

Dear Valued Client,

Please find enclosed our Wellness Pack

We understand these are difficult times for everyone and the health safety and wellbeing of clients, families and our staff are important to our service. With consideration of the current COVID-19 public health status, we have made the difficult decision to cancel many of our groups due to Coronavirus restrictions.

To ensure we can stay connected and provide support during this uncertain time, we have developed this wellness pack to help provide support and helpful tips and resources, until we are able to reconnect with you face to face.

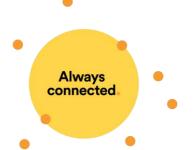
Please know that we are always here if you ever need. Our counselling services are still available to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you in grief and loss, family, relationship and marriage difficulties, stress/anxiety/depression and changes in personal or family situations.

To find out more about our counselling service call us on 4254 9395.

Regards,

Roseanne Plunkett

Executive Manager, Family Services



KEEPING WELL DURING COVID-19



Many of us are currently going through some challenging times due to the effects of COVID-19 on ourselves, family and friends. These challenges range from very practical, such as availability of food and essential items in supermarkets, right through to health risks and emotional and psychological coping and wellbeing.

It is common to need support and it is important to reach out if you are experiencing any troubles as everyone is affected differently.

Ways to maintain your wellbeing during this time.

- Enact good hygiene practices washing hands, covering coughs, using hand sanitiser
- Eat well
- Make sure to get plenty of rest when required
- Allow time to exercise and clear your mind
- Take time to go outside
- Have a break from social media
- Plan some simple activities to keep yourself busy such as reading a book, listening to music, watching a movie
 or organising the house.
- Find time to do things you enjoy and find relaxing
- Recognising the signs that make you feel stressed or anxious and putting in practice plans to help you remain calm.
- Don't panic, if you are after information, look for it from a reputable source such as the Australian Government or World Health Organisation

Sometimes it can be difficult to focus, and problems might creep up on you. Here are some signs to look out for in yourself and others you know:

- Constant Uncertainty
- Anxiety and Disorientation
- Excessive use of Drugs or Alcohol
- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Changed eating habits
- Feeling of being overwhelmed

If you or someone you know are experiencing difficulties CatholicCare is here to help.

CatholicCare offers Counselling Services (with online options available) and a range of courses to help strengthen relationships.

We also offer a range of courses including a parenting course on managing ANXIETY in children and young people.

To book a counselling session please call 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

www.catholiccare.dow.org.au



TIPS ON COPING THROUGH COVID



CatholicCare's tips and links to help you thrive.

We know everyone is pretty confused right now and that the news is grimmer than usual. We're here to offer any help we can. Read our tips to help you and your loved one's deal with the COVID-19 crisis in the best way possible.

Tip 1. Be kind to each other

We're all in this together, we might as well take care of each other. That's the most important thing at the moment.

A bit of kindness and community spirit will go a long way to making sure we reduce the harm that comes from Coronavirus. What can you do?

Join "The Kindness Pandemic" and/or "Illawarra Kindness Pandemic" on facebook

Tip 2. Read reliable health information

Follow the links at the end of the document to the latest COVID-19 information. Join the official Australian Government site on whatsapp +61 400 253 787

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

Tip 3. Don't put your mental health on hold

Isolation is only intended to tackle Coronavirus. If anything, we need people struggling with mental health to be more connected than ever to friends and support services.

If you take medication, chemists are still open and if you're out of scripts, call your doctor.

Telephone mental health services are fantastic. Here are some quality options:

https://www.lifeline.org.au

Apps such as "Clear Fear" and "Calm Harm", "Insight Timer" and "Smiling Mind" are excellent for mental health

Refer to our support services document for more options.

Tip 4. Use home workout apps

On the couch too much? Need a distraction? Need exercise. Your mental health still needs the many benefits of exercise. We can be using apps to guide workouts (we value their expertise). Here are some suggestions.

- Nike Training Club: 105 free, no-equipment workouts and a 4-week bodyweight fitness plan ((and plenty more)
- Daily Workouts Fitness Trainer: another similar option to the Nike app is available on Google Play and the App Store.

 Daily Yoga: yoga lovers, this is the only app you need. Available on Google Play and the App Store.

Tip 5. Video call your friends and family

We are social beings, and we need to contact with our loved ones. Get in touch and make a friend or relative smile. Whatsapp, Facetime, Zoom and Housepar-ty are all good (free) options.

Tip 6. Master working from home

- Pick a fixed start and end time for your workdays. Keep to your routine as much as possible.
 Switching off is more important to your energy levels than staying switched on.
- Prepare nutritious meals. A good diet is essential to your health. Use your home time wisely by making your own meals.
- Exercise and stretch. Your kitchen chair was never designed for a full day's slog. Take regular breaks to stretch.
- Check in with your colleagues. Video calls can keep the smiles and connectedness going.

Tip 7. We're still around to help

Catholiccare is still here, caring for you. We will be publishing more helpful tips and information. Visit our website Home | Catholic Care (dow.org.au) and follow us on our Facebook page CatholicCare | Facebook.

Helpful Links:

- Symptoms and how the virus spreads
- Check COVID Symptoms
- Seeing a doctor and getting tested
- Social distancing and avoiding infection
- About Self-isolation
- Groups at higher risk
- Information for older Australians
- Information for Carers
- Childcare & School Exclusions
- Travel Advice and Restrictions
- Where can I get Local Information?



Support Services



Emergency 000

If you or someone you are with is in immediate danger, please call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.

Beyond Blue

Talk to a trained mental health professional any time of the day or night. Calls are confidential. They will listen, provide information and advice and point you in the right direction to seek further support.

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 Open 24/7

Beyond Blue chat online Open 3pm to midnight, 7 days a week

Lifeline

24-hour crisis support telephone service. Lifeline provides 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

<u>Lifeline</u> 131 114

Kids Helpline

A telephone counselling support line for children and young people ages 5 to 25 and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

NSW Mental Health Line

A mental health professional will answer your call about mental health concerns for you or someone you are concerned about, including children, teens, adults and older people.

Mental Health Line 1800 011 511

Suicide Call Back Service

National services that provides free 24/7 phone, video and online professional counselling to people who are affected by suicide.

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Domestic Violence Line

The NSW Domestic Violence Line provides counselling and referrals to women experiencing domestic and family violence.

1800 65 64 63

1800RESPECT

1800RESPECT is a counselling, information, and referral service for all Australians

1800 73 77 32

Black Dog Institute

Black Dog Institute is a free online clinic providing a mental health assessment tool and other support services.

Head to Health

Head to Health can help you find digital mental health and wellbeing resources.

Alcohol & Drug Information Service (ADIS) NSW

ADIS 1800 25 00 15 - operates 24/7 and provides telephone counselling, support, referrals and information for those affected by alcohol or other drugs.

NSW Health

NSW Health have published a PDF of mental health counselling supports.





COPING CALENDAR: KEEP CALM. STAY WISE. BE KIND





30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together. Please use & share A



- 1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact
- 2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!
- Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why
- 4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system
- **5** Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch
- 6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them
- Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help

- Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly
- 9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them
- 10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up
- 11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you
- 12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast
- 13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with
- 14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger

- 15 Make some progress on a project that matters to you
- 16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits
- 17 Learn something new or do something creative
- way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity

18 Find a fun

acts of kindness to help others, however small

19 Do three

- 20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself
- **21** Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with

- 22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others
- 23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news
- 24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go
- **25** Look for the good in others and notice their strengths
- 26 Take a small step towards an important goal
- 27 Thank three people you're grateful to and
- 28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year

- 29 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing
- 30 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time



Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances ** ~ Viktor Frankl



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS











www.actionforhappiness.org



Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.



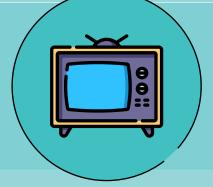


Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.





Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.





A Guide To Self-Care and Wellbeing During Times of Uncertainty.

In times of uncertainty, it is normal and natural for children and adults to respond in unique ways. It can be helpful to focus on the aspects of our lives that we can control like caring for our physical health, safety and emotional wellbeing.

"The only thing in life that is permanent is change.

Change is the one constant in life"

(Fallin 2013)

Steps for Self-care

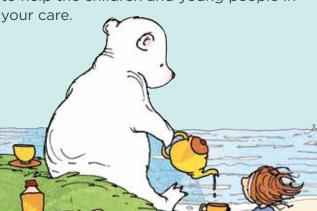
There are things you can do to support yourself, your friends and your family:

- Listen to your needs and your own advice
- Offer kindness for yourself and others
- Stay connected with others by phone and online
- Keep informed just enough information from reliable sources
- Maintain a healthy routine diet, activity and sleep
- Focus on the things you can control versus the things you can't
- Reflect on past success recall a stressful time and reflect on the things that helped

- Learn a new skill and make plans for the future
- Help others if and when you can
- Seek support It's okay to ask for help and advice
- Build hope Focus on 3 things you are grateful for.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

Look after yourself so you are better able to help the children and young people in



Ideas to Help the Children and Young People in times of Uncertainty ...

In times of uncertainty and change, it is normal and natural for children and young people to respond in different ways. Adults can play a vital role in supporting children and young people through the experience.

How may Children and Young People Respond?

- Worried, clingy and uncooperative
- Sad and angry one minute, okay the next
- Frightening thoughts and nightmares
- Regression to earlier behaviours
- Stomach aches and headaches

Adolescents may react in similar, but different ways:

- Mood changes
- · Tired and distracted
- Retreating from social networks
- Sleep problems and headaches

Help Your Child or Young Person

- Offer your attention, patience and love
- Calmly listen to your child's story and encourage your child to ask questions
- Acknowledge and affirm your child's feelings and help your child to identify helpful ways to manage the feelings
- Encourage your child to ask for help from trusted adults
- Involve your child in decisions that affect them
- Respond to your child's questions with clear and factual age appropriate information
- Model positive ways to cope and prioritise quality time together

Helpful Hint - children and young people respond in unique ways and it is helpful to recognise if your child or young person is behaving differently.

Other Ways to Help

- Maintain daily routines as much as possible
- Stay social create ways to connect with special people and loved ones
- Get active go for a walk, listen to music, sing, play with a pet
- Be curious learn a new skill or research an interesting topic together
- Help others encourages social connections and an "I Can" attitude
- Plan fun activities to look forward to

Find helpful resources, updates and training dates at **goodgrief.org.au**

"I think the most significant learning for children in the group was knowing they are not alone and not the only ones that experience change, loss & grief"

Companion, Seasons for Growth Program, 2019









MINDFULNESS BENEFITS AND ACTIVITIES

Visit our website to view our Mindfulness webinar series: Keeping Calm and Connected: Mindfulness Sessions (Webinars) | Catholic Care (dow.org.au). These sessions provide an opportunity to stop and reflect, providing an opportunity to re-focus, re-energise and reconnect with who we are. These sessions provide an understanding of the benefits of mindfulness as well as some practical strategies to implement.

Also see below some activities:

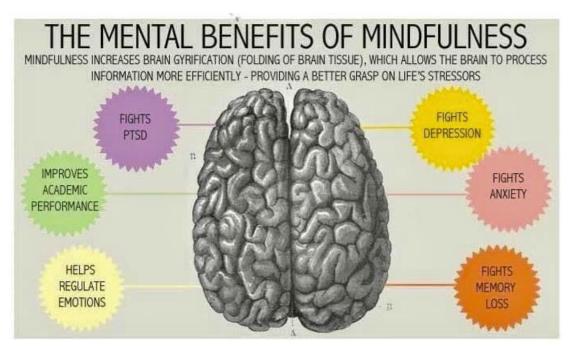
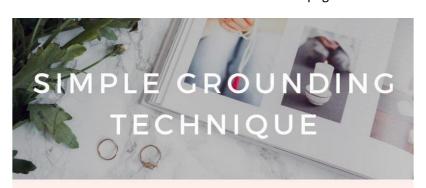


Image sourced from 'Mindfulness Works Australia' Facebook page



If you're feeling anxious or worried, bring your attention back to the current moment with this simple grounding exercise. Notice the following around you:

- 5 things you can see
- 4 things you can feel
- 3 things you can hear
- 2 things you can smell
- 1 thing you can taste

THEBLISSFULMIND.COM

Mindfulness Activities



Everyday Mindfulness

Focussing on the here and now, will often help you to manage your anxious thoughts and feelings about things that have already happened or things that haven't happened yet.

Learning to be mindful teaches you how to focus on the present in a way that helps you get distance from upsetting thoughts and emotions. If you get distance, you can observe events without immediately reacting to them.

You can practice your everyday mindfulness skills with each of your five senses:

Vision:

Buy one beautiful flower; light a candle and watch the flame. Set a pretty place at the table, using your best things, for a meal. Go to a museum with beautiful art. Go sit in the lobby of a beautiful old hotel. Look at nature around you. Go out in the middle of the night and watch the stars. Walk in a pretty part of town. Look at beautiful pictures in a book. Go to a dance performance, or watch one on TV. Acknowledge each sight that passes in front of you, not lingering on any.



Hearing:

Listen to beautiful or soothing music, or to invigorating and exciting music. Pay attention to sounds of nature (waves, birds, rainfall, and leaves rustling). Sing out loud to your favourite songs. Hum a soothing tune. Learn to play an instrument. Listen to a chat show on the radio or a pod cast to hear a human voice. Be aware of any sounds that come your way, letting them go in one ear and out the other.



Smell:

Use your favourite perfume or spray, light a scented candle. Put potpourri in a bowl in your room. Boil cinnamon; bake cookies, cake or bread. Smell the roses. Walk in a wooded area or along the beach, breathe in and let the fresh smells of nature come and go.



Taste:

Have a good meal; have a favourite soothing drink such as tea or hot chocolate; treat yourself to a special dessert. Put whipped cream on your coffee or hot chocolate. Sample flavours in an ice-cream store. Suck on peppermint. Chew your favourite gum. Get a little bit of a special food you don't usually spend the money on, such as fresh squeezed orange juice. Really taste the food you eat, eat one thing at a time and allow the taste of one bite to flow into the next.



Touch:

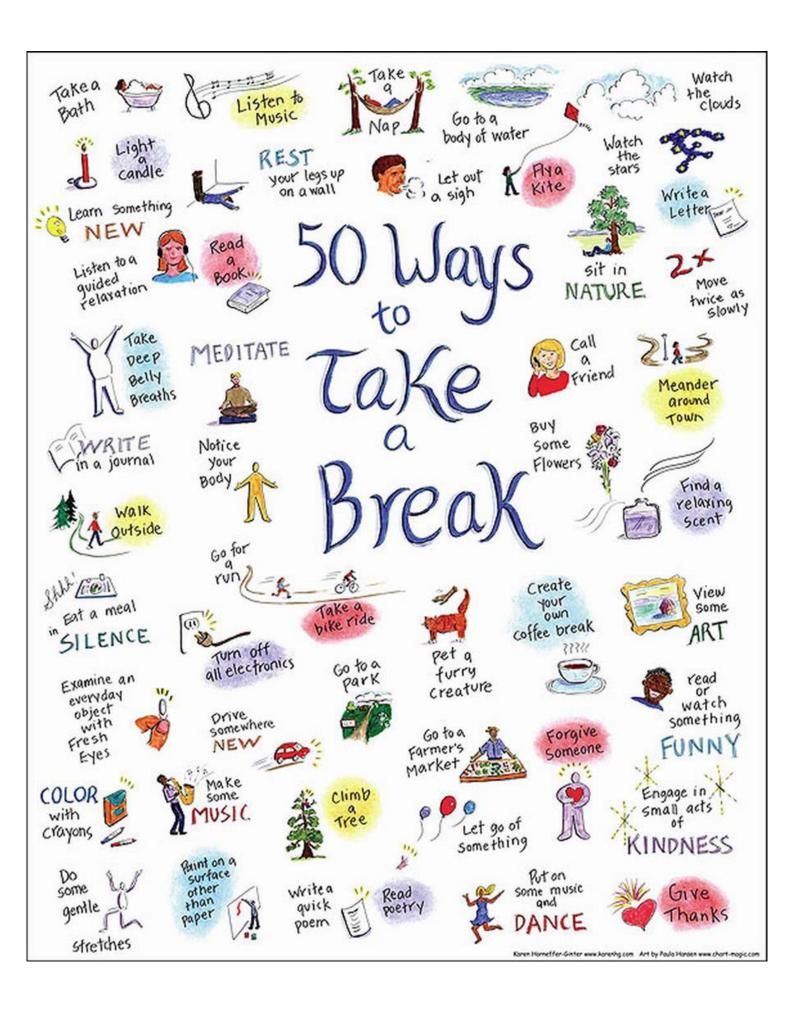
Take a bubble bath; put clean sheets on the bed. Pet your dog or cat. Have a massage; soak your feet. Put a cold compress on your forehead. Sink into a really comfortable chair in your home. Wear or touch material textures which are soft, silky, fluffy or rough. Brush your hair for a long time. Hug someone.



GRATITUDE scavenger hunt

SOf'f THING I'M GRA**TEFII** FOR.....

- I. in na ture
- 2.that makes a beautiful sound
- 3. that tastes good
- 4. that smells a mazing
- 5. that hos been hard for me
- 6. that I would like to shore with others
- 7. that is older than me
- 8. that I recently discovered or learned
- 9. that shows o vib ra nt color
- I 0. that hos word s on it
- II. that makes mefeel strong
- I 2. that ma kes me laugh
- I 3. that ma kes me cry
- I 4. that represents my country or culture
- 15. that is someone I love (outsid e of my group)



4 Ways to Boost Your Resilience for Tough Times

Article posted on www.verywellmind.com written by Derrick Carpenter is a positive psychology coach at Happify, a website and app that uses science-based activities to help people live happier lives.

Reviewed by Amy Morin, LCSW Updated on March 06, 2020



Resilience is the ability to cope with adversity and to use challenges to forge strength and prosperity. Having resilience does not mean that you don't struggle, make mistakes, or need to ask for help. Resilient people keep plugging along even when the situation becomes ugly or exhausting. They learn from their mishaps and misfortunes, and they rely on others with confidence and trust.

Whether the struggles you face are traumas or everyday setbacks, being resilient will help you gain greater control over your own path and cultivate positive change.

These four strategies can build your resilience reserves.

Re-frame Your Interpretations

Resilient people find a way to explain their situations in a more positive light while still accepting reality. Imagine a news broadcast interviewing victims of a natural disaster a year later. Some broad: "We'll never get our lives back." Others find the silver lining: "This was the worst thing that's ever happened to me, but this community has come together and shown its strength in so many unbelievable ways."

We have the ability to decide how we're going to interpret the adversities we face. When we work to find an appreciation for what we've gained as we persevere, we develop a more grateful approach to living. The hardship that scars us also grants us wisdom.

When all you see is negative, broaden your perspective by asking yourself, "What good has come about as a result of this adversity?"

Identify What You Can Control

Optimists are among the most resilient of us, and they succeed by virtue of focusing their attention on how they can make their situations better. When faced with a challenge, pessimistic thinkers are more likely to be blind to opportunities to enact positive changes. In short, they adopt a victim mentality.

When you feel stuck or bogged down in adversity, find one thing you have control over and take action on it.

Seek Support

There are many images in our culture of the self-reliant, lone hero whose personal willpower provides enough strength to withstand any obstacle.

But while personal strength matters a lot, it is ultimately a <u>sense of community that enables true</u> resilience.

Studies of children undergoing significant hardship find that kids who have one adult in their lives who provide stability and support are much more likely to do well than kids who don't.

And relationship benefits also extend to adults.

Tending to your most important relationships when times are good builds the trust and intimacy that will help those relationships stay strong when adversity hits.

Embrace Challenge and Failure

Failure is hard for many of us to take. We'd rather step back from a challenging situation than risk making a fool of ourselves. But when we adopt the perspective that challenge can strengthen us, and that we can learn from both successes and failures, we're exercising our resilience muscles.

This is not to say that we should seek adversity. But finding small, manageable ways to challenge yourself builds confidence. Take that class you've been interested in. Make that phone call you've been avoiding. Push your limits little by little and adopt a view of exploration and curiosity. Whether you soar or crash and burn, you're gaining knowledge and insight.

Identifying with the process of trying, rather than outcomes, is a resilience-building approach to life.

REMEMBER......Everyone has varying <u>levels of resilience</u>, but it is a skill you can work on and build.

If you're struggling to deal with a traumatic event or adverse experience, seek professional help.

Reference - https://www.verywellmind.com/how-to-build-resilience-for-tough-times-1717568

Self-Care Assessment

Self-care activities are the things you do to maintain good health and improve well-being. You'll find that many of these activities are things you already do as part of your normal routine.

In this assessment you will think about how frequently, or how well, you are performing different self-care activities. The goal of this assessment is to help you learn about your self-care needs by spotting patterns and recognizing areas of your life that need more attention.

There are no right or wrong answers on this assessment. There may be activities that you have no interest in, and other activities may not be included. This list is not comprehensive, but serves as a starting point for thinking about your self-care needs.

1	I do this poorly	I do this rarely or not at all
2	I do this OK	I do this sometimes
3	I do this well	I do this often
*	I would like to improve at this	I would like to do this more frequently

123 *	Physical Self-Care
	Eat healthy foods
	Take care of personal hygiene
	Exercise
	Wear clothes that help me feel good about myself
	Eat regularly
	Participate in fun activities (e.g. walking, swimming, dancing, sports)
	Get enough sleep
	Go to preventative medical appointments (e.g. checkups, teeth cleanings)
	Rest when sick
	Overall physical self-care

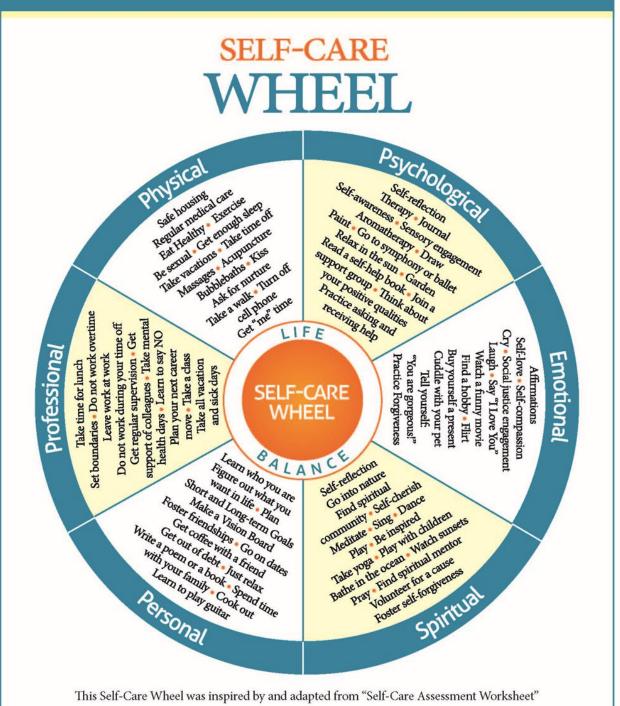
Self-Care Assessment

123 *	Psychological / Emotional Self-Care
	Take time off from work, school, and other obligations
	Participate in hobbies
	Get away from distractions (e.g. phone, email)
	Learn new things, unrelated to work or school
	Express my feelings in a healthy way (e.g. talking, creating art, journaling)
	Recognize my own strengths and achievements
	Go on vacations or day-trips
	Do something comforting (e.g. re-watch a favorite movie, take a long bath)
	Find reasons to laugh
	Talk about my problems
	Overall psychological and emotional self-care
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123 *	Social Self-Care
123 *	
123 *	Social Self-Care
123 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away Have stimulating conversations
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away Have stimulating conversations Meet new people
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away Have stimulating conversations Meet new people Spend time alone with my romantic partner
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away Have stimulating conversations Meet new people Spend time alone with my romantic partner Ask others for help, when needed
1 2 3 *	Social Self-Care Spend time with people who I like Call or write to friends and family who are far away Have stimulating conversations Meet new people Spend time alone with my romantic partner Ask others for help, when needed Do enjoyable activities with other people

Self-Care Assessment

123 *	Spiritual Self-Care
	Spend time in nature
	Meditate
	Pray
	Recognize the things that give meaning to my life
	Act in accordance with my morals and values
	Set aside time for thought and reflection
	Participate in a cause that is important to me
	Appreciate art that is impactful to me (e.g. music, film, literature)
	Overall spiritual self-care
123 *	Professional Self-Care
1 2 3 *	Professional Self-Care Improve my professional skills
1 2 3 *	W. 1117. N. W.
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities Take on projects that are interesting or rewarding
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities Take on projects that are interesting or rewarding Learn new things related to my profession
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities Take on projects that are interesting or rewarding Learn new things related to my profession Make time to talk and build relationships with colleagues
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities Take on projects that are interesting or rewarding Learn new things related to my profession Make time to talk and build relationships with colleagues Take breaks during work
1 2 3 *	Improve my professional skills Say "no" to excessive new responsibilities Take on projects that are interesting or rewarding Learn new things related to my profession Make time to talk and build relationships with colleagues Take breaks during work Maintain balance between my professional and personal life

The below self-care wheel gives suggestion for each area of our self-care. Use this wheel as a guide to complete your own wheel. Also complete the self-care assessment included in your pack, as this may help identify the areas you could improve and the ones you already do well



This Self-Care Wheel was inspired by and adapted from "Self-Care Assessment Worksheet" from *Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization* by Saakvitne, Pearlman & Staff of TSI/CAAP (Norton, 1996). Created by Olga Phoenix Project: Healing for Social Change (2013).

Dedicated to all trauma professionals worldwide.

www.OlgaPhoenix.com

Use the below template to list all you have or do to look after your self-care. Another suggestion may be to use a different colour pen to write the things you would like to improve or add in each section, and work towards making them a part of your self-care routine.

