



April 9, 2020

Dear Opportunity Friends,

Along with my heartfelt hope that you are all healthy and managing the changes in current life, I hope you find this email just a bit different than the many that have been flooding your inboxes.

Most importantly, thank you! Thank you for supporting Opportunity, caring about our children and families, and being a part of the amazing giving community.



*5-year-old Zoey drawing the steps for safe handwashing.*

## \*We are doing well at Opportunity\*

We closed the school on March 18 with the goals of keeping everyone safe, continuing to educate and enrich the development of our children, and to stay in touch with our families. Here are a few of the ways we are meeting those goals:

- Scheduled personal ‘check-ins’ with families to assess needs and connect with children.
- Teachers completing professional development and enhancing curriculum.
- Teachers sharing educational activities with children including creating YouTube videos for the children – see the Opportunity Early Childhood Education channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYt3Jfkwlr4Tq\\_L9Cjj0s1w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYt3Jfkwlr4Tq_L9Cjj0s1w)



- April 2 Family Food Distribution. Teachers decorated cars, blew bubbles, sang, waved, and blew kisses from their safely-spaced cars as families drove through the distribution line.

## \*We Need Your Help\*

- We are immensely grateful for the support of our first Family Food Distribution and are planning a second distribution as soon as possible. Under normal circumstance, many Opportunity families struggle with day-to-day life challenges. Now, so many parents have been laid off from jobs as car porters, retail clerks, and food servers. Every penny counts for these families that wonder, daily, how they are going to put food on their tables. \$250 will feed a family of four for one week, ensuring they will not go hungry or have the stress of uncertainty. Any donation amount will help and can be made at <https://www.opportunitybc.org/donate> Simply enter “food” in the comment box.

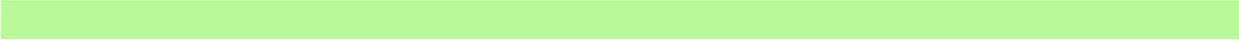


- Our RAAM (Race Across America) fundraiser planned for June has been cancelled. The good news is that we have re-designed the event into **Kid's RAAM**, to be held late summer/early fall. This will be an exciting event beginning with a two-week classroom curriculum including activities on math, geography, fitness and nutrition, teamwork, technology, and creativity. The event day will include a tricycle path across America, relay teams of cyclists (our children), cheering spectators (you and our infant through 2-year-olds), and a general celebration. **“Training and racing in RAAM is grueling work. While on the road, we think of the far more difficult challenges the kids face daily. We do it for the kids.”** *RAAM team leader Chris Huffman* You can be a part of this wonderful event! Donations can be made at <https://www.opportunitybc.org/donate> Be sure to fill in the comment box to let us know you want to support **Kid's RAAM**.
- Stay in touch with us. Our website will soon include a blog to share information and communicate current needs. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## \*How Can We Help You?\*

We are here for you. If you are out of town and have a loved one in Palm Beach County, we have staff that are ready, willing, and able to run errands, deliver groceries, or simply be an

emergency contact. Need a pick-me-up? We will send you a video “Hello!” from one of our children. Please do not hesitate to reach out; we are in this together.



Opportunity will continue to move forward making the best and safest decisions. We are optimistic about our future. We have dedicated supporters, amazing staff, and children and families that need us. Planning for the future is what Opportunity has been doing for 81 years by preparing our children for success. We will come back stronger than ever and get back to expanding the enrollment in our new Erin H. Gilmour Early Learning Center home.

On a personal note, I feel more blessed and honored than ever to be a part of the Opportunity family. Not many people have the chance to experience the joy and fulfillment of helping those in need through their work. This experience would not be possible without our incredible supporters, and for that, I thank you!

Wishing you well!

Warmest regards,

Ali