

Dear Friends,

*“Being challenged in life is inevitable, being defeated is optional.”— Roger Crawford*

To say 2020 has been a challenging year is an understatement! Facing a global pandemic, civil unrest, government shutdowns and high unemployment rates have become our “new norm.” It has been a challenge for our communities, our organization and our personal way of life but amidst the storm we refused to be defeated! The Center continues to stand as a beacon of light for all those in need and symbol of hope for all people, donors to participants.

In response to the many calls and concerns from our seniors, families and community members the Center took a strong stance against hunger and became a food distribution site to combat and support those hit hardest due to COVID-19. This organizational pivot was not easy but together with your support we were able to “answer the call.” As the pandemic continues to deeply impact our lives the need in our community continues to grow daily and we cannot stop the fight now!

*We need your support to not only continue our food distribution but also to help support our youth.* Due to the pandemic our youth were rapidly thrown into a virtual learning environment, which proved difficult for not only the children but also the parents. Some parents were faced with the choice of going to work or leaving their young child home alone. In response the Center has created the Safe Learning Space program (SLS). The SLS program was created to support our families struggling with such challenges. It was designed to provide a safe haven for children of working parents with a focus on the many frontline workers with families in need of support during this time. We have worked with our partners to identify proper social distancing within our building, safety dividers, hand sanitizers throughout the building, masks, school supplies and much more; yet there is so much more we still need to do! *We are diligently working daily but without your support our work is impossible.*

Enclosed please find the article from Jefferson University (pg. 8) that features the work we have been able to accomplish during this difficult time, as well as an infographic that provides a snapshot of how much, we were able to support our community during the height of the pandemic. *It is supporters like you that made all of it possible and we thank you!* Your tax-deductible donation will make a real and tangible change in the lives of others.

*Edward Hale said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."*

*We cannot fight alone, no donation is too small or too large, together we will not be defeated.*

Sincerely,

James F. Everett

Board Chair

April Thomas-Jones

Executive Director