

March 26, 2020

Statement from Beginnings Executive Director:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop both in our community and around the world, the health and well-being of our staff and client families is our top priority. Beginnings Family Services is following the direction of the Provincial and Federal Government and Public Health.

Hamilton Office

Through our Hamilton office **Birth Parent Counselling, Adoption Services, Foster Care and our Embryo Donation Program** are continuing as usual. We are still receiving inquiries from expectant parents in times of crisis and exploring the option of making an adoption plan. We are still accepting referrals from hospitals and other service providers, as we continue to respond to clients in need. We have quickly devised a plan so that our staff can work remotely and we can continue the important work of Beginnings. Telephone and email is being monitored at all times and messages are being returned promptly.

Guelph and Woodstock Care Centres

We regret to inform you that as a nonessential business, our Care Centre doors are temporarily closed to our clients and supporters, as of 11:59 ET Tuesday, March 24th.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to address this situation with the most careful thought and consideration for the safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers, and clients. We will be monitoring the situation closely and we will work diligently to keep clients informed accordingly.

Our staff are actively working from home and behind the scenes to ensure continuity of care and services. This includes ongoing administrative duties, updating programs, and providing important client support and outreach via phone and other forms of communication. We look forward to welcoming our clients back when we reopen!

How You Can Help?

Beginnings just like other charities and small businesses, is going to feel the effect of COVID-19 for some time to come. But we are still applying all our efforts, with our limited resources as a non-profit organization, so we can maintain our vital services.

We ask our supporters and friends, to consider making a donation, towards the work carried out through our Hamilton office or one of our Care Centres. This will allow us to continue to help those families in need during this time of elevated crisis. Please reach out to us if you are interested in hearing about options to donate at this time.

Currently, our preferred method of donation is online as this quickly and securely deposits the funds. Please visit our website at www.beginnings.ca and click on **DONATE TODAY** and you can easily make a donation to Beginnings through Canada Helps. You can also call the office to make a donation over the phone if you wish. **Thank You for your continued support!**