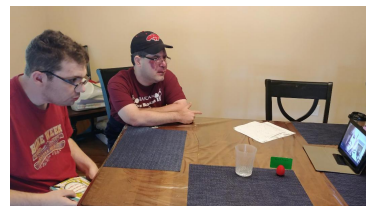
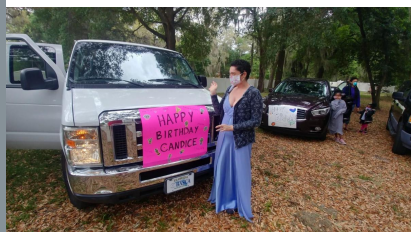
During this unprecedented time, we have all been asked to make some significant changes and the staff at BASCA is no exception. While most of our administrative team has shifted to working remotely, that is simply not an option for the hard working staff who care for the residents in our 5 group homes. Although some of the activities have changed, the needs of our individuals and BASCA's 24/7 care have not. Underlying health conditions of the individuals we serve put them at greater risk for exposure to COVID 19 and the type of hands-on care needs for many of our residents makes social distancing unrealistic.

More than 30 residents have been sheltering in place since mid-March. For their protection, a strict no-visitor policy, which includes family members, has been put into place. It is difficult for the individuals to understand why they can't leave their homes, why their parents aren't visiting, why people are wearing masks and why the garden and Day Programs are closed. BASCA's staff have come up with creative solutions for meeting the challenge of making sure our residents are safe while also keeping them engaged, working on skills, and most importantly, assuring them everything is going to be ok.

Video calls have been introduced so residents can stay connected to family and friends. Staff has brought the activities from the Day Program and virtual art, music and exercise classes into the homes. They have organized social distanced birthday celebrations, drive-in Easter services and plenty of outdoor time. The staff's main focus as they continue to care for and support the individuals will be the same as before – to provide a calm, family atmosphere.

Our Direct Service Providers have become essential healthcare workers. This is a shift we have fully supported yet feel they still deserve more. In our eyes and the eyes of our individuals they are our **Healthcare Heroes**, we could not possibly thank them enough!





Challenge Match MET!

YOU DID IT! Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal during the Challenge Match Grant. Together, with the gift of an anonymous donor, your donations enabled us to exceed our goal, raising over \$10,000. Working in true BASCA spirit, you met the Challenge and made it happen!

These funds will be used to offset financial losses occurring during this pandemic.

There are still opportunities to help! Any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference - make your gift today at www.bascainc.org.

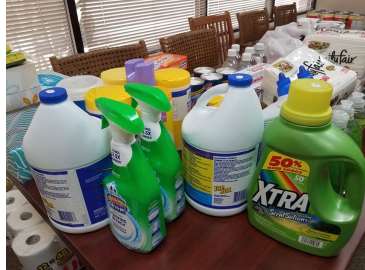


THANK YOU!

BASCA is fortunate to be surrounded by such strong support from our community!

- **Caroline Goldman, Pat Bray, Marj Holliday and Lucy Conrad** gave their time, talent and treasure to ensure the safety of our individuals and staff by making masks.
- **Dr. Peggy Lessig** graciously donated hard to find cleaning supplies and set up a collection site at her office so others could contribute.
- **The Leese family** made incredible Easter baskets filled with candy, outdoor games and special treats for each of the group homes.
- **Community partners** have responded to our calls and an **anonymous donor** made an unexpected gift that we were able to use as a matching grant.

To our families, staff, volunteers, and donors, we appreciate you and the impact you have made on the BASCA family. Thank you! We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers as well, and know that we will get through this, together.



YOU CAN BE A BASCA "HELPER"!

There are several ways you can be a BASCA helper! Pick up an extra bottle of bleach or cleaning wipes and drop them by the office, hold on to your donations for the BASCA Bargain Boutique until we reopen, buy grocery and restaurant gift cards for the group homes or make a gift via directly to BASCA, Below are some more ideas how you can make an impact in the quality of lives of individuals with differences who are sheltering in place at their respective group homes.

For more information please visit the [BASCA](#) website.

How You Can Help BASCA During Covid 19

- **Donate Lysol wipes; disinfectant spray; hand soap; hand sanitizer; cleaning products containing bleach, and medical/surgical masks so we can keep the homes clean and practice CDC guidelines**
- **Make cloth masks - we need about 100 for the 5 group homes and staff**
- **Donate NEW puzzles, games and word search books to the group homes to help with boredom during the quarantine**
- **Send a card, note or have your child draw a picture and we will send it to an individual with special needs to let them know that they are not alone**
- **MAKE A DONATION so we can continue caring for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences**

Donations can be dropped off at:

**BASCA
352 Stowe Ave, Orange Park 32073**

**The office is open for limited hours each day.
Please call before dropping off donations.**

Any questions please call (904) 541-1742

Visit our website

A Closing Thought

For more than 25 years, BASCA has been providing services and programs for individuals with differences in northeast Florida. We are meeting these current challenges head-on by daily, sometimes hourly, re-configuring strategies to

ensure continued, quality services for the individuals who rely on us for their 24/7 care. Together, we will weather this crisis and come back stronger than ever, continuing to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities who live, work, and play in our community.

While we get through these challenging times, stay well.

Beth Clark
BASCA CEO

