

*Message from Mike Thirtle, Ph.D.
President and CEO of Bethesda
June 3, 2020*

Where we stand

The incident in Minneapolis and the unrest that has followed have shaken America. During times like these, with the issues so clear and the pain so real, we are challenged to clarify our values, and called to act on them.

I want to be clear about where Bethesda stands. We stand for equal rights and justice **for everyone**. For treating others with respect and dignity. For lifting each other up and, where we see injustice, speaking up and working toward positive change.

This is the spirit in which we do our jobs every day, as we provide care and support for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. I urge you to take that spirit and be a force for good by listening, learning and supporting all people of this great nation. Bethesda is an organization that has always believed that our strength comes from making sure **all people** are included and equally represented. I know that together we will make our communities more united.

I pray that God heals our nation and that we recognize we are all part of the same human family.

Thank you.

Mike