The COVID-19 Relationship Survival Kit Michael DiPaolo, Ph.D.

The COVID-19 Relationship Survival APP

A – Appreciation

• Acknowledge the little things ... Express a 3-sentence appreciation

P - Physical Contact

• Make gestures of physical touch... A quiet 1-minute hug

P - Platinum Behavior

• Be of service with behaviors "that others would have done unto them

The Olive Branch*

* Adapted from The Repair Dialogue by Duane Harvey, MFT

After conflict... take time-out to calm... then return and offer this "olive branch"

I'd like to offer you an olive branch, is now a good time?

- My contribution to the conflict was...
- What I did to make it worse was...
- What I could have done differently was...
- What I will do differently next time is...

Thank you for listening.

Switch Roles.... End with a hug

The 4 Habits of All Successful Relationships*

* From TED Talk by Dr. Andrea & Jonathan Taylor-Cummings

1. BE CURIOUS, not critical

- The source of all conflict lies in misunderstanding. Invest in understanding.
- 2. BE CAREFUL, not crushing
 - Be aware of your "fight or flight" reactivity which will derail your response.
- 3. ASK, don't assume
 - Have courageous conversations vs. project your own story on the other.
- 4. CONNECT before you correct
 - Communicate value and appreciation before "constructive feedback."

