

Opinion

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OPINION

The Marvin strives to support seniors during coronavirus crisis

By Mary R. Windt

I am writing in response to the Opinion article from Stephanie Thomas in Tuesday's "Norwalk Hour." I am the executive director of Under One Roof — the nonprofit sponsor, owner and manager of The Marvin senior housing and The Marvin Children's Center located in East Norwalk. I want to applaud Ms. Thomas for her comments about the critical importance nonprofits play in providing services and support for the community. She pointed out that nonprofit organizations contribute more than \$985 billion to our economy and account for 12 million jobs.

Nonprofits are facing the same challenges everyone, including small businesses, are facing with coronavirus (COVID 19). Many nonprofits had to close their doors during this crisis. We have just made the difficult decision to temporarily close The Marvin Children's Center in the best interest of the health and safety of our children, families and staff. We hope this closure is truly temporary so we can continue to provide the quality preschool and childcare that is so critical. During this closure, we are not receiving any income or subsidy — yet we have decided to cover payroll costs for four weeks. We feel it is essential to keep our qualified teachers engaged and ready to return when our program re-opens.

There are many nonprofits that must remain open — including The Marvin for seniors. We provide affordable congregate housing with supportive services for 51 senior adults. This is their home! We provide a daily nutritious meal, 24/7 security and assisted living services for those residents who need the support. While we have had to make some changes to our operations and have limited visitors — we are fully up and running. All of our staff — including our dining staff, security, assisted living and professional staff — are working regular hours. We are all being careful and are trying to remain healthy, but we all know the importance our services are in maintaining stability for our residents. I want to thank all the staff and contractors working at The Marvin! Without them, we could not function.

As Ms. Thomas said, "nonprofits serve as the pillars of our communities." We depend on voluntary donations to support our services. But we also recognize this isn't the best time to fundraise. We do, however, want to echo Ms. Thomas' comments and hope the community will be there for us during this pandemic and afterwards so we can continue to provide those critical services for the community.

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The Marvin Connecting Generations
Under One Roof
Norwalk



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