



As we enter the sixth month of the coronavirus pandemic, you, our circle of supporters, will be happy to know that AFG's staff remain steadfast, welcoming girls and young women (some with infants and young children) who are experiencing homelessness into our shelter. We continue to embrace (in spirit, and from six feet away) and serve those who come to us in crisis, and to deliver food, PPE and cleaning supplies, counseling and support to at-risk girls and young women and their families. We have been blessed with success in keeping the coronavirus at bay, out of our shelter, even as most of our shelter residents have returned to the workforce. Our staff, with help from the Detroit Health Department, are equipping them with PPE, solid information, and frequent reminders of all of the ways and reasons to stay safe!

AFG is carrying out our mission in full force; just a bit differently. Partnering with Forgotten Harvest, we are distributing food to approximately 250 individuals every other week. Our summer camp has gone virtual, with creative adaptations, as girls go on virtual field trips, and we sneak in academic activities, e.g. our traditional "turning books into plays". Middle and high school girls are engaged in virtual college tours, as well as virtual international "travel", such as to Mexico, widening horizons and sparking imaginations.

AFG's participants face serious obstacles, in some ways, more difficult now than ever, but the work goes on, including a very special pause to celebrate! Last month's newsletter highlighted some of our TEN high school graduates, from all three of our programs—shelter, prevention, and outreach—most of whom are headed to college--destinations include WSU, U of M, and U of M-D. With the help of magnificent donors (see "Because of You", p. 1), sharing our determination to celebrate our graduating seniors, we honored them with an outdoor, physically-distancing, PPE-compliant, but tremendously joyful car caravan throughout our neighborhood, escorted by Detroit Firefighters, their trucks flashing lights and blasting horns, and cars painted with our participants' expressions of triumph, my favorite of which was: *"I did it!! With two kids and AFG!"* Donated gifts included college-level technology, bedding, dishes, and other essential "launch" items. We will continue to support "AFG's Class of 2020", whose members have overcome unique and, in some cases, very daunting challenges, through the next steps in their important educational journeys.

Thank you, all, for continuing to be the lifeline for AFG's mission, and for those we serve.

-Amanda (Amy) L. Good

