Volume 20, Number 9



# This month let's talk about.....The Power of Gratitude

I know this year hasn't been the kindest or the most peaceful. At times, we have known unprecedented anxiety and fear for ourselves, our family, the people we support. And yet, no matter how daunting, we have so much to be grateful for. We are living and breathing with our minds intact. We are able to be kind, to reach out, to offer all of who we each are. When we at AABR



were asked what we were grateful for, our gratitude flowed from us with ease. Pages and pages of all we are grateful for will follow here, painting a picture which was vivid, and heartfelt. With all that life has handed us this year, we were able to see so much of what we were grateful for. We noted our blessings, our families, friends, pets and abilities as just some of what filled our hearts. Despite our stressors, we are steadfast in our gratitude, our appreciation for our lives and for all those who color our world. Be well. - Mary Frank

# Qibby's Place (From the Desk of Executive Director, Libby Traynor)

This month the theme of our SPARK's letter is "The Power of Gratitude". Aptly so, in November we look to recognize and give Thanks for what we have which culminates in our Thanksgiving celebrations. As many families do, we have special traditions for Thanksgiving—the menu, the cooking, the table setting, the invitees. Every year my children cut multicolored leaf shaped notes and place them all over the house with a pen. Family members and friends write 'what they are thankful for'. These notes are collected anonymously and then throughout our meal the notes are read aloud. Many of the notes are heartfelt expressing gratitude for health, loving families and friends, safety and security, warm homes and full bellies.

But out of the mouths of babes .... my children always remind me to also be grateful for the small things as well as the big. Over the years as they grow their gratitude notes have encompassed things like, 'hot wheel cars', 'American girl dolls',

# Helpful Hints @ Stuff (By Eileen Keegan, Director of Human Resources)

Thanksgiving contains two of my favorite words-thanks and giving. While some people may focus on the turkey and the football games, to me it's the idea of gratitude that matters. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and take stock of the positive things in

your life; being grateful is plain good for you. Start today by writing one great thing that happened to you. Say a simple thank you or tell someone how much they mean to you. It's never too early to start practicing gratitude. Go around the table and say something that each person is thankful for. The answers will move you. Acknowledge a peer for their professional contributions with a genuine heartfelt thank you. So on this holiday of Thanks giving let us all be thankful for family, friends and co-workers, by thanking them for all they do for us and the Individuals.



### (Libby's Place continued)

'mom brushing the knots out of my hair', 'rides to school with the radio loud', 'pizza on Friday', 'movie theater popcorn' and, yes even... 'Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing'. It is a reminder that there is gratitude in even the small and everyday things around us and the small things we do for one another.

This year I have new people and things to be grateful for. If I were to write those notes for my new AABR family, I would be grateful for the hard work and dedication each of you has exhibited throughout this incredibly challenging year. I am grateful to AABR's board of directors for their trust and support, and I am grateful that each of you has welcomed me into the AABR family. During this month, we all have much to be grateful for. I ask that you take the time to tell your coworkers the big and small things you are grateful for. Be well, be grateful (even for Ranch dressing) and have a healthy holiday.

Below is an article By Lisa Firestone, PHD printed in Psychology Today called, "The Healing Power of Gratitude". It talks about the many ways being grateful benefits us, what gets in the way of feeing gratitude, how to feel more gratitude in your life. I hope you take a few minutes to read it.

Gratitude is perhaps the most important key to finding success and happiness in the modern day. Knowing what we appreciate in life means knowing who we are, what matters to us and what makes each day worthwhile. Paying attention to what we feel grateful for puts us in a positive frame of mind. It connects us to the world around us and to ourselves. Research demonstrates that focusing on what we are grateful for is a universally rewarding way to feel happier and more fulfilled. As an important mental health principle, the benefits of gratitude extend far beyond what we may imagine. Scientific studies have found that gratitude is associated with:

- Greater happiness
- *More optimism and positive emotions*
- New and lasting relationships
- Better health
- More progress toward personal goals
- Fewer aches and pains
- More alertness and determination
- Increased generosity and empathy
- Better sleep
- Improved <u>self-esteem</u>



How can we feel more grateful? It's easy to see how this inner critic can interfere with our feelings of gratitude. It takes us out of the present and keeps us entirely in our heads, distorting how we see the world. When in this state, we are often unavailable or mis-attuned to other people. While listening to this voice, we miss out on seeing the world around us through a more compassionate realistic lens. We fail to appreciate what is good in our lives and in ourselves and others. We lose sight of the fact that we have the right to value and pursue what gives our lives meaning. We can all become more aware of this destructive voice and not let it control our actions. I talk about this subject in more detail in my blog, "Silence Your Inner Critic."

### (Libby's Place continued)

How can we feel more grateful?

- 1. Challenge your critical inner voice. We can start to feel more gratitude by quieting the negative thoughts that turn us against ourselves and the people we love. The <u>critical inner voice</u> is a destructive thought process that hurts us in our daily lives by shaming us and warning us against others. This <u>inner critic</u> is like a dark cloud over our heads, sprinkling thoughts like, "Today is just going to be one of those days. It's all too <u>stressful</u>. Just keep your head down." Sometimes, the critical inner voice floods us with an allout downpour, "Nothing will go right! Everyone is just looking to you to fix everything. You can't handle this!" This voice can even sound soothing with thoughts like, "Just take care of yourself. No one else will." Or, "Don't bother making an effort. You have nothing to offer anyone."
- 2. Act grateful and be more accepting. This sounds obvious and simplistic, but it's a plain truth that, just as acting more loving connects us to our feelings of being in love, expressing more gratitude makes us feel more grateful. We can engage in acts that will help us connect to our feelings of gratitude, from small gestures like looking the barista in the eye every morning as she serves us coffee or thanking a co-worker for a helpful task he performs regularly. It can mean taking time to call a friend to express our gratitude or doing something thoughtful and unexpected for our partner to make his or her day easier and to show how much we appreciate him or her. In each of these acts, we should strive to be present and absorb all that occurs. We should try not to divert our eyes or slough off the warm responses we may receive.
- 3. Practice <u>mindfulness</u>. Psychologist Jack Kornfield recently said in an interview, "The cultivation of <u>mindfulness</u> ... really allows us to become present for our own body, for the person in front of us, for the life we've been given. Out of that grows, quite naturally, the spirit of gratitude."
- 4. Awaken your sense of wonder. When we follow the suggestions offered in this blog, we can become more in touch with ourselves. Our senses will be awakened, and we will have more responses to what we see, hear and feel. We will be better equipped to experience what psychologist <u>Kirk Schneider</u> describes as an essential component to a fulfilling life, awe.

As Jack Kornfield put it, "We have the privilege of the lavender color at sunset, the taste of a tangerine in our mouth, and the almost unbearable beauty of life around us, along with its troubles ... We can either be lost in a smaller state of consciousness—what in Buddhist psychology is called the 'body of fear,' which brings suffering to us and to others—or we can bring the quality of love and appreciation, which I would call gratitude, to life."





# Jamaica Estates's...... HOT PIX of the MONTH

Movie: Unhinged

Music/CD: Snoh Aaelegra

Book: Broken Crayons Still Color

(David Weaver)

Restaurant: Shaking Crab Fragrance: Bloom (Gucci)

Food: Lasagna

Stress Reliever: Rest and Relaxation

# **Cocktails by Kathy**

## Fresh Whiskey Sours

#### **INGREDIENTS**

3/4-1 cup Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey

1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (4 lemons)

1/2 cup freshly squeezed lime juice (4limes)

2/3/cup sugar syrup (see note)

Ice cubes

**Maraschino Cherries** 

#### DIRECTIONS

- 1. Combine the Whiskey, lemon juice, lime juice & syrup. Fill a cocktail shaker halfway with ice and pour in the drink mix 2/3 full. Shake for 15 seconds and pour into glasses. Add a Maraschino Cherry and serve ice cold.
- 2. Note: To make the sugar syrup, bring 1 cup of water & 1 cup of sugar to a boil, and simmer until the sugar is completely dissolved. Chill before using.



## SCALLOPS ONE - TWO - THREE

#### **INGREDIENTS**

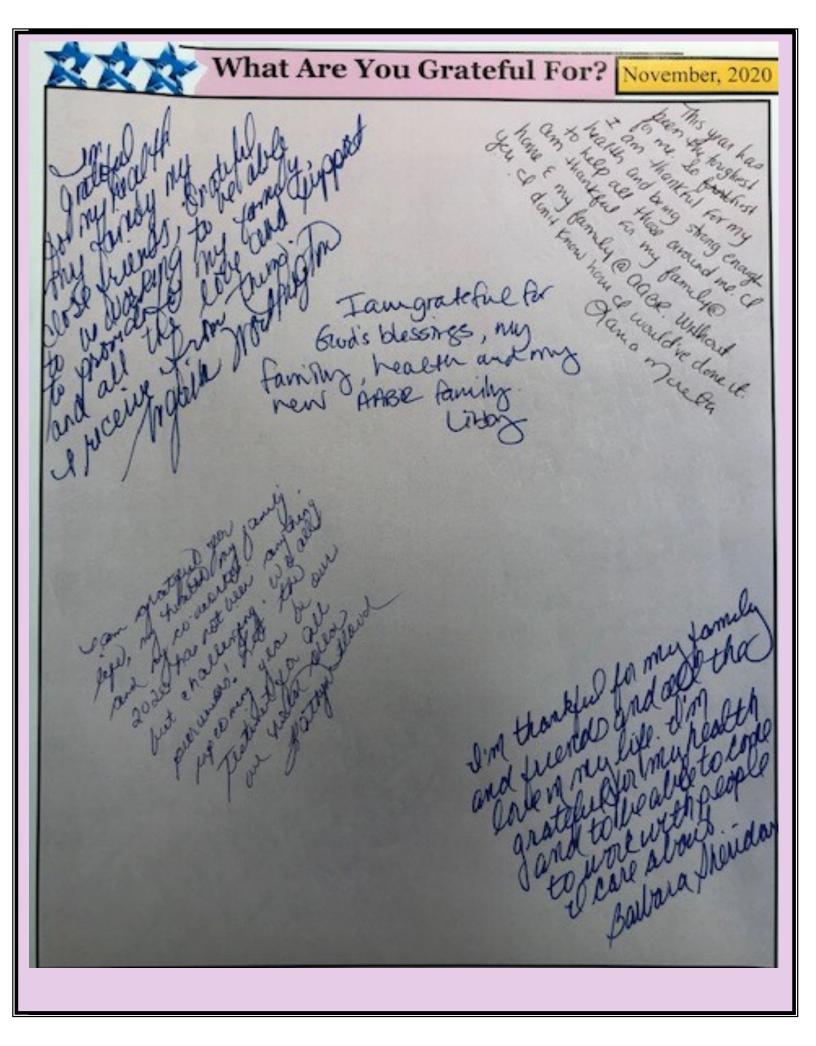
6 SLICES BACON (PORK OR TURKEY) 12 SEA SCALLOPS RINSED AND DRAINED

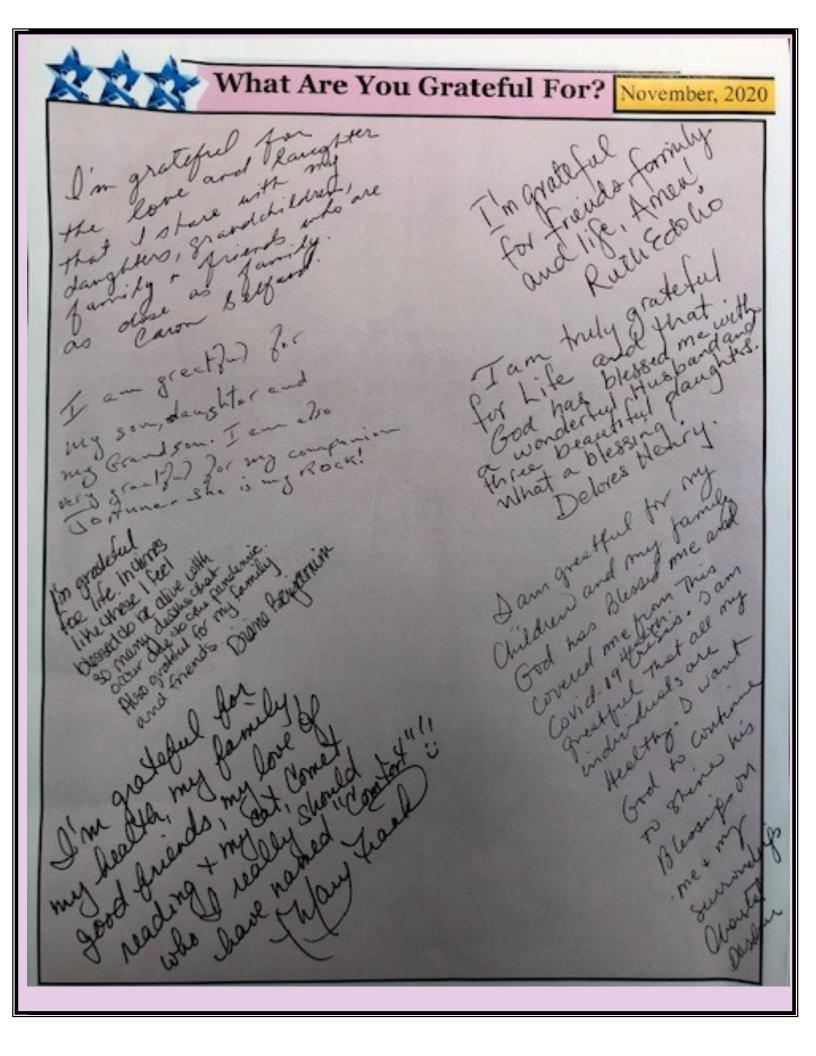
3 TABLESPOONS FRESH LEMON JUICE

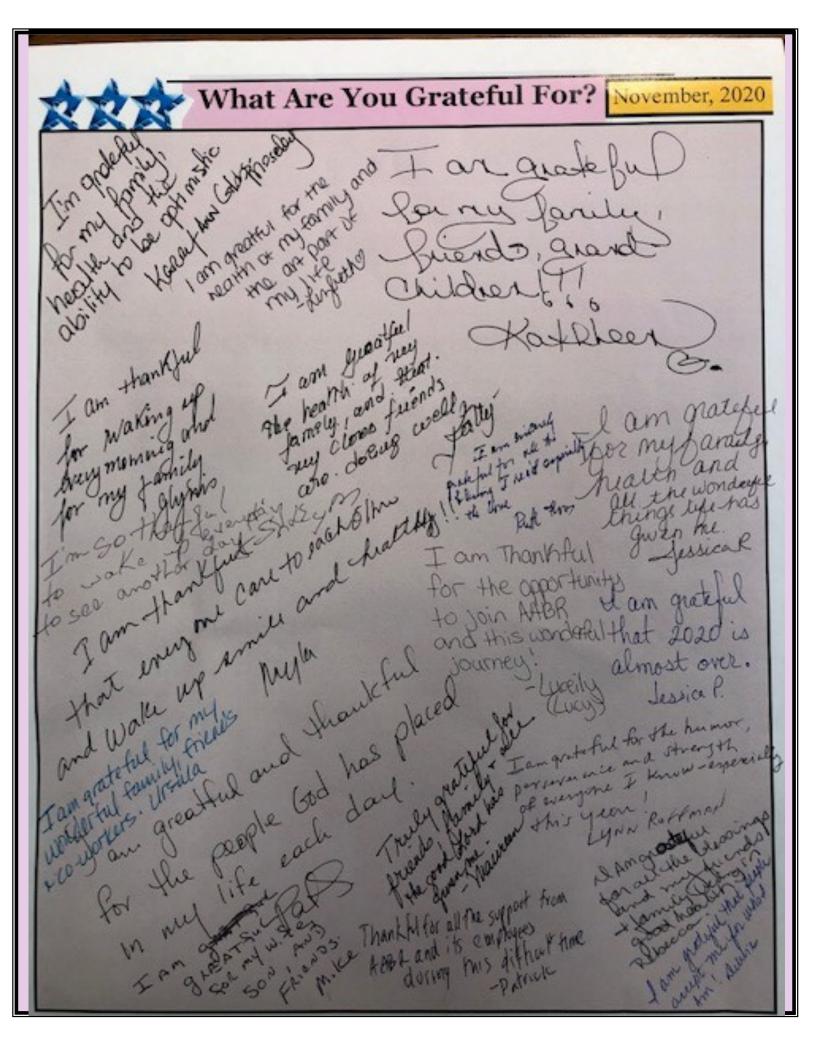
#### **DIRECTIONS**

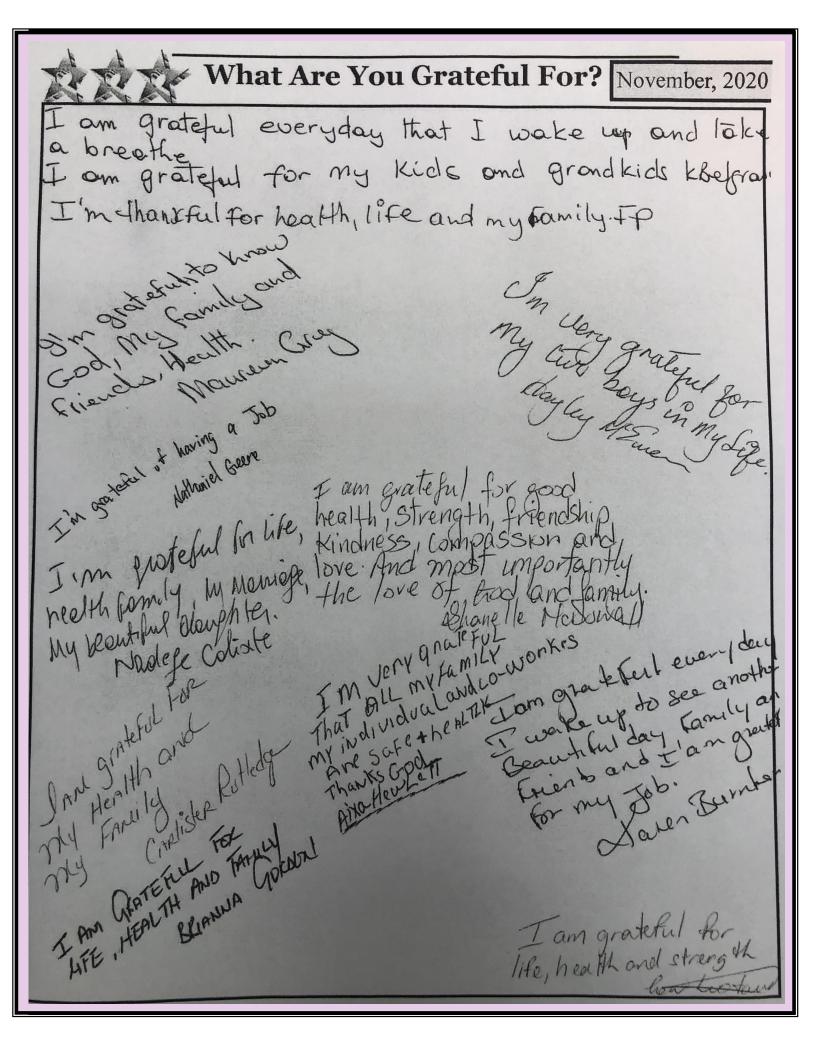
SERVE WARM

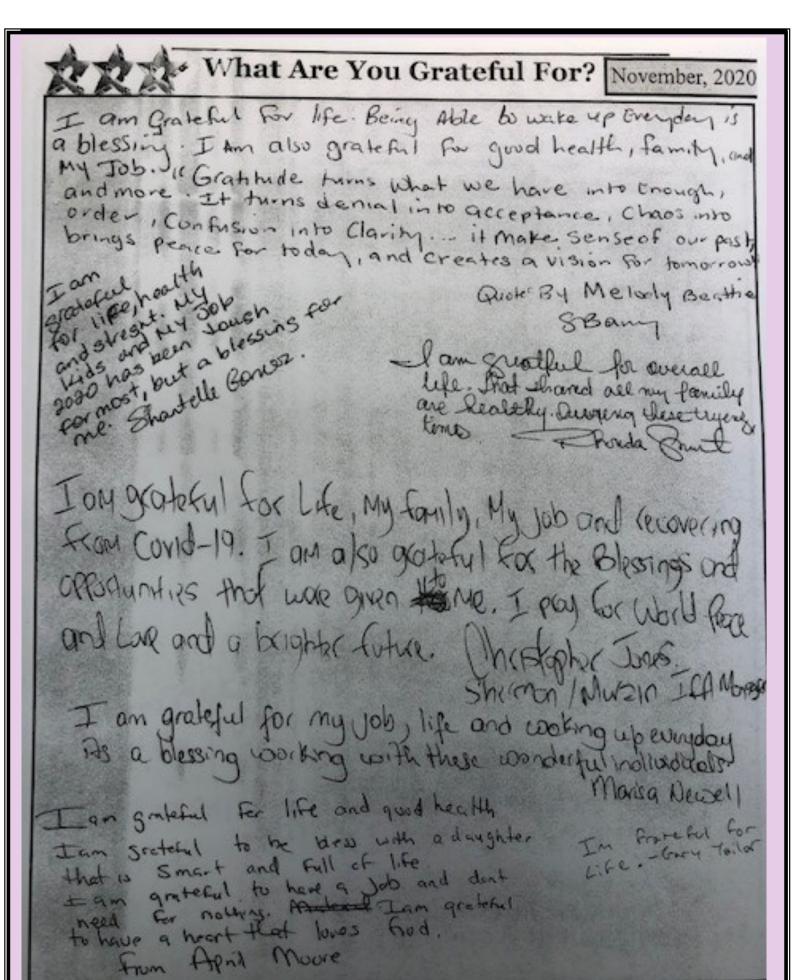
PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES F
CUT BACON SLICES IN HALF
WRAP EACH BACON HALF AROUND A
SCALLOP (USE A TOOTHPICK TO
SECURE IN PLACE)
DRIZZLE LEMON JUICE OVER
SCALLOPS
PLACE ON COOKIE SHEET
BAKE IN PREHEATED OVEN FOR 15-20
MINUTES OR UNTIL BACON IS
COOKED

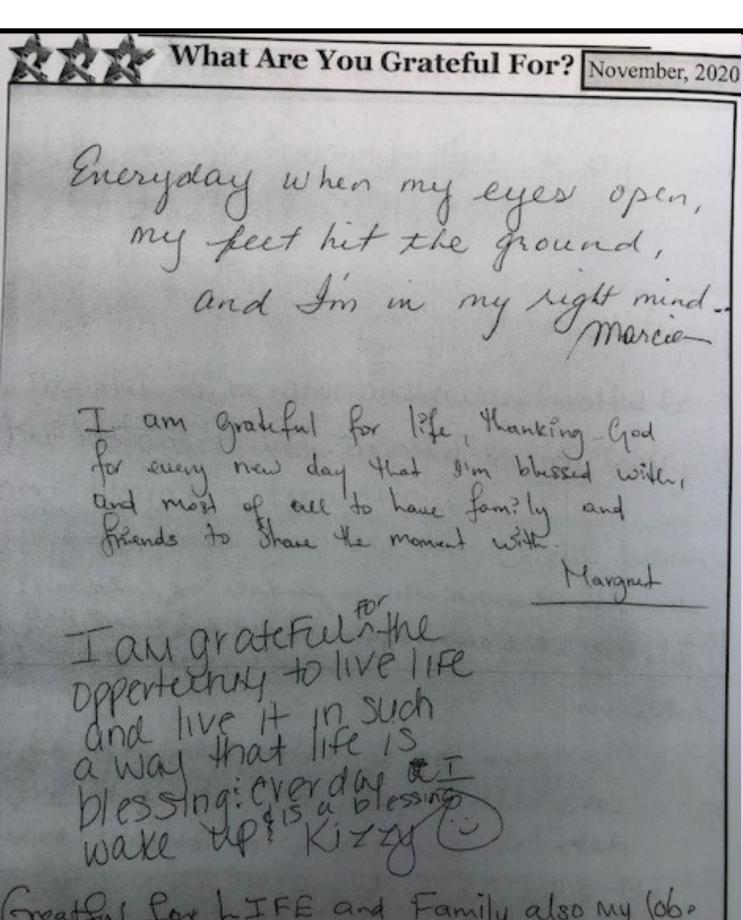












Greatful for LIFE and Family also my Jobs Likely Trankful for good times, ofreat co-workers + administrators.



Life, family Grateful to God. For my Daughters. A roof over my head. Job to go to.

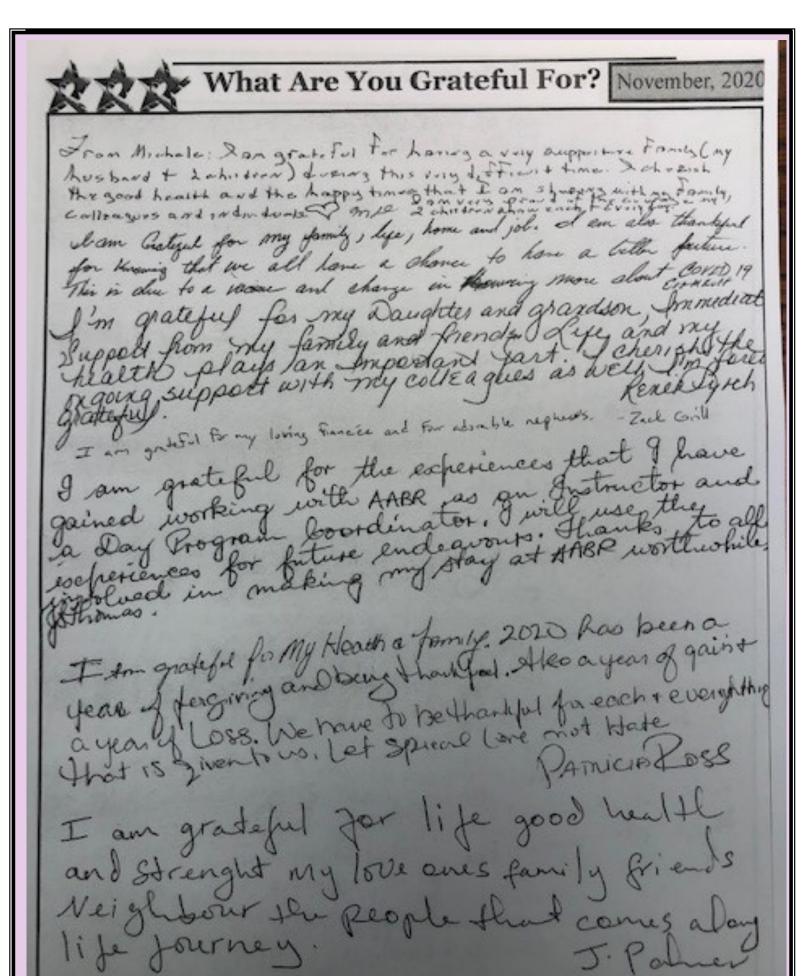
Herriso Whitley

Thankful to be alive another day, Greatful for my Job and duties. Thankful for my family and everyone I encounter with.

Thankful for waking up with a soundmind each day Thank But Box family Friends and a Job and also my my co-workers

Viviene Peck

Cem grateful that is get to See other day everyday. I also see More Kindness in People now to each other ... ce'm Happy that ce have the opportunity to see.





I am grateful for the support that I get from My colleagues when things are going bad. Tamaya Johnson

I am grateful to wake up each day have my strength and good health. And be around amozing people everyday.

I am tryly grateful for the Berkowitz, Team. Working Jugether handin handdering an amazing job to fake care of the individuals We serve. Bitisalimalulka

I am grateful for my coworkers and the joy I see on the Individual's face guelande Milord.

I am grateful for life, health, strength and by Berkowitz Teem Venesha Edwards

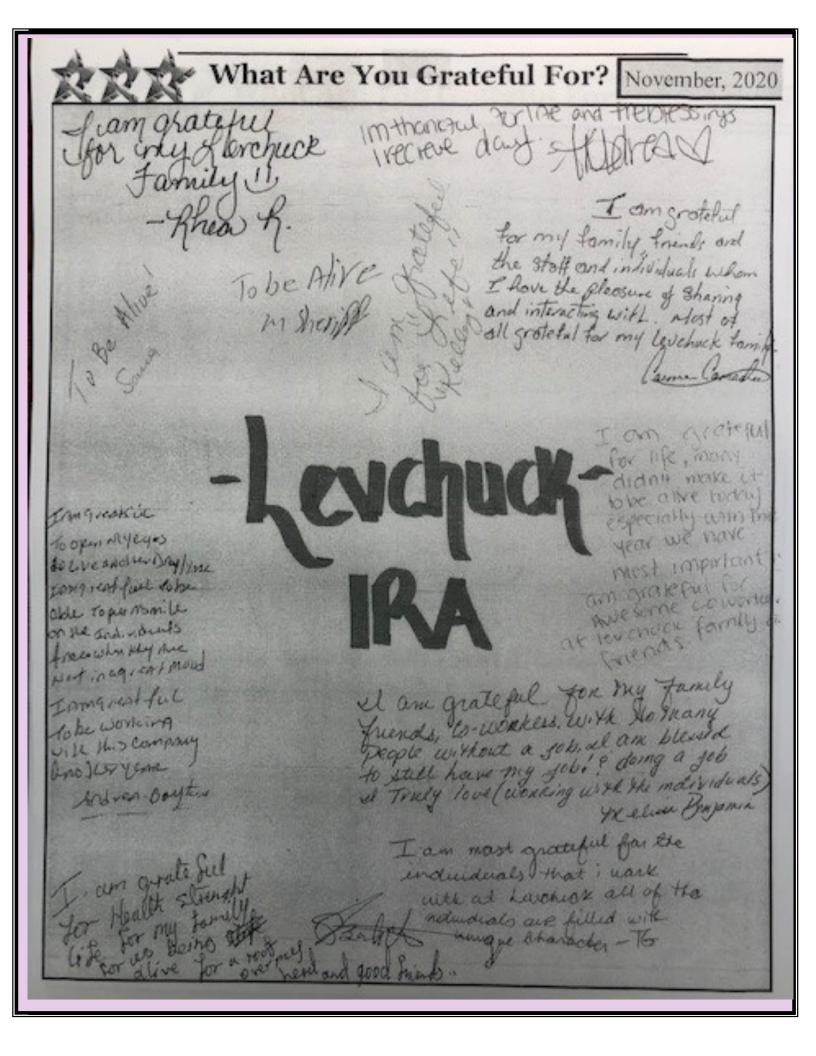
I am greatful for life, hearth, love, family and my Individuals Chower Snith

I am grateful for giving the opportunity to work with the Individuals at Berkavitz for the past a years. Delniqua Wilson

I am grateful for my Job and the Individuals that I work with! Wonita Singh

I our grateful for whe apparturity to give Care to the Individuals and my years of service. Asmith.

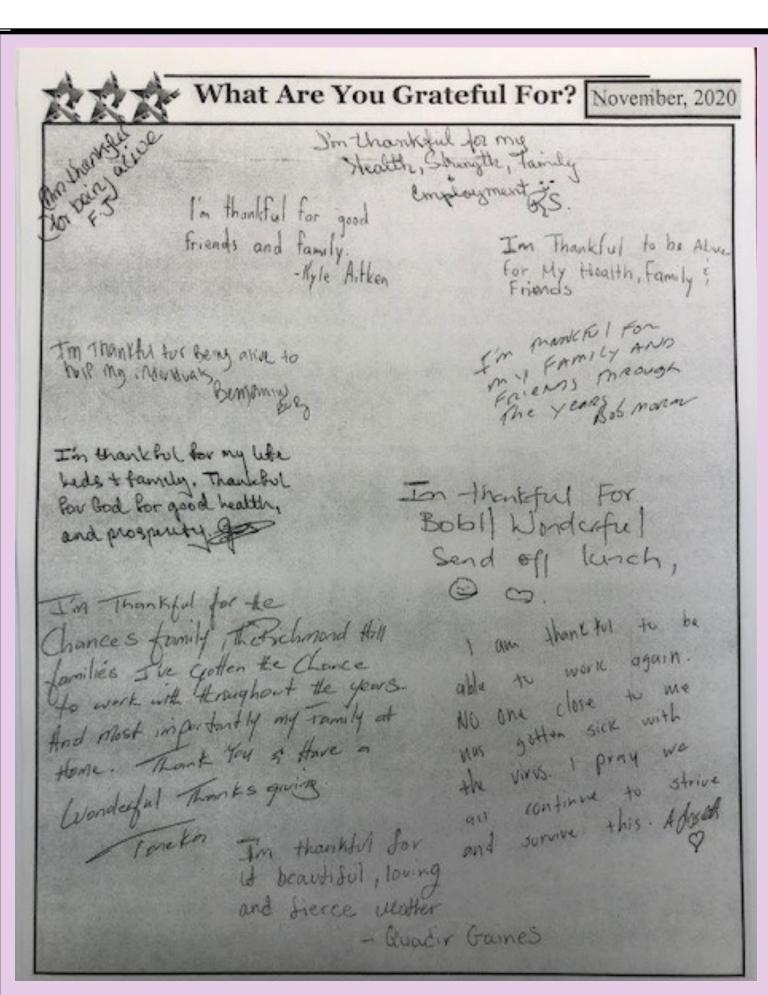
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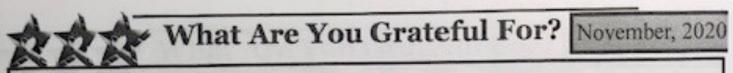


") I am groweful for life; and the promise of a brighter tomorrow, I am Groweful that I have been flavored with growthout the . I'm Marie - Assi Manaya"
Awarda Grant: I am greatful for like health, Strength and happiness.  I am also grateful for my family and my Job.  Ag.
Rozanne T - I am greatful for life, family and naving a good home to live in.
Levra Prasocki - of am grateful for my bamily, furence, + like. Also, of am grateful that of have a job and the opportunity to work with wonderful people.
Socha Prossi - Langrateful forhealth, life and all my friends and family. I am also graveful to people in my life that genuinely make me happy - himso
I am Thankful for a job. For my family, friends, life and most importantly I'm Hankful for the presence of God CBrown
I am Grateful for the Ability and chance to continue to share God's love on this world with family affielding a man growth for my daughter, having a job, it a rout over my head, but must importantly the man above. "Itself to Torestate
I am grater to be ance; (m)

How extremely grateful on howing the Most Poving and Supportive Mother, thoughtful triends, good family a Job and waking up each day by he grace & good Many Pah

GRATITUDE TURNS WHAT WE HAVE INTO ENOUGH.





family, friends and a Job. Dence Essut.

I am greatful for life family and fronds. I'm ou o greatful for the opposituation to upit people who reach out for encouragement during these trying trace. - Britimey Bonets

I am grateful for family. Shanane Kamal.

health + Im grateful for love of family + friends, freedom and the apportunity to work with ar individuals. - Jaune

I am grateful for my existence and family support - Marcia Morris

Land thankful for my gradhalth, tonicy, transaction of the double serreport devens that difficult times of enopout devens that difficult times of enopout devens that difficult to the enopout devens that difficult to the conditions to the double of the party for my tyling to the total

I am gratiful for my son and the entire family of mine. I am also frateful for my gots my friend and to work. Must of all the relations by I have the head fewer for the headth and strongth He has que to me daily - Soulyn I am thankful for my famely friends and heath each Shellyte Cattle and every day

Firstly I am greatful & thankful for the Land allowing me to remain safe & healthy during this time of The COVID 19

I am greatful for my company (AABR) for Keeping our doors open and taking full control of the views ( Keeping our survoiding clear - a good workly envisioned.

I am throught for each I every member of staff who are menting the extract effort in going to and from wour helping + securing the individuals.

I am Coronelly for the Hearth of Mesert, STATI, my fromas, and Parmy them you you been.

clam grafeful that the ford has me and buy family covered and thankfull for my Friends, Job and family J.O

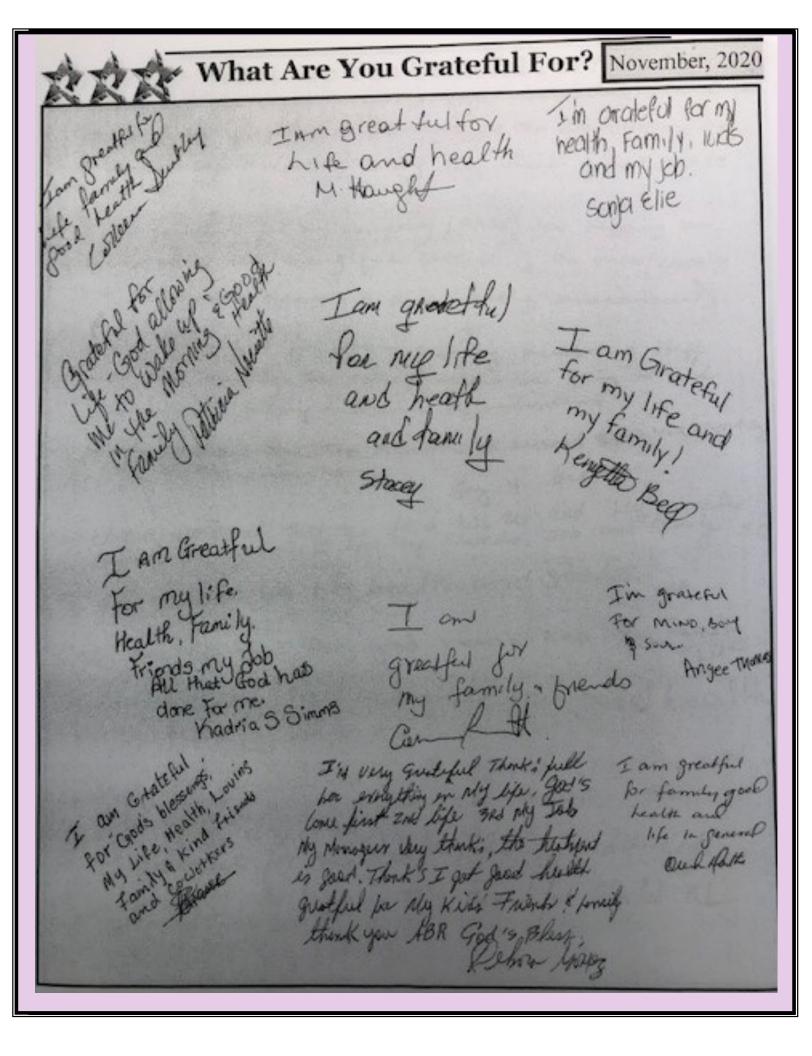
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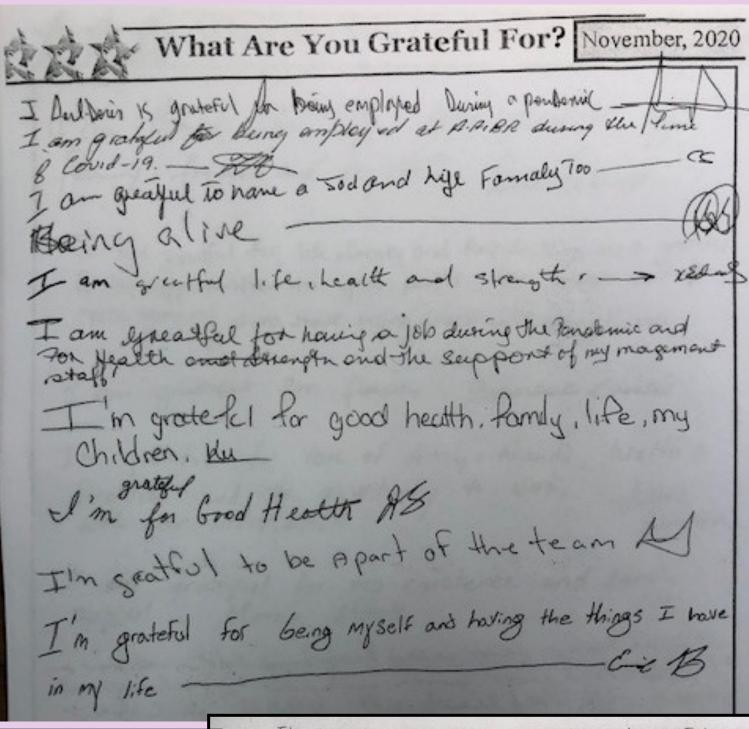
I am grateful for good health and my family

I am happy and grateful for good health

I amgrateful for family and friends. And that a vaccine will be out soon for the covid-19, 85

I am grateful for my health, family and friends. I am grateful for being in this Facult ful World . KL

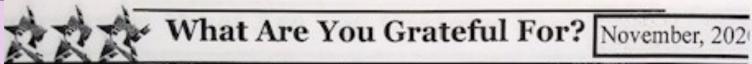






I'm grateful for what I have and don't have in life. I strongly believe that bod is in control of everything we are going through. I am also grateful to be part of the AABR family because thanks to become e better person and worker, tearning from each other including the individuals I work for, giving them 100 1. If me \(\mathfrak{O} \cdot \mathfrak{O} \)

Talinda N. Espinoza Z



KEANE (AESAR, is THANKFUL FOR CROOK HEAlth, My JOB, Family and Guid FRINK.

Kamela Jack: Through all the changing scients am happy to be alive by

Gladys falmer: I am Thankful for waking up each day I am also Thankful that my family are healthly, Staff and Individuals and most of all I am thankful that I still have a Job to go to I am very Blessed.

Thank full for god's Alercy Amo 33000 to See CHARMAINE KERA Grelt Day THANK full for Still houng A Job HAD FOR HEAVE HAD Saltey for My family MICHOS HAD CO WORKERS

I am very greatful for my wife good health 12 amarean :my family, my job and god have for me every day to taking care of all my mer di

I am grateful to be alive especially surving THERE IS the covid-19.

I am grateful for my family of friends.

always, always, ALWAYS something to be thankful for



Imgraveful for being slive

Jaknelle Chavannes

I'm grateful-for the opportunity to serve God. Kate Omole

Im grapful for life! Claudia Lewis

I am greatful for the sponall things that I have. and also for things that I don't have Nelvy George

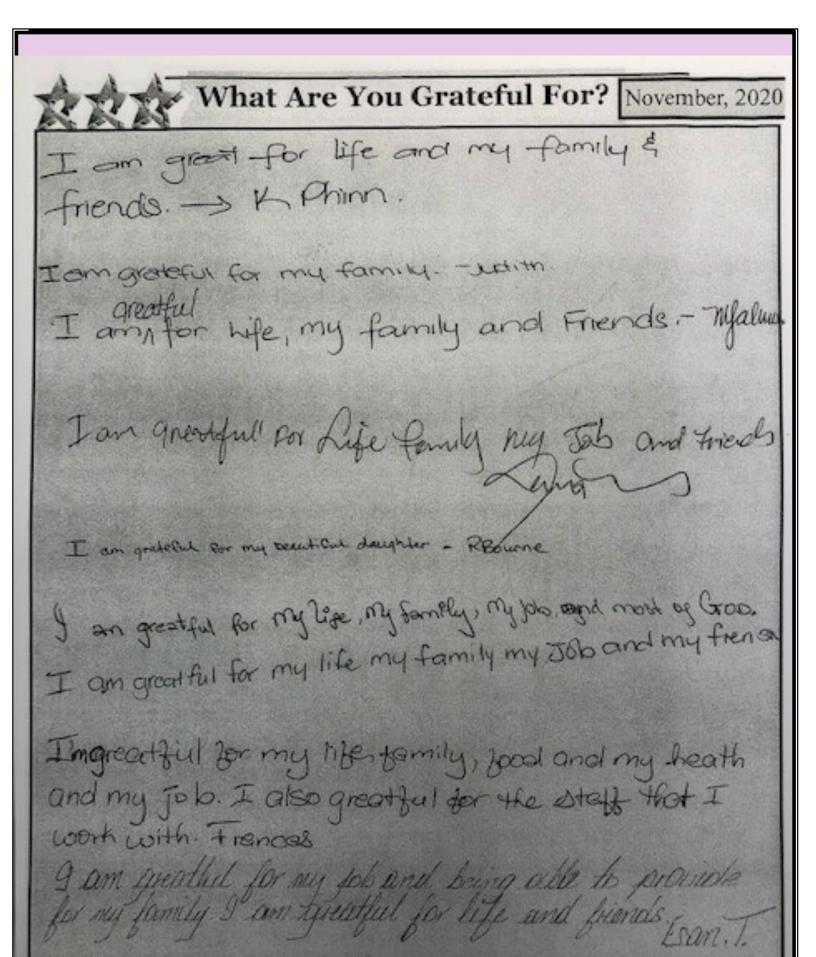
I'm grateful for friends and family who have remained constant. Cherene

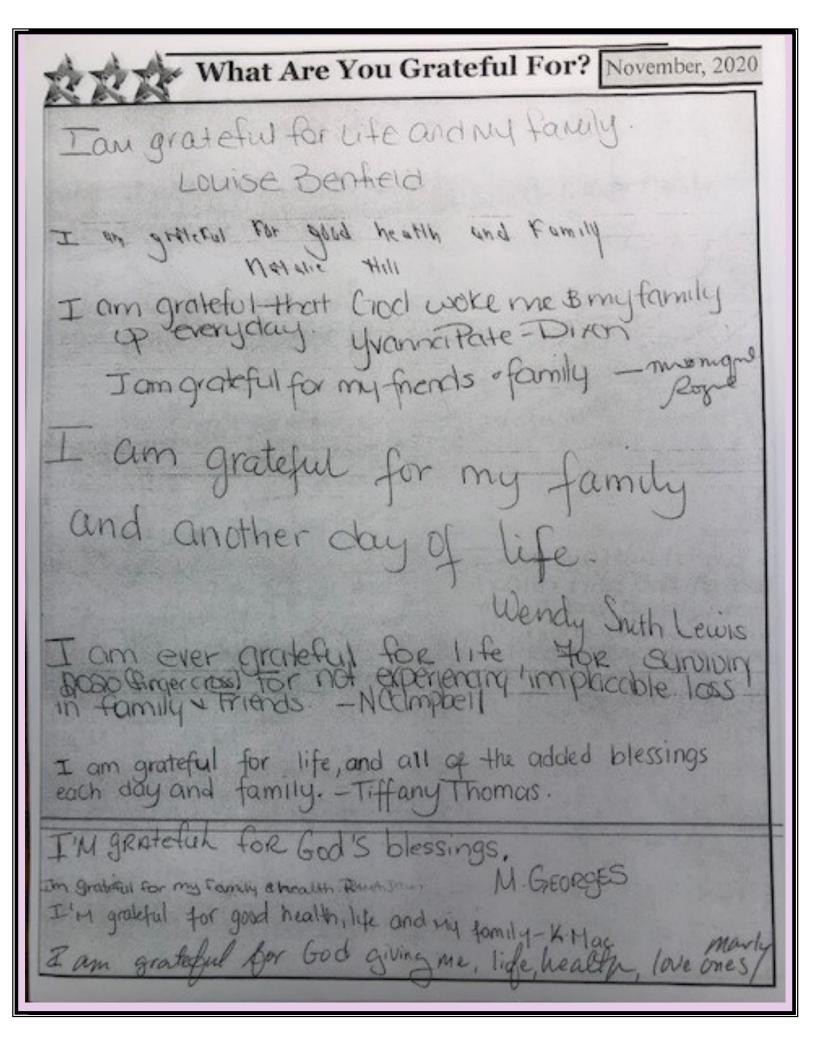
an grateful for my kids and good friends.

> I am grateful for nuy health first and foremost 4150, I am grateful for my high's and laws that I face because they make me uno I am! ~ Shanua Day

I Viven are Cratique To See Anotherday and TO A See Samuch Prosper in rupe To Be Alive To Have my Heath and strenth









Health, good foundly Relationship, ability to provide for necessities of Daily living. howing good long standing Friends. having my mother and other Reletimes to keep in touch with and enjoy each other Company when possible. Great full for Gods loving kindners during this Time of Stress and Sadness on earth. quentfull to have a Job to kelf me stable at this time. FOR God giving me the abreath to breath during this stressful time For my Family For everything that do For waking me up this merning.

I'm Grotful for life I'm Growleten for health, wouth, and Strength I'm Grateful for friends & family in my life I'm Grateful for having opportunities to help me grow and become more successful - Roland Brown



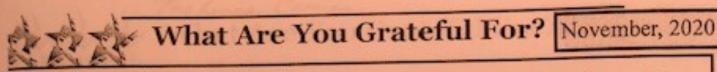
Tum Grute Ful For like, nouth and Strengti and that I am Give the Opportunity to experience life and out that it has to OFFer writer Funcily and Friends that

love me D.... Ecitora. H



Sungratiful to just le my Sumily as nell as the Samply / Team a work, with Thank for trung All intended at Commell. (M.M. to 11.B. AS C.G. BK)

I am greateful for the gist of life. after been inferted with Covid-19 and is well. I am also greateful that I have a Job, my family is recovery from the lost of my oldest son. However God has been Godd and I'm Thenkoul for his many Blessugs.



I am grateful that I Serve A god who Tokes Core of me continually. I am hoppy bor life etself, a job to work in and with a distinct Cammunity who are blessed and highly formed Topo and Who needs my Love and Peronal Care and understanding as they grapple with their CI Krimstonice.

- om greteful of the Vorines implements from & Dud operations of Management as I Paray for Wisdom on their behalf @s they implement decesions in these ruchessingly challengry times.

Happiness

What Are You Grateful For? November, 2020

I am beyond grateful to be alive. I am grateful for my family and My close friends. I am grateful for the energy I have everyday to get up and help some are who court help themselves I am grateful for my talent because And anol Music is apant of who I am. I am grateful for the people ive met while working with them, they changed my view of the world so much.







Congratulations on Your Promotions!!!!!

Diane Benjamin to Associate Director of Residence

Venise Labb, Carnacchio IRA, Manager

Sydia Wisdom, Parkway Ladies to Assistant Manager

**Shanice Thomas, Linden Ladies Assistant Manager** 

Crisann Earle to Bladt Residence, AM Shift Supervisor

Wendy Smith-Lewis-Carnacchio to AM Shift Supervisor

Marissa Newell, Linden Ladies to PM Shift Supervisor

Kyle Aitken, RH-II to PM Shift Supervisor

Welcome to Residential!!

Tatiana Singh—Linden Lds, Mgr Jenny Simon-Thomas-Parkway Lds, Manager





"Blessing Bags" Holiday Drive for the Homeless

Angee Thomas—Klamar is spearheading a holiday drive for the Homeless.

**Items Needed:** 

Socks, Scarves, Hats, Gloves, Personal Cleansing Wipes, Masks, Sanitary Napkins/ Tampons, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo, etc.

Collection Location: Main Office—Ed & Training Main Office—

At Temperature Station





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For Self-Care & Emotional Support-The Best Free Meditation Apps you can Download



Insight Timer -#1 Free App for Sleep, Anxiety and Stress. 14 million people +

www.headspace.com/ny—Provides meditation and mindfulness resources to New Yorkers. Free guided meditations, at-home mindfulness exercises & additional resources for help w/rising stress & anxiety.



My Life: Stop, Breathe and Think—a custom designed meditation app based on your feelings, state of mind and body to come up with a specific meditation for you.



Smiling Mind

-Very short meditations to help adults and young people develop healthy coping skills,

New York Mental Health Hotline

1-844-863-9314

Free emotional support, consultations and/or referrals to a provider

Comprehensive Counseling Center –offering Tele-Therapy in areas including depression, anxiety, grief and bereavement (718) 830-0246, (516) 594-0247. Accepts United Health Care, Medicare, etc.

**GriefShare.com**—free Grief & Bereavement Groups

24/7 New York State HOPEline (OASAS)
Call 1-877-8-HOPENY or text 467369 Re: Addiction

Center for Suicide Awareness-Free emotional support for ANY difficulty/struggle **Text HOPELINE (4673-5463) to 741741** 

United Health Care—Call the number on the back of your Insurance Card to get in touch with professionally trained mental health experts.

**Safe Horizon Hotline:** 1-800-621-4673 (HOPE) or www.safehorizon.org For victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, emergency housing, etc.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)



Just need to talk? Overwhelmed? Stressed out?

We're here for you. **SPARK Employee Assistance Program Caron Gelfand, LCSW, ACSW (516) 319-8618** Mary Frank, LCSW (718) 517-0360

Confidential, Short Term Counseling, Referral