

Spring 2020

Statement on Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on how we serve individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

Beginning on Tuesday, March 17, in accordance with a statewide directive from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Community Day Services at MEE were suspended to help protect the health and well-being of the people we serve.

MEE continues to provide services to individuals in our residential program, and has started providing virtual learning sessions to continue serving individuals while in person services are suspended.

Throughout these uncertain times, MEE remains fully committed to safely serving individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

We are all in this together!

News

MEE Begins Virtual Learning Classes

With the suspension of Community Day Services in March, many of the individuals who had previously attended MEE were left at home with no way to work on their programs.

These programs, which include skills such as reading, writing, math, money management, grooming, safety, and nutrition, help each person that we serve become more independent at home and better integrated within their communities.

Because these skills are so important, we knew that it was vital that we continue to provide programming during the suspension.

In early April, MEE began to provide virtual learning programs to the people we serve four days per week.

The classes are divided into smaller groups that meet virtually. By keeping the groups small, we can provide the best possible learning envi-

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Covid-19 Screening
New Rules & Roles
New Landscape Lighting

Upcoming Dates

May 25
Memorial Day

June 12
Institute Day

July 3-4
Independence Day

Our Mission

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises encourages and assists people with disabilities, and those who touch their lives, by promoting informed choice and creating opportunities which foster independent community living, work and play.



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VIRTUAL LEARNING



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ronment.

These sessions are not only a great way to keep individuals engaged in skill development, but also serve as a social outlet where people can meet with their friends or see their favorite MEE staff.

For many, these virtual learning sessions may be one of the few opportunities they have for positive social interactions during these socially isolated times.

We want to thank all of our staff for the incredible job they did planning and implementing these classes so quickly.



Spirit Paper Boosts Production to Address Bathroom Tissue Shortage

In Mid-March, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, many people began stockpiling household supplies to prepare for an extended time sheltering in place.

While many aisles of grocery stores were picked over, the bathroom tissue aisle, in most cases, was picked clean. Across the country, many families were unable to find bathroom tissue anywhere, no matter how many stores they visited.

We saw firsthand how bad the shortage was in our community, and we felt a responsibility to do what we could to help.

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Our Motto



Our Staff



Tim Cook
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Kori Huneke
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News

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We started by increasing the amount of paper we were producing each day to help keep our local retailers supplied.

We also began to provide toilet paper "end rolls" to the public free of charge twice per week - every Tuesday and Thursday.

A toilet paper "end roll" is a small, oddly shaped roll of toilet paper that is cut from the ends of tissue rolls during production. During normal times, end rolls are a waste product that is recycled and made into other paper goods.

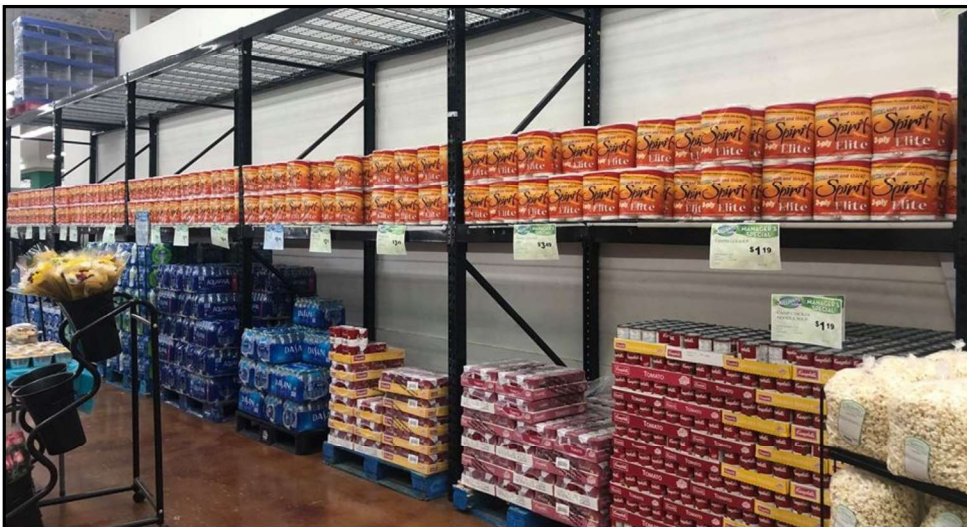
These were not, however, normal times.

A social media post, where we announced the end roll giveaway, received such an overwhelming response that we had over 25,000 unique views. Two television news crews from Rockford visited MEE to do news stories. We received additional media inquiries from as far away as Moline, IL.

On the first day, we placed hundreds of bags of end rolls in front of our building. Long lines had already formed and the bags were gone within minutes.

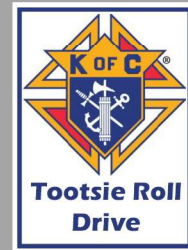
As time went on, bathroom tissue supply improved and demand tapered off. By the end of April, six weeks after we started, demand for end rolls had stopped.

We want to thank everyone for their support and encouraging words during this time. We hope that in some small way our efforts helped reduce the severity of the shortage in our area. We are thankful for your support, and we hope you will continue supporting Spirit in the future.



Spirit Toilet paper on the shelves was a welcome sight for many area shoppers. At times, the bathroom tissue shortage was so severe that Spirit was the only toilet paper available. Here is a customer-submitted photo from Sullivan's Foods in Winnebago.

Fundraisers



MEE Screens Staff for Covid-19

On Tuesday, May 12, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises had all of its staff screened for Covid-19 at Rockford Pain Management.

Each employee was tested using a 10-minute rapid serology test. The tests were designed to test for both current and past Covid-19 infections.

In doing so, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises became one of the first workplaces in our area to conduct widespread, across-the-board, testing of its employees.

MEE Staff Adapt to New Rules, Roles

In order to help protect the safety of the people we serve, and the safety of our staff, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises has made a number of changes to its daily operations.

Temperature Screening

Prior to entering our building, or any of our residential homes, staff must have their temperature screened to make sure they do not have a fever.

Symptom and Exposure Tracking

Additionally, staff must fill out a questionnaire asking them about any symptoms they may be experiencing, as well as any recent travel or known exposures.

Social Distancing

While on-site, staff are encouraged to maintain a distance of six feet from one another at all times when possible.

Masks

All employees are required to wear face masks while working.

Site Division

Our work floor area has been divided into two sections with a physical barrier separating them. Each section of the work floor is staffed by a different group of employees. Each of the groups uses a separate entrance to our building, as well as different bathrooms.

By dividing our staff into two work groups, it gives us an additional way to help limit any potential spread.



News



Richard Michael has been very busy over the past two months producing record amounts of Spirit toilet paper. Here you can see Richard prepping a parent roll for conversion. Richard, like all MEE staff, now wears a fabric mask while working.



As a DT Trainer, Scott Nolan typically spends most of his time in a classroom helping teach people with disabilities important life skills. However, with day services temporarily suspended, Scott is helping package Spirit Paper. Many employees at MEE have been taking on new roles and responsibilities in recent weeks.

New Exterior Lighting Installed



In April, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises added new exterior lighting to its facility. The new lights not only create an attractive appearance - they also help improve visibility and safety.

Staff Anniversaries

10 Years

Tracey Kempel celebrated her 10-year anniversary with MEE in April. As the Clinical Programs Manager, Tracey oversees Community Day Services and our residential CILA Program.



5 Years

Renee Carmody celebrated her 5-year anniversary in April. As a DT trainer, Renee works directly with consumers to help them develop important daily life skills.



We want to thank you for your interest in Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

Sincerely,

Tim Cook
Executive Director
Malcolm Eaton Enterprises
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