

Dear Friends of Cradle Beach,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. The upheaval and uncertainty associated with COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone. The resilience and versatility of our families, students and individuals we're privileged to serve is apparent each and every day. Our staff, volunteers and supporters remain steadfast in offering creative ways to support and serve our Cradle Beach family, WNY community and each other. To date we have postponed all events, programs and activities through May 31st and our office continues to work remotely.

As always, health and safety remain our priority. Our first camp session is scheduled to begin on June 29th however, further guidance from federal, state and local authorities will be vital in charting our course. Our American Camp Association (ACA) membership provides education, research and best practices to camp professionals serving over 7 million children a year. ACA has engaged the CDC and created an alliance of independent experts to identify specific COVID-19 camp strategies and guidance. Members of our leadership team are following these developments and are at the virtual table with colleagues, officials and industry leaders from Upstate NY's ACA, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY, AmeriCorps and other essential collaborators. As these complexities are addressed, our programs have been inspiring that special Cradle Beach Spirit!

Project SOAR has been providing teleservice, mentoring and academic support to students while they continue remote learning within Buffalo Public Schools. Our Camp staff and Alumni Association have teamed up to provide fun virtual activities, including a fun zoom campfire. Our virtual poster contest is also underway as is our Living Classrooms Egg Drop experiment which will fill curious minds with wonder.

As we prepare for brighter days ahead, Cradle Beach's 132 year mission speaks louder and prouder than ever! "Cradle Beach unites individuals and families, with a focus on empowering children with special needs and the underserved, to become their best selves. We create opportunities for life-changing experiences in a safe and inclusive environment."

Thank you for being a valued member of our Cradle Beach family. Please check our website and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date and feel free to contact me at (716) 549-6307 ext. 207 or aorlowski@CradleBeach.org.

Warmly,

Ann-Marie Orłowski, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer