March 30, 2020

Dear Friends of the Gardens,

Never in my dreams did I imagine leading the Gardens through a time like this. On March 17th, the Gardens was forced to temporarily close due to the community-wide response to the COVID-19 virus. **The loss of income from admission tickets, meetings, classes and weddings, as well as the proceeds from the Home and Garden Tour are devastating to the organization.**

I am quickly realizing that this temporary closure could outlast the Gardens’ financial capability to survive. **We need your help now more than ever. Please send an emergency gift today by clicking here.**

Today our focus is on sustaining the Gardens and its core staff who are responsible for caring for the plant collection, the butterflies and animals on exhibit, and ensuring the Gardens will be ready to open to you and our community when the moment arrives. **We absolutely must find a way to guarantee that there is a Garden to re-open.**

Without your support, we face the inability to keep on staff the very people who care for the plant collection and animals on the property- like the Horticultural Manager and the Butterfly Curator. Without our team, TBG’s existence is under threat. None of us knows how long this situation will last, but we are working to maintain critical staffing to manage through this crisis. Your support today will help.

**Your gift will help address this dramatic shortfall and enable the Gardens to sustain our staff and beautiful property. Every dollar you give makes a difference.**

Since our closure, I have received notes from members sharing stories of how the Gardens carried them through a life crisis or helped them celebrate special occasions. It is for those reasons and more that we thank you for your support.

**May you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.**

Sincerely,

Michelle Conklin
Executive Director, Tucson Botanical Gardens

*Thank you if you have already sent TBG an emergency gift!
PS: I know that many people are struggling financially now as well. If you are unable to give at this time – please know how much your participation and encouragement means to us at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Thank you.*