



Under Our Roof Family Newsletter

Department of Housing and Student Centers, DePaul University



Spring/Summer
2020

Includes:



A letter from
the director



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Home Away From Home
Campaign



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for Fall Housing



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A letter from the Director

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I find myself writing you this letter on a subject I never imagined would happen in a million years. It's hard to know where to begin since COVID-19 has shaken and reshaped our world. Higher education across the country has been exposed to the most extreme challenges associated with this pandemic. In some ways, we are among the most impacted because school spirit is associated with the entire college experience.

Each year we expect to see students gathering with their peers, faculty and staff in the classrooms, fans cheering at home basketball games, meetings and events in the Student Center, and residents in each other's rooms and lounges to study, socialize, and network. All of these practices came in jeopardy when the virus hit, particularly in mid-March. The only thing our department could prepare for was getting our students home to safety, as well as the stress and anxiety that would come with it. As much as students wanted to stay, it pained us all to see them go.

Fast forward to nearly three months since we closed our campuses and said "goodbye" to the majority of our on-campus residents and I am still struggling to find the words. However, the two words that I would like to express to you the most are: **THANK YOU!** If not for your support, we would not have been able to safely and quickly move our students back home.

Believe it or not, even though we do it every year in June, the move-out process is planned months in advance. This year, we were given only a few days. My team did what they do best—they came together in a big way and worked with residents and families to make it happen. We successfully emptied our

campus while students finished their Winter Quarter finals and, hopefully, we appeared to do it with some level of ease. We read your emails, as well as the parents' Facebook page, and saw all the wonderful compliments. So, I thank you for your support, your assistance, and your very kind words throughout the move-out process.

Our future has not yet been fully written. Fall Quarter is still about three months away. The university is feverishly trying to plan the best and safest way to effectively manage the 2020-21 academic year and I am confident we will. I am hopeful about the future of campus housing for next year and beyond. More things will become clearer as we get into summer, but we need to manage this carefully and considerably to ensure student safety—our highest priority.

I know we will prevail after the virus goes away. We are DePaul! And, as cliché as it sounds, I am confident we will be a stronger university and housing department due to the lessons we've learned during the pandemic.

It is my sincerest hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well. We are all in this together—adapting and adjusting to this unexpected event in our lives. From our hearts to yours, we wish you happiness and health!

Yours in service,



**Rick Moreci, Director
Housing and Student Centers
DePaul University**



Housing Launches the “Home Away from Home” Instagram Challenge



The Department of Housing, in partnership with the Department of Residential Education, kicked off the **Home Away from Home** Instagram challenge on Wednesday, May 13. The purpose of Home Away from Home is to engage residents from the 2019-20 academic year on social media, particularly those impacted by the accelerated move-out at the end of Winter Quarter due to COVID-19.

“During the move-out process, students and parents expressed feelings of stress and concern on social media,” said Patricia Nicandro, Housing’s Marketing & Communications Manager. “We understand the difficulty for residents to be parted from the comforts of on-campus living, as well as friends and peers. Residents need the opportunity to reconnect with DePaul and each other in today’s online environment, which is why we created the Home Away from Home Instagram challenge.”



Patricia Nicandro
Housing’s Marketing & Communications
Manager

Home Away from Home not only has fun, interactive Instagram content for students to enjoy now until the end of summer, but students have the opportunity to win a special home care package cultivated by Housing and its on-campus partners. Moreover, each home care package is based on a specific theme, such as Movie Night, Home Workout, and Back-to-School.

To learn more about Home Away from Home, please review the official rules below and follow the DePaul Housing Instagram page (@depaulhousing).

Home Away From Home Official Rules

The “Home Away from Home” campaign is open to DePaul students who were registered for on-campus housing Winter/Spring 2020, as well as incoming DePaul freshmen. This campaign will be active May-August 2020; home care package drawings will occur 2-4Xs per month. In order to be entered into “Home Away from Home” drawings, students must follow the instructions posted by @depaulhousing on Instagram accordingly—only appropriate, non-explicit content will be considered. Winners will be selected randomly and announced on a selected date. To claim their prize, “Home Away from Home” winners must send a direct message via Instagram to @depaulhousing with their full name and a valid DePaul ID number to verify student/resident status.



Student and Family Webinars to Address Fall Housing

During these uncertain times, it is certain that our department is here to support you and understand that you may have concerns regarding Fall Quarter housing. Therefore, we would like to give you the opportunity to have your questions answered directly.

This summer, we are scheduling webinar sessions for parents and guardians to discuss housing accommodations, health and safety practices, and other topics related to on-campus living. We also invite new and continuing residents to join the conversation.

We will post the schedule on our newpage at go.depaul.edu/housing-news, as well as our DePaul Housing social media platforms.



follow us @depaulhousing



Student Food Pantry to Remain Open Through Summer

The Student Food Pantry, located in the Lincoln Park Student Center, will remain open for student use leading up to the Fall Quarter. Though the original home of the pantry is on the third floor, it will be housed on the first floor on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 10AM-1PM. The pantry is open to all students, but is intended for use by students who do not have other means of obtaining food and not on a university meal plan.

Since the pandemic started, over \$22,000 has been raised for the student food pantry, which will help us sustain the operation over the summer months and into the Fall Quarter.

All members of the university community are welcome to donate non-perishable food items, unused household items and toiletries. Donations may be delivered to the Lincoln Park Student Center via the Kenmore Avenue entrance. An officer at the door will accept donations for the pantry. For students who need to access the pantry, please plan to bring your own bag if possible. Please take what you need and

respect that others also need this resource. A valid student ID is required for entry to the building.

Please consider donating to the DePaul Student Food Pantry: <https://inspire.depaul.edu/project/20969>.

