



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Dear Friends,

ForKids staff and Board of Directors are actively working to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on ForKids families. Our first priority is ensuring continuity of services, as low-income families will certainly bear the brunt of this crisis. As businesses and schools close, our families are least prepared to withstand a loss of income or increasing healthcare and cleaning costs. We also know that the closure of schools will eliminate important food assistance for our children, many of whom receive two+ meals a day in their local schools. Our families' lack of digital access will be a significant barrier for our children as schools move to online learning.

We are developing protocols to keep our team healthy and working with community partners to expand homeless services, increase educational support for our children, and provide food assistance where needed. To keep families and staff healthy, ForKids will begin implementing screening protocols with both staff and clients, escalating our cleaning protocols and securing additional sanitary supplies for staff and families.

We are also developing the necessary technology to facilitate staff working from home, if that is deemed necessary. Our regional Housing Crisis Hotline will communicate closely with our services partners to help individuals access available community services. Through all of this, we are conferring with local Health Departments and medical professionals and their guidance will inform our practices.

Our Children's Art Auction:

We have made the decision to hold our Children's Art Auction virtually this year. With our commitment to community health, this decision was clear. Our Auction team is creative and will make every effort to make the virtual event as fun as the live event. We know there is no substitute for the energy and commitment we all feel being together in the same room, working to achieve a common goal for our families. We hope this year *everyone* will help us bring joy and energy to a virtual event. The Auction raises over \$1.1 million annually to fund current services so we are committed to making a virtual event a smashing success.

Please follow the ForKids Facebook page for information on how we will assist families during the crisis, *how you can help*, and to see our plans for the upcoming Virtual Art Auction.

Thank you for your support of the fragile families in our community during this crisis and every day. With your help, and a lot of hand sanitizer, we will help our families when they need us most.

Thaler McCormick
CEO