Dear AHRC Suffolk Team Members, Individuals, Families, and Colleagues:

In normal times, the holiday season is one in which we happily celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas, and welcome in the New Year.

We are not in normal times.

All the more reason for us to take the time to reflect on the things in our lives that bring us joy and new possibilities during this 2020 holiday season. Things for which we are grateful. Brief moments when we were able to stop and see the goodness in one another. Recognition for the extraordinary actions we all have taken to provide people with disabilities and their families better lives.

When I pause for a moment and reflect on 2020, I will of course remember many of the things that I wish didn’t happen. But what resonates with me most is what has happened. We have demonstrated the power of working together and supporting one another. We have been decisive in taking action by doing our very best to protect the people we support, and one another, from the many risks wrought by the pandemic. And we have learned how to be even better at what we do.

You have given more than was ever anticipated when you joined or decided to support our organization. I thank you for that, from the bottom of my heart.

The holidays are among the best of times to express gratitude. I am forever grateful to the entire AHRC Suffolk Team, our Board, our Supporters, and Self Advocates. We have never been more aligned in such a singular way. We are stronger because of it.

The great American poet and activist, Maya Angelou wrote in her poem, “Amazing Grace” and read at the White House in 2005:

*Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,*

*Streaming lots of joy,*

*Ringing bells of hope,*

*And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.*

*The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,*

*Come the way of friendship.*

Whether it is Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or Christmas, I wish the very best for you, your family, and friends during this holiday season. We look forward to 2021 with optimism, recognizing there is still a tremendous amount of work to do. We have clearly shown that together we are better, and together we shall stay.

With Great Admiration and Gratitude,

Paul H. Torres
Chief Executive Officer

Join the AHRC Suffolk Team! Visit www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers to see our current openings at various locations. Apply today!