

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

These are crazy days. This week, Maine's Governor Janet Mills declared a civil state of emergency, the CDC is discouraging group gatherings, and Maine's Department of Education has recommended that schools cease classroom-based instruction for an indefinite period of time. In response to these recommendations, Kieve Wavus Education (KWE) has suspended The Leadership School's spring season and all retreats at least through April 20<sup>th</sup>. For an organization that exists to build community and "give people hugs," this was not an easy decision.

At this time, we are planning and hoping to begin summer camp programs as scheduled on June 23<sup>rd</sup> with the staff arriving June 9<sup>th</sup>. KWE is a 100-year old institution with a history of acting responsibly; we will follow evolving state and federal agency guidelines as we develop plans that prioritize the health and safety of all participants and staff.

During these uncertain times a lot of people in our communities will be suffering. We feel very lucky that over the years so many folks helped to put KWE on firm financial footing; we will weather this storm. While no students or other clients will be with us in the coming weeks, we are fulfilling our mission and practicing our values of kindness and respect in other ways. Our staff is collaborating with a number of local non-profits to help stock food pantries, prepare and deliver meals, drive people to appointments, and help in any way we can. We will keep a steady hand on the tiller.

Please continue to check our website for updated information.

Sincerely,

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## KIEVE WAVUS EDUCATION, Inc.

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

March 16, 2020

At Kieve Wavus Education, we are keeping a close watch on COVID-19 updates from state and federal agencies. Maine's Governor Janet Mills has declared a civil state of emergency, the CDC is discouraging gatherings of more than 50 people and Maine's Department of Education has recommended that schools cease classroom-based instruction for an indefinite period of time. In response to these recommendations, KWE has canceled our Spring season of Leadership School programming.

At this time, we are planning to begin summer camp programs as scheduled on June 23rd. The CDC describes this as "a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available." We will follow state and federal agency guidelines as we develop plans that prioritize the safety of all participants and staff.

KWE is a 100-year old institution with a history of acting responsibly. We will remain steady through this chapter. While we will not be working with many students in the coming weeks, our staff will be looking to collaborate with a number of local non-profits to help stock food pantries, deliver meals, driving people to appointments and helping in any way we can.

Please continue to check our <u>website</u> for updated information.