



From the CEO

Starting a New Year

I am writing this letter on the first day of 2021. Never in my lifetime have I been so ready to turn the page on a year in hopes that the new year will bring better days. 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID 19, but there were several other events that will stand out. The tragic death of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, along with seven others, shocked the southern California community, followed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and the community lockdowns which broke up the gridlock on Los Angeles freeways. Then the George Floyd murder sparked racial unrest and protest throughout the summer until fire season started and produced such poor air quality, southern California not only feared for the fires but also the air they were breathing. The presidential election of 2020 was the most contentious in my lifetime and has been followed by a winter surge in the virus throughout southern California at the end of 2020. What a year to forget!

Yet until this recent surge of the coronavirus, Atherton has been able to provide both a safe and encouraging environment in which to live during a pandemic. Our Independent Living residents have had some restrictions on travel and gatherings, but also have been able to have meals delivered to their homes, shop for small items in our on-campus grocery store, have the support they need for digital platforms, and even experience some outdoor dining through the summer and into the fall. The campus of Atherton has allowed them to enjoy outdoor walks, and the outdoor gathering areas have allowed them to have small visits from family. Only one of our Independent Living residents tested positive for COVID in 2020, and although he was very sick, he is recovering and looking forward to a better 2021.

In Assisted Living where residents require more personal care, we have now had six residents who tested positive for COVID. Up until December, we only had one resident who tested positive, but the December surge resulted in another five residents with a positive diagnosis. As we start 2021, three of these residents are COVID free and recovered, while two others are continuing to deal with the disease. Though we have had several staff in Assisted Living test positive for COVID, we are deeply grateful for their hard work and dedication to the residents of Atherton.

The major impact of the virus has been felt in Skilled Nursing. From the beginning of the pandemic, these residents throughout the United States have been the most vulnerable to this virus. Time and time again we have read stories of the virus's impact when it entered a Skilled Nursing facility. Atherton has worked hard to try to avoid this impact and through the month of November had been very successful. The two cases of coronavirus in June were the only two cases throughout our Skilled Nursing residents for the whole pandemic from March until the beginning of December. But the surge of cases in southern California hit Atherton during the month of December and has resulted in 22 residents of Skilled Nursing testing positive for COVID, with three resulting COVID deaths. We have also had three of

these residents recover from the disease in December and expect more in the coming days, but the sorrow we feel for the death of our residents because of this disease is palpable.

Obviously, this surge has made us rethink all our infection precautions and add new ones. We now have much of our staff in Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living wearing face shields and N95 masks. We have created separate spaces for staff to take breaks and assigned staff to specific areas of the facility to work. We have reinforced patterns and procedures of infection control and pleaded with our staff to be mindful of how their extracurricular activities outside of Atherton can impact the residents they serve. We, like most institutions which have had outbreaks, have been hurt by the asymptomatic spread of the disease which enters our communities silently and then can result in devastating consequences.

As we enter 2021, we are not yet sure we have turned the corner on this outbreak. We still had residents and staff in Skilled Nursing who tested positive this last week, but we are hopeful our heightened procedures will have a greater impact and end this outbreak. The holiday gatherings and rampant surge in southern California are a large obstacle for everyone in Senior Living. Having said this, one of the rays of hope is the rollout of the vaccine. On Wednesday, December 30th, Atherton received 300 doses of the Moderna vaccine for residents and staff of Skilled Nursing. We vaccinated 72 Skilled Nursing employees on Wednesday and are preparing to vaccinate 50 residents of Skilled Nursing in the next few days. We also received word that a partnership between CVS and the Federal Government will make the Pfizer vaccine available to our Assisted Living and Independent Living residents in mid-January. Like so many, we are hopeful these vaccines will help us turn the corner on this disease and lead to a better 2021.

As we have said before, we continue to believe that connecting with loved ones is incredibly important and there are a variety of other ways you might consider connecting with them. We encourage you to use the telephone, email, text, or through Skype, FaceTime, or Facebook. Our team is more than willing to help your loved one get connected, and you can give us a call if you need our help. We have also established Atherton Online on Tuesday nights and you are welcome to join in from your own home through Facebook or YouTube Live. Just go to Facebook or YouTube and make Atherton a friend.

We continue to encourage you to be safe and practice the prevention steps which include wearing face masks, following strict handwashing procedures, and using approved hand sanitizers. We also encourage you to use disinfectant cleaning products on all surfaces to keep your environment safe. Be aware of symptoms of the virus so that you can get treatment as soon as possible.

Atherton has also started an email tree to send out updates. The updates are usually sent out a couple of times per week. You can send an email to athertonupdates@abh.org, and we will add your email to our tree. Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community. We want to keep you informed. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email or by phone at 626-863-1581.

One final thought -- I still believe a senior living community is a great value for people. The array of services and opportunities provided to seniors helps them thrive as they grow older, and as a result have different kinds of "aging" problems. In a pandemic, this concentration of people may result in more risk; however, they also provide more resources which are available from a trusted source to deal with the difficulties we all face as we age. We at Atherton have not been perfect during this pandemic, but we have tried to be truthful and trustworthy in helping our residents have "enriching and honorable lives"

during the historic time we are living through. This is our mission: To be a senior community rooted in Christian values, enriching lives, and honoring all. Thank you for believing in us and considering us as a senior living option.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. J. Craig Statton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rev. J. Craig Statton