



Helping Alaskans with Differing Abilities Experience Hope Since 1968

June 3, 2020

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Stakeholders;

Looking out on the Chugach mountains today I am grieving a man I did not know, angry with a police officer I will not meet, and feeling culpable for an act I did not commit.

It has been nine days since the murder of George Floyd. Although this event happened far away from Alaska, it requires each of us to reflect and acknowledge the small acts of aggression and harassment occurring – sometimes daily – to our Black and other minority friends, family, and colleagues.

Many of us can't even imagine having to have a conversation with our small children about why their father was questioned by the police when he was picking up coffee at the gas station, worrying about whether we would see our teenage sons and daughters alive again after allowing them to spend the night at a friend's house, or the utter terror of being wrongfully accused, jailed, or murdered at a random traffic stop.

To our friends, family, and colleagues for whom this is a reality, there is a space within Hope to be angry, afraid, disenchanted, or disengaged when these incidences happen close to home or elsewhere.

To our friends, family, and colleagues for whom this is not a reality, we ask for understanding and support for your friends, family, and colleagues. All too often we avoid talking about racism and what we personally can do to stop it because it is uncomfortable.

At Hope Community Resources we proudly stand alongside oppressed peoples everywhere and against all forms of oppression and injustice. We want everyone to be seen by their unique gifts and talents; we want everyone to feel safe and valued; we want everyone to have full access to community made rich and vibrant because of its diversity. We want, when the question is asked "Who is my neighbor?" to expect an answer with a wide expanse of tolerance and demonstrate individual actions showing love, compassion and acceptance.

As we move forward together, as one team, one global community, One Hope, each and all of us plays a part in working to reimagine and change the unjust social, political, economic, and moral structures within our community. Our corporate vision reflects our desire at Hope to leave a legacy of sustainable excellence creating outcomes that better humankind.

Our grief can be transformative if focused on the desired outcome to eradicate racism in our communities. We stand with those willing to commit.

Sincerely,

Michele Girault
CEO
Hope Community Resources