December 2017

*Families celebrating. Celebrating families.*

Season’s greetings partners and friends,

It is always with such joy and gratitude that we write this letter to our partners to offer warmest wishes for the season.

As I think about this time of year, I imagine all the ways families celebrate together and I pause to think about the many, many ways that all of you work to celebrate families: recognizing the strengths of parents, honoring the wishes of elders, listening with all your hearts to children across Washington County. We support you and work alongside you as you help families reach their goals, resolving the obstacles along the way. Our goal is to help you as individuals and organizations connect seamlessly to the work of one another. Within that system of supports that you make stronger each day, families can find the services and the opportunities they need to become hopeful, successful, and well.

From our vantage point, we see so many ways to celebrate families, too. We see young parents taking enormous leaps as they pursue a brighter future through education. We see caregivers accessing programs and training to help their loved ones age with the resources they need and the dignity they deserve. All the time, we see community members who are accessing supports asking for ways to give others a helping hand.

Many of us could not do our work without the essential supports of our own loved ones. For me, nothing matters more than the health, safety, and happiness of my own family. The happiness of my children, the hopes and dreams of my partner, the health of my parents, siblings, nieces and nephews…nothing matters more. Our loved ones motivate us. They guide and support us. They challenge us, too, but they matter most.

Neighbor to neighbor, service provider to client, parent to child, at the end of the day, we are all caregivers in some way or another. That caring is our shared strength. In this season and always, that caring is so worthy of celebration!

At the CCC, we celebrate you. We recognize and share those values you hold dear. And we hope that the values you share with the community members you care for will guide you in the new year.

Warmly yours,



Charley Martin-Berry

Community Caring Collaborative