June 1, 2020

Dear Friends of the Opportunity Foundation,

Beginning July 1, 2020 the Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon will no longer be a provider of ***paid*** Employment Path services at our thrift stores. Based on the State of Oregon’s guidance quoted here, no group services such as those we have offered at our stores are allowed at this time and there is no projected date for them to resume.

“Employment and DSA services in congregate (group) settings or at a provider site ODDS employment and day services in a congregate (group) setting or at a provider site will continue to be prohibited…The policy prohibiting Employment and DSA services at a provider site or in a congregate setting remain in place until further notice.”

For more information please visit

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/PROVIDERS-PARTNERS/Pages/engagement-innovation.aspx>

Another reason for this change is that we are being required by new state law to phase out the use of sub minimum wage, which we also have used in our stores. We simply cannot afford to pay the increased new minimum wage, which also goes up every year.

The Opportunity Foundation will welcome all the people we have served back to our stores to participate in ***unpaid*** Employment Path and recreational programs whenever the state allows us to do so.

We know this is a very difficult change. We will continue to pay wages to all supported workers through the end of June, based on their average earnings prior to the stores’ state mandated COVID 19 closure. This will be a difficult transition for us as well but we need to follow the new legal requirements set forward by the state. Our hearts are with you in this difficult time.

Please feel free to reach out to your case manager or personal agent with any questions about your services. You can also feel free to reach out to me with any other questions. Thank you for your understanding as we all go through this together.

Sincerely,

Seth Johnson

Executive Director

541-548-2611

sjohnson@opportunityfound.org