

Fall 2020

Dear Friends,

Did you see New York Memory Center on the CBS local news on October 15th? Caregiver Santos Macaya got their attention when he called into the mayor's radio show to talk about the difficulties of caring for his wife Rosemary since the pandemic suspended our respite program.

Rosemary developed dementia about seven years ago and in the beginning Santos says, "She would spend all our time inside the house." Then they found New York Memory Center. "... it was a godsend. It truly was," he said. "It's vitally important. It's her only chance for socialization and stimulation."

Like Santos, we are anxious for the day when we can reopen our doors to in-person meetings and programming. According to the Alzheimer's Association NYC Chapter, there are about 410,000 New Yorkers living with dementia and more than a million family caregivers in the city.



Santos Macaya, center, at home with his wife Rosemary and son Gabe.

We know that these numbers are only going to grow, and, as Santos says, **it is vitally important that New York Memory Center is here to serve those individuals and families in Brooklyn for years to come.** Please make a donation to ensure our future — *and support the work we are still doing today.*

We have continued caregiver support by telephone and with educational webinars on Zoom. Our Artists-in-Residence maintain a lively virtual program schedule for members, with the help of caregivers, and for the community. The programs are fun and stimulating, and members can see the familiar faces of staff members and center friends. (Please join us!)

When city and state agencies determine it is safe and give us the go-ahead we expect to reopen. Our administrative and program staff have developed new concepts of how we will do things, and we're following guidelines from the CDC and the government agencies responsible for adult day centers. Among other things we have made physical changes, including:

- Chairs and tables set for social distancing.
- Plastic barriers separate seating in the dining room.

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- Gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and all forms of PPE are in place.
- Expanded program space by remodeling a large back room that had been mostly storage.
- Installed barriers between seats on our vehicles, with plans for fewer riders on each van.

A small contingent of the staff has continued to work through these months. Zoom programming does not come free, and rent and utilities need to be paid. We know these are difficult times for many, but if you are able to make a donation to keep our work going, we will be most grateful.

Finally, for myself and all those in the New York Memory Center community, I want to acknowledge the ongoing work of the staff, who have stayed in touch with members and families and helped prepare our facility for their return. Thanks also to our Board of Directors who have continued to meet and strategize through this unusual time.

We are heading into the holiday season. It will be different for many of us this year, but remember that we are all in this together. If you need support or a listening ear, please be in touch. Most of all, stay safe and seek out small pleasures until we can return to more normal times.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Josephine Brown
Executive Director



Josephine Brown describes center programs with CBS2's Andrea Grymes, October 2020.

P.S. November is National Family Caregivers Month and Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Your donation will help us continue to support the individuals and families living with this disease.