



DOM LIPA

SLOVENIAN LINDEN FOUNDATION

June 5, 2020

Hello Dom Lipa Community and Supporters,

In this communication, we provide an update on the status of the outbreak at Dom Lipa and describe a new music care project, which was started during the winter at Dom Lipa. At the same time, we would like to express our thanks to many members of our families and community, who have come forward with gifts and help.

COVID-19 Update

Dom Lipa has been in a COVID-19 outbreak since May 19th. Currently Dom Lipa has one COVID-19 positive case. All residents were tested on May 25th and 26th. All employees were tested between May 25th and May 27th. We have now received all the results and there are no new positive COVID-19 cases.

All residents, both in the Long Term Care and Retirement, are currently in "home isolation" in their rooms. This includes tray service meals in their rooms. Our staff will continue to provide all necessary care and support to our residents, using full infection control precautions.

We have received a particularly good report from the physicians and infection control experts, who visited from the Trillium Health Partners, a few weeks ago. They stated that they were impressed by our infection prevention, control education program and the enhanced cleaning of areas at Dom Lipa. Bravo to Jolanta, Magda and the team for all their hard work!

Naša Music Care

Music has always been important to Dom Lipa and the Slovenian culture. A recent music care initiative has made staff feel more comfortable, engaging in spontaneous music care moments. This special project was named Naša Music Care to reflect the intent of bringing everyone together.

The journey of the project was not limited to the residents. It created an opportunity for other partners in care to join in. Over the past few months, both staff and families of residents learned the importance of music care, not just music therapy. The music care approach was developed by the Room 217 Foundation, which promotes the use of sound and music to meet challenges of care, such as social isolation and loneliness of LTC residents.

The initiative started off with an in-house team, comprised of representatives from residents, managers, health care staff, volunteers and members of the Family Council. During brainstorming sessions, team members offered their perspective of what music means to their discipline and how to optimize music care delivery at Dom Lipa. Members of the in-house team then served as information resources and facilitators to other staff, families and volunteers.

Several staff members, volunteers and families took part in a greatly beneficial two-day musical training session to gain a better understanding of music care and to develop confidence in the delivery of musical moments to Dom Lipa residents. Trained by professional music therapists, attendees gained formal knowledge of music care, use of instruments, the meaning of melody, and how to make music more accessible to all in the home.

The music care approach empowers staff and LTC community members to use music as a holistic and human solution. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, staff members at Dom Lipa are continuing to implement music care in safe ways. Residents are isolated in their rooms and are not permitted to have visitors, so isolation and loneliness are pressing issues at the moment. Staff and family members alike are currently using music to help residents, by utilizing technology to meet and even to exceed the initial objectives of the program. Families are singing to their loved ones over Skype and staff members are making an effort to engage in one-to-one music care moments. Music care moments are now helping to stimulate family involvement, despite the visiting restriction due to the pandemic.

One family member, Ms. Petrovčič, expressed her experience with music care in this way:

“I skyped with my mother for the first time. At first, she looked a little bewildered but when I spoke to her in Slovenian, she looked at me a few times. It was not until I started to sing that she looked right at me and at one point looked like she was trying to sing along. There was a hint of a smile. I sang mostly soft songs and lullabies and in the end, her eyes were drooping. I took that to mean that the songs I was singing were having a calming effect. I felt that we had made a connection.”

We continue to evaluate the initiative and reflect on the positive impact that music care has on everyone at Dom Lipa. We believe that the project enhances the existing presence of music, enriches the lives of residents and staff alike and provides an opportunity for greater collaboration of all care partners.

We look forward to telling you more about Naša Music Care in future communications.

Expressing Gratitude

We sincerely thank our Dom Lipa community for their continued support, as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our residents and staff safe and healthy.

Stories of our community's generosity have been highlighted in previous letters. We would like to express our gratitude for recent demonstrations of generosity, including:

- Meal Donation provided by Calii Love
- Pizza Lunch provided by the Machek Family
- Assortment of Danishes provided by Dorothy Lenarčič
- Tim Horton's Coffee and Timbits provided by SURGE Learning
- Pizza lunch provided by Frank Soršak
- “Cool” treats provided by the Končan and Babič Families
- Godiva chocolates provided by the Juretič Family
- Fruit Trays provided by the Ritlop Family
- “Gifts” provided by the Torkar Family
- Musical Serenades outdoors at residents' windows by the Končan Family
- Skype musical sessions by Milan Vinčec
- Innovation Tank donated 100 Ear Saver straps
- Mobilizing Masks for Health Care Providers donated masks
- The Inkbox donated 200 face shields
- Thank you to Darinka Kavčič for the Easter Fundraiser. The crochet bunnies and chicks were so cute.
- Mario Ulčar and the Canadian Slovenian Historical Society supplied outdoor flower hanging baskets.
- Family Council members continue to work their green thumbs, creating beautiful perennial and rock gardens, as well as preparing the outdoor vegetable planters.
- Thank you especially to +Darko Medved and his son, Christian for their persistence in following up on a delivery of a large donation of surgical masks, which was one of the last donations Darko made to Dom Lipa.

Thank you to everyone for your dedicated support, your continuing good wishes, and your ongoing financial donations to the Pandemic Appeal.

The Board of Directors, Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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