



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Owner & Team

Dear Moms In Motion, At Home Your Way and Ability Unlimited (Moms) Community,

We (Moms), and I as the Owner, want to express my hope that you and your family members are well. COVID-19 dramatically changed all of our lives. We are aggressively and regularly communicating about that issue with you. Our community is experiencing another crisis brought to the forefront by the recent tragic deaths of Black Americans; Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. I apologize that our recent company newsletter went out to the community without mention of this and that we missed the opportunity to Black Out our social media this past Tuesday. This is a time where families and people are hurting very acutely. I want to acknowledge that as a person and my team wants to acknowledge it as an organization.

As *Dr. Stephen Morgan, President and CEO of INOVA* so eloquently expressed, our team members and the families we serve are "deeply saddened by [these] events, the anger and frustration it has caused, and the resulting unrest." And we echo Manassas Park City Schools, Superintendent, Mr. Bruce McDade, we are "heartbroken about this and the evidence that racial discrimination persists, individually and systematically, in a nation that should have transcended it long ago."

We at Moms have the core stated explicit values of **Advocacy, Compassion, Excellence and Service**. *They apply here*. These are all tools we can use as individuals and groups to enact lasting and meaningful change.

Inclusion is an implicit and foundational value of Moms. Our efforts on inclusion as an organization are typically focused on the disability community. At this time, we are reminded that our focus on inclusion must extend beyond one marginalized community to include all marginalized people. These efforts also include all those affected by discrimination and prejudice in minority communities based on their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation (*June is Pride Month for the LGBTQ+ community*). And as we are learning, we must focus on the greater goal of equality, mutual respect and lives of people, starting with black people because ***all lives can't matter until black lives matter***.

- Our black clients cannot be included if they are discriminated against before their disability is even registered.
- Inclusion is also a core foundational value of Moms because it is just right.

We've all learned recently via the Pandemic that it is hard to work and live with a constant and gnawing underlying stress and fear for the health and safety of yourself and your loved ones. In the past 1-2 weeks, I have begun to understand that many in our community have lived and worked like that on a daily basis. And not just in 2020, but since they became a wife or a mother, a husband or a father, or old enough to be aware that they are treated unfairly and differently from others based solely on the color of their skin. The people who live with this fear and stress everyday must be feeling: courage & fear; deep deep sadness & anger; frustration & powerlessness. I have begun, and I also understand that I will never understand.

Recent events have shined a light on these issues and have brought much more attention to the fact that discrimination still exists today. I hope for and believe we have a future where that's not the case.

**Moms wants to acknowledge all of the above and say:
Black Lives Matter to us at Moms.
We See You
We Hear You
We Stand with You
We Kneel with You
We Use Our Voices for You**

**Moms/AHYW/AU will be making donations to organizations
whose missions align with ours around this issue:**

"Every day, we recommit to healing ourselves and each other, and to co-creating alongside comrades, allies, and family a culture where each person feels seen, heard, and supported. We acknowledge, respect, and celebrate differences and commonalities. We work vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people."

*from **BLM: What We Believe***

**To Learn More Please Visit:
BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



"We, as an organization and movement, view this action as a first



GIRLS | FOR A
CHANGE

step to end the prejudice, poverty and lack of resources that leave Black girls and young women vulnerable at the margins of society."

from GFAC: Who We Are

To Learn More Please Visit:
GIRLS FOR A CHANGE

*I understand that I will never understand.
However, I Stand.*

**In solidarity,
Keri Ayres & The Team at Moms/AHYW/AU**



Connect with us

