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January 15, 2021

Dear Members and Families,

On Monday, 1.18.21, the country will honor Martin Luther King Jr., the United States' most famous civil-rights activist. He was the first modern private citizen to be honored with a federal holiday and the first African American. He would have been 92 years old this year, but an assassin's bullet ended his life on April 4, 1968. Each year, on the third Monday of January, we have an opportunity to reflect on the important work to which he devoted his life— peacefully fighting for civil rights and ending poverty.

In anticipation of this holiday, I read Dr. King's December 10, 1964 acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him for his commitment to achieving racial justice through nonviolent action. Dr. King's words, spoken 57 years ago, about truth and right, ring even truer and louder today as we continue to see the images of last week's violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

A large, yellow, triangular graphic element pointing to the right, positioned above the quote.

***"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.***

***This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men.***

***I believe that what self-centered men have torn down men other-centered can build up.***

***I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land.***

***I still believe that We Shall overcome!"***

*Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Nobel Peace Prize Award Acceptance Speech (excerpts)  
Oslo, Norway  
December 10, 1964*

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Our democracy which is only two centuries and forty-five years old is imperfect, but it is of the people, for the people, and by the people. And it is great men like Martin Luther King Jr. who remind us to reaffirm the values of love, nonviolence, and service to others. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, **'What are you doing for others?'**"

The Care Design NY workforce answers that question everyday through its advocacy and the coordination of care for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Their dedication in fulfilling the Care Design NY mission to assist vulnerable and historically marginalized individuals and their families get the supports and services they need to live a quality life embodies Dr. King's spirit.

We are striving to embrace diversity and promote a culture of openness and inclusiveness in all that we do and put your needs first. On behalf of the entire Care Design NY team, may the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday be an opportunity to strengthen the moral framework in our personal lives and in our nation.

Sincerely,



James Moran  
CEO