

Alzheimer Society

YORK REGION

Caregiver Support & Education / D.A.Y. Centres / Support Groups / Resource Centre / Research Support

July 31, 2020

Dear Donors,

Thank you for your continuing commitment to the Alzheimer Society of York Region (AS York) and people living with dementia and their care partners. You are a vital part of the work we do.

We are reaching out today to let you know about a data security incident with a third-party vendor, Blackbaud, that may have involved your personal information. The Alzheimer Society takes the protection and proper use of your information seriously. We want to inform you of what happened in the Blackbaud data security incident, and what we know at this time. Blackbaud is the software provider of our donor records system, eTapestry.

What Happened

On July 16, 2020, we were notified by Blackbaud of a security incident within their organization that came to light in May. Since that time, Blackbaud has advised us they have fully investigated, coordinated with appropriate law enforcement, and resolved the situation (patched the system vulnerability and implemented new security measures).

We understand Blackbaud discovered and stopped a ransomware attack. After discovering the attack, Blackbaud informs us that their security team successfully prevented the cybercriminal from blocking their system access and fully encrypting files and ultimately expelled them from their system. However, prior to locking the cybercriminal out, a backup file containing constituent information was copied.

Based on their investigation, Blackbaud indicates they have no reason to believe the security incident led to the disclosure of personal information to any other source beyond the initial ransomware attack. After paying the cybercriminals a ransom, the data was returned to Blackbaud with assurances any copies they might have made of the data removed from the system were destroyed.

What We Know

It is important to note that the cybercriminals did not access any credit card or banking information. This is a part of the data that is encrypted within the system and would not be vulnerable to exploitation. The specific types of personal information accessed may have included: name, address, email, phone number, donation history, and communication preferences.

What We Are Doing

Immediately on notification, we began our own investigation of the security incident to determine the full scope of the Alzheimer Society data that may have been at risk. We have been in constant communication with Blackbaud, other organizations across the sector and independent professionals to fully understand the situation as it relates to our donors.

What You Can Do

Stay alert to any third-party communications referencing your relationship with the Alzheimer Society. Access to your personal data may in some circumstances put you at higher risk for phishing attempts and communications from untrustworthy sources. And always, remain aware of your personal and financial data, monitoring your accounts for suspicious or unauthorized activity.

For More Information

We know that these types of incidents can cause concern and we want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to understand the full scope of the incident and to ensure your information is protected in the future.

Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter and/or the protections available to you, please do not hesitate to contact Tammy Bucci, director of philanthropy, at tbucci@alzheimer-york.com

Sincerely,



Loren Freid
CEO

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Charitable Registration # 10670 5429 RR0001

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