



October 22, 2020

ForKids 2070
1001 Poindexter Street
Chesapeake, VA 23324

Dear ForKids Family 2070,

Hello from 2020! We placed this time capsule in the walls of our new Center for Children and Families with great hope for the future. We wonder how much the world will have changed when you open this. How many of our challenges will you still battle? What new solutions will you have discovered?

In 2020, our immediate future is uncertain. We are nearly a year into a global pandemic that has killed more than 1 million people; the West has wild fires burning out of control; an economic crisis has driven over 50 million people to file for unemployment insurance since March; Epsilon, the record-breaking 26th named storm of the year, churns in the Atlantic; racial strife and inequality divide us; and, ten days before the presidential election, the political divide could not be greater. We live in face masks, sanitizing our office space four times daily. Schools and businesses are closed. Many of us have lost family members to COVID-19. Others feel the profound loss of contact with loved ones due to travel restrictions. We wonder what will happen next.

It is an interesting time to memorialize in a time capsule.

The pace of change at ForKids has always been fast, but this year is an unending sprint. Seemingly overnight, we learned to do everything with little to no human contact. Case management, tutoring, staff and board meetings, and our annual gala have all become virtual experiences to protect our most fragile. In six months, we have doubled our annual budget fueled by CARES Act COVID-19 funds. The Housing Crisis Hotline now receives more than 3,000 calls a week from households facing eviction and imminent homelessness. With Haven House at capacity, we shelter families in hotels throughout the region and are distributing over \$1 million per month in eviction prevention funds. Technology is both our nemesis and a lifeline for our work and our families. This moment in time has uncovered both a massive digital divide and an affordable housing crisis trapping families in poverty. The Center for Children and Families, currently under construction, seems already too small. Staff are worn out but committed to meeting this moment.

And yet, despite all this, there is palpable excitement as we move to this remarkable building and embrace our growing ability to help our community tackle its most intractable problems. The new space will allow for continued expansion of the Housing Crisis Hotline, a tripling of beds in our regional emergency shelter, the creation of dedicated classrooms serving at-risk students, and the development of the Research and Advocacy Center to address the systemic issues that exacerbate poverty and homelessness throughout our region.

It is hard for us to look ahead 50 years, but here are a few of our predictions for 2070:

- There will still be homelessness (we hope we are wrong)
- ForKids will still be a great force for hope and change
- Pickleball will become an Olympic sport
- A woman will be President, and not the first
- You will probably just be finishing up the final Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) approval following the 152nd (give or take) iteration of state guidelines and have a dozen more reports to submit...

Along with our forecasts we have many questions. Will there be a casino in Norfolk or Portsmouth and, if so, does it actually make money? Will Roe v. Wade still stand? How much of Norfolk will be under water? Will you turn the tide on global warming? What will you call Hampton Roads/757/Norfolk-Virginia Beach MSA/Tidewater?

Based on the lessons of 2020, we also have some advice for you.

- Spend time with your family and friends and cherish each meeting. We have all profoundly missed our loved ones.
- Always have a month's supply of toilet paper on hand, just in case.
- Care for each other in big ways and small. We have endured through this moment by visiting through windows, sewing masks for strangers, giving birthday parades, and helping our neighbors. We have found small moments of joy and they have sustained us.
- Remember what we have in common is greater than what divides us.

Our greatest hope is that when you open this time capsule, this building is no longer a shelter for families. We hope our community and our nation have learned affordable housing is essential to our economy and the health and wellbeing of our citizens and that future generations have built a strong housing infrastructure. We know that ForKids will still be tackling the challenges faced by families and children. But rather than reacting to a crisis, we hope you are tangibly working to prevent the next one.

We wish you all strength, health, joy and the will to keep making the world a better place for children and families.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thaler McCormick', written in a cursive style.

Thaler McCormick, CEO and the ForKids Family