



Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service

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December 10, 2020

Chairman Ryan Silvey and Commissioners
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service, is the largest social service provider in the Tri-county area of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties. Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service serves thousands of clients a year who have food, utility and housing needs. We have seen firsthand how the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted thousands of Missouri families. Besides the stress, social isolation and negative health impacts caused by the pandemic, the economic consequences have been startling. Many families have lost wages and lost jobs since March. These families are struggling to pay for food, housing, lights, heat and water. Many families are at risk of becoming homeless. Since March, our agency has seen an increase of 30% in services provided.

This has been a difficult year for all of us. The stress brought on by this pandemic should not be compounded by the additional threat of utility shut offs. Having water, lights and heat allows families to stay in their home and stay safe from the pandemic. When utilities are shut off, many times families are forced to become homeless - living on the streets, in their cars, in shelters or doubling up with other families - all of which increases the chance of contracting and transmitting the COVID-19 virus. Instituting a moratorium on utility disconnections is an essential way to enable more families to stay home and stay safe.

We urge you to institute a moratorium on utility disconnections during the unprecedented public health and economic challenges of this winter. Pausing utility disconnections is not only compassionate, it also promotes better health for all of us. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Struckoff, MSW, LMSW
Executive Director
Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service
4116 McClay Road
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