



Dear friends,

I wanted to send a short note to tell you that I am thinking of all of you during this very unsettling time.

When I closed Compass Early Learning Center last week and sent all but two other staff members home for an undetermined amount of time and with a lot of loose ends, I was not sure what would happen next. The world around me felt like it had stopped - or at least it got weird - three weeks ago if you told me I'd be hosting virtual meetings from my house (in my pajamas), with my dog barking or 8 month-old baby squawking in the background, I wouldn't have believed you.

But your support for MCUM didn't stop. Here is what you made happen:

- **You funded Compass families who immediately found themselves paying more for childcare.** While the majority of our families are temporarily working from home, off work, or have family members/friends who can care for their children during this crisis free of charge, 4 families requested and received support paying for independent childcare.
- **You kept our food pantry running.** Each day the pantry has been open, we have seen a steady flow of traffic. Each household was also able to receive toilet paper and soap. Food donations have continued to come in, and we will be able to submit a mass grocery order to restock the pantry next week, thanks to a relief grant from the Community Foundation.
- **You paid our staff.** For the past 2 weeks, all of our staff are being paid their typical rates of pay and not forfeiting their sick or paid time off hours. Believe me when I say we have the best staff. In addition to it being a good thing to do, paying our staff during this time makes sure their financial self-sufficiency is not jeopardized and it keeps them from becoming unemployed and potentially not returning to work here.

I am so overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters and wish I could call each of you out by name - but that would make for a very long email. Please follow us on Facebook (@mcumorg) where we have been and will continue to give shout-outs.

I would like to continue to meet the outcomes above for the duration of this crisis before returning to our regular fundraising activities. If you are able to support us in those efforts, please feel free to make an online contribution by clicking [here](#).

It is an honor to work for MCUM. Thank you for being here for all of us and for the community we serve. I have great confidence that if we all continue to work together during this difficult time, we will come out of it stronger.

Please stay safe and healthy. Let me know how you are doing!

Sincerely,

Katie Broadfoot
Executive Director