

## It Takes a Team

This month has been a challenging time for many. Earlier this month, we celebrated National Employee Appreciation Day. We want to take the time to say thank you to our entire team, from our staff lawyers and volunteers to our board members. It takes a community to make an impact and we're so grateful that you all are a part of our community, especially as we navigate these unexpected times.

## **Amara's Operations During the COVID 19 Outbreak**

To ensure the safety of clients and staff, Amara staff are fully remote. We continue to answer our information line and take on new clients, but our intake process is done remotely. Courts in the three jurisdictions we serve are closed with the exception of emergency and domestic violence matters. We know that as a result of individuals being forced indoors, intimate partner violence is likely to increase, and we are thinking of innovative ways to ensure potential clients are aware of our services and can reach us. Please reach out with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

As we shared across our social media accounts, we canceled our Live & Silent Auction and Comedy Show to comply with the advice provided by government agencies regarding social gatherings. We hope to reschedule this event for this summer.

Like everyone, we look forward to returning to our normal level of operations once the COVID crisis abates. We hope to see you at our Donor Appreciation Event this summer as well as our Cornhole Tournament in the fall.

## **How To Support Urgent Client Needs**

During this uncertain time, please remember that our clients rely on organizations like ours for resources. As you know, beyond legal services, we provide our clients with transportation, diapers, prepaid phones, and meals -- costs that are not covered by our grant funding. These items are primarily acquired only through donations and general

operating support.

Please remember that you can donate to Amara online by using this link <a href="here">here</a>. Or consider using <a href="Amazon Smile">Amazon Smile</a> to benefit Amara. When you shop on Amazon and use Smile, a few cents are donated to an organization of your choosing. All you have to do is select <a href="Amara Legal Center">Amara</a> Legal Center as your program of choice using this shortcut <a href="here">here</a>.

We encourage you to consider donating to organizations that are currently providing support to our community. Here are a couple of our partners who are engaging in filling urgent needs:

Courtney's House: Providing meals and toiletries to survivors.

<u>DC Dream Center</u>: Providing boxed lunches to individuals experiencing homelessness.

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Amara Legal Center
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Washington, DC 20003
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