

# Alzheimer's | ORANGE COUNTY

March 11, 2020

Dear Friends;

Alzheimer's Orange County (AlzOC) highly values the well-being and health of our community. Since early January, we have been tracking the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, putting in place recommended policies to protect the health and safety of our participants, staff, volunteers and friends.

To this end, AlzOC has made the difficult decision **to postpone this year's Gala**, scheduled for March 21, 2020 at Balboa Bay Club. We are taking this course of action after recent governmental recommendations and warnings issued by the CDC and California Public Health Department. The spread of the virus and its potential impact on the community, particularly older adults, is not something we can ignore or underestimate. After consultation with our Executive Board members, community leaders and staff, we feel this is the only responsible course of action.

On behalf of our incredible Gala co-chairs, the 2020 Gala committee, staff and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to create yet another amazing gala experience, we sincerely hope you will be able to join us on the **new date, August 22, 2020 at the Balboa Bay Club** to celebrate our life-changing programs and services.

Thank you for your incredible and generous support of our services and programs that are vital to our community. Though we will miss the opportunity to see you all this month, we look forward to continuing our valued partnership that augments the positive impact we can have on others through our life-changing programs and services.

With Great Respect,

*Jim McAleer*

Jim McAleer, MPA  
President/CEO

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why are you postponing the 2020 annual Gala?**

This decision was made in consultation with our leadership team, area experts and staff. We considered CDC recommendations, the recent state of emergency declarations in California and Orange County, the average age of attendees and the progression of the coronavirus outbreak. As difficult as this decision was, we view it as the responsible, cautious, and the right choice to make considering the circumstances.

### **What if I purchased a table or a ticket?**

We thank you for your generous support of AlzOC. Our team will reach out to everyone within the next week to ask if you prefer to leave your donation with us and attend our August 22 gala, or if you prefer to have your gift refunded. Should you have any questions, please contact [Jim.mcaleer@alzoc.org](mailto:Jim.mcaleer@alzoc.org) or [Margie.wright@alzoc.org](mailto:Margie.wright@alzoc.org).

### **When will the event be rescheduled?**

We will combine our 2020 Visionary Women's Luncheon and Gala in a spectacular evening dinner event on August 22, 2020 at the Balboa Bay Club.

### **What else is AlzOC doing to deal with the coronavirus?**

Since early January, we have been tracking the situation and have already put in place new policies to protect the health and safety of our staff, adult day health center participants, and the rest of the families and AlzOC community we serve. These policies include

- Regular disinfection of all surfaces, doorknobs, and frequently touched objects three times a day at our day centers and offices
- Checking temperatures for anyone entering our day centers
- Cancelling our in-person courses, support groups and events
- Limiting visits to our adult day health centers and adding in large air purifying equipment

In an effort to educate the public, we're also hosting our "Coronavirus: Information Seniors Need to Know" event on Facebook Live with Irvine Clinical Research to educate our community about the virus. Preventive health expert, and Chief Medical Officer of Irvine Clinical Research, Dr. Dung Trinh, will be leading the event in a discussion of what older adults need to know about the virus and will also be answering audience questions.