



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

June 11, 2020

Dear Friend,

How I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe! Even as we experience the uncertainty that has come to define these unusual times, the Blue Mountain College family rejoices over the many certainties which not even a global pandemic can alter: the faithfulness of our loving and gracious God, the joy of fulfilling our Christ-centered mission, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. We rejoice as well as we reflect upon your faithful support—thank you for making it possible for students from around the globe to receive a world-class education at Blue Mountain College.

I write to you today asking you to consider doing once again what you have done so generously in the past. I write asking you for your financial help in addressing a pressing need of many of our BMC students. Here is one case in point: a young man whom we will call Jim sought out our Dean of Students recently to share his plight and to issue a plea for assistance. Suffering from depression, Jim could not afford to see a counselor, but he was desperate for help. His parents are divorced, his dad had abandoned him, and his mother had lost her job. Feeling unloved and unwanted, Jim fought back tears as he uttered these words:

I need help. I want someone to help me. Please help me.

In addition to carrying burdens like those plaguing Jim and others like him, many students are now also suffering from the financial hardships imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These financial struggles have been compounded by the anxiety of facing an uncertain future and by the demands this past spring of completing their education from a distance (often in settings where access to technology is seriously limited).

Having witnessed firsthand the strain of the past few months on the mental well-being of many of our students, we want to be equipped to support these students as they return to campus this fall. Our hope is to provide 24/7 access to mental health counseling to every student like Jim who exhibits or expresses a need. We can do this by partnering with a telemedicine provider to link BMC students to qualified professionals who can offer both behavioral and medical counseling.

Such a service as this does come with a cost—a cost that we do not want to pass on to our students during these already challenging times. We believe that this service is critical, and we are reluctant to let cost stand in the way. Because the well-being of so many students is at stake, I am asking you to consider sponsoring this essential service for one or more students at

Blue Mountain College. The cost is \$84 for twelve months of access—and the service is available not only to the student but to his or her family as well.

What a blessing it would be if every student who desires this service could have it as a gift from the donors and friends of Blue Mountain College! I am optimistic that friends like you will link arms to make it possible for us to serve our students in this way. Our goal is to raise \$55,000 this summer so that every student who needs help will have it. Would you prayerfully consider making a gift of at least \$84 by July 15? You can make a gift by calling the Office of Business Affairs at (662) 685-4771 Ext. 106 or by visiting www.bmc.edu/support-telemedicine. Each dollar given will reduce the cost to the student; a total of \$55,000 would eliminate the cost to students entirely. Let's do this!

Thank you again for caring deeply about our students.

Gratefully,



Barbara C. McMillin
President

P.S. Understandably, not everyone is in a position to give right now. However, you might choose to follow the lead of one friend of BMC who has committed to investing an unneeded portion of her stimulus funds in assisting the students of Blue Mountain College. Thank you, dear friend, for sharing your blessings!