Dear all Bacoa Stakeholders including most importantly, our Donor Community,

As we near the end of 2021, I would like to update you on how incredibly proud I am of the entire Bacoa family including our clients, staff members and board of directors during the past 20+ months of unanticipated challenges which weighed especially heavy on our seniors. It ultimately had both negative and positive impacts on the world around us and in our neighborhoods in a way that we had never experienced or could have predicted. I said on several occasions “There is no playbook for a global pandemic”! We all just tried our best to navigate the situation each day and deal with the changing landscape with the sole goal of keeping as many people as safe as possible.

At Bacoa, programming was paused momentarily at the onset of the pandemic, but our committed staff members quickly rerouted to the wonderful world of staying connected and keeping each other engaged and informed through virtual technology. Instead of decreasing attendance, we saw increases in many of our programs. New social activities were identified, and our community members and volunteers stepped up to meet the needs of our seniors and clients. From historical lessons provided by the esteemed Cary Waxler of Barrington High School to the return of our A Day Out program for individuals with cognitive issues, the launch of the Dementia Friendly Barrington initiative and finally, the fun surrounding Bingo and a Beverage.... the hottest virtual ticket in town on Wednesday night!! The emotional and social programming of Bacoa has never been stronger and the outreach has never been better.

We also pulled off the 4th Annual Dancing with the Barrington Stars in an ALL-virtual format last February. What at first appeared to be a daunting, if not impossible, task became the largest fundraising event in the history of Bacoa. Our staff and volunteers were creative and dealt with game-changing circumstances thrown at them day after day. This annual event is now a hometown favorite for many in our community and beyond. Plans for DWTBS 2022 are well under way with yet another new format to enjoy.

At the board level, we continue to determine what the future space needs of our programs will be and whether additional space is needed. We are hoping to have more to report on this topic in the coming year. Without a senior center in our community, we have historically accepted the generosity of space provisions from our community in the form of the park district, our Christian community and other public places around town. This has served us well but the growth of our programs and the clients we serve has guided us to review the future feasibility of this approach.

We continue to keep Grants, Donations and Fund Raising at the forefront of our fiduciary responsibilities. Despite the success of our DWTBS event, it is important that we find other avenues to continue to fund our ever-growing activities and to that end, we have a creative team working on identifying opportunities that allow us to continue to spread the good work of Bacoa and recruit both Donors and Volunteers to meet the needs of our ever growing population of aging adult
Letter from the Executive Director

What a year! There is a saying that says, “You never know what you are capable of doing until you are called upon to do it.” This truly exemplifies Bacoa’s spirit over the past 18 months.

In March of 2020 the world was hit with a powerful pandemic that brought all of us to a halt. Bacoa staff and board was challenged with honoring our mission to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families. How to do it when we couldn’t meet in person? Isolation, lack of socialization, and depression are major issues older Americans face and we needed to find ways to keep seniors engaged, excited, and positive. We ramped up our well-being phone calls and developed a Sunshine Card project delivering cards to those in the community who needed it most – those living in assisted living and memory care facilities, and first responders.

While the majority of our programs transitioned to a Zoom format, we continued to deliver Meals with Wheels to those unable to prepare their own food; began grocery shopping for those afraid to go out, and offered shelf-stable food for those worried about not having enough to eat.

By the way, thanks to virtual learning we were able to add more than 400 programs to our calendar of activities in the past fiscal year. And the mere fact that we continued to answer our phones during COVID meant that Bacoa saw a 21% increase in the number of people we were able to help with benefits access like Medicare Part D, Senior Health Insurance Program, energy assistance, tax preparation, support groups, vaccines and other support.

With the ease in COVID restrictions, Bacoa once again welcomed participants to in-person programs in the fall of 2020. And because our virtual programs were such a hit, we have continued to offer them to an eager public.

All of what was accomplished this past year was due to the amazing community support we received from donors. I thank you for supporting Bacoa and for your commitment to helping older adults with life’s challenges.

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Executive Director

Sue McNamara
Director of Social Services

Pam Pellizzari
Memory Programs Manager

Janine O’Leary
Program Manager

Diane Vos Hansen
Social Services Manager

Carol Hannagan
Executive Assistant
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Financials Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021
Fiscal Year end 3.31.2021

Net Operating Revenues
Gross Revenues $619,076
Operating Expenses
$600,038

- Fundraising
- Management & General
- Programs

Cash & Investments
- Cash
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- Endowment, Restricted Investments
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