

To whom it may concern,

Thank you ever so much for your contribution leading to my rental assistance. As a queer, disabled person of color, I often find many doors closing and opportunities limited to move forward in life. Nevertheless, it is generous gifts like yours that provide a refuge from so many life storms.

Besides dealing with the stress and unemployment related to Covid -19, my mother passed away last year, and following my brother was diagnosed with Leukemia. A few months after that, my father had to undergo open-heart surgery. Consequently, the need to settle my mother's affairs, ongoing financial support for my brother, and his wife compounded by unpaid leave to assist my father, who lives across the country, quickly drained my savings.

As a person living with mental and physical illness, access to quality healthcare and medication is crucial to survival. Without the assistance your organization provided, I would have had to choose between maintaining insurance benefits and refilling my prescriptions or eating to pay the rent and related expenses.

Maya Angelou said, " Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud". I genuinely feel that receiving rental assistance was a giant rainbow in my cloud of despair. Besides the temporal help, it is a reminder that life is worth living abundantly despite so many hardships and struggles. This spirit of generosity is what carries me through dark times and gives me the strength to live another day.

The help I received to some may be considered a handout or hand up in society, but it is so much more to me. It was a heart open to heal my festering wounds so that I can, in turn, do the same to others. No matter where our journeys go, I know that we are both more excellent because of the places where our paths have crossed.

Thank you immensely and forever,