“In skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

We have just turned the page to begin a new year and a whole new decade. In thinking about stepping in to 2020, I reflected on the drama we experienced with Y2K.

As you may remember, back in the day, there was a great deal of concern over how computers would navigate the transition from 1999 to 2000. There were debates about two-digit and four-digit year formulations and the impact that potential computer glitches would have on everyone. We were encouraged to stock up on water, batteries, candles, pantry items. There was a whole lot of fear and anxiety and, for some, many trips to the grocery store to buy large quantities of bottled water.

When the clock rolled and the ball dropped everything stayed pretty much the same. We still had electricity, water, and phones and our computers kept computing. Many potential glitches were avoided with advance interventions and others simply never materialized.

Y2K provided a great opportunity to learn that there is a difference between fearing the future and planning ahead.

Family Scholar House has big plans for 2020 and the years to follow. These plans include expanding our programs and services to reach more single parents and foster alumni, promoting the full continuum of post-secondary education, and supporting career preparation to fill high-demand jobs. We will continue to embrace innovation, incorporate technology into our work, and celebrate both the successes of our scholars and the return on investment to the community supporting them.

The year ahead, the decade just begun will be full of change. Some changes will be of our own choosing and some will happen to us. We can stock up on bottled water, batteries, and pantry goods and be afraid of what could happen or we can dig in and figure out what changes we want to lead and which ones we can prepare for or prevent. There is no time travel back to the good old days so we must move forward. In doing so, there is wisdom in Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words.

We are excited about what lies ahead and we invite you along for the journey.

Cathe Dykstra
Chief Possibility Officer
President & CEO
#LifeIsATeamSport
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL**

**MAYOR FISCHER’S GIVE A DAY**

*Week of Service: April 2020*

Plan now for the Mayor’s Give a Day Week of Service in April. Choose from a variety of individual, group, or workplace activities to support FSH’s mission and the special families and youth earning their education and preparing for their careers. Whether you enjoy reading with children, teaching, cooking, landscaping, or tutoring, plan now for Mayor’s Give-A-Day of Service Week in April. Contact Kenzie Hawkins at khawkins@familyscholarhouse.org for more information.

**MAY**

**MOTHER’S DAY CAMPAIGN:**

*Sunday May 10, 2020*

Each year, more than 4,000 single parents seek help from FSH because they want a better life for their children. Mother’s Day is a very special time for us! Be on the lookout for volunteer activities to be posted on our Facebook page and in our online newsletters. You can also support FSH when you order flowers or gifts from Nanz and Kraft Florists at www.nanzandkraft.com. Through the Helping Hands program, you can select Family Scholar House to direct $2 of each online order to our program.
BEST FOOT FORWARD

ON MARCH 1, 2019, GE APPLIANCES, A HAIER COMPANY, PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL WINE WOMEN AND SHOES (WW&S) EVENT TO BENEFIT FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE.

While our parent scholars are determined to put their best foot forward, our Spring event provides an opportunity for our supporters to do so as well. On the first Friday in March, FSH celebrates with an evening of fabulous wines, fashionable footwear, girlfriends and fun, with 100% of proceeds benefiting the programs that empower our FSH families. By participating, you can help a single mother prepare for her future and provide a better life for her children.

Wine Women and Shoes continues to be one of Louisville’s most exclusive events. In its seventh year, we will be kicking it up a notch. Expect new and innovative spins on what attendees have come to love about this event. Wine Women and Shoes features tastings of world-class wines and signature bourbons, a live auction including rare experiences and excursions, fun silent auction items, blind pulls from Walls of Wine and Bourbon and so much more. Last year, a few of the shoe guys even graced the stage for a performance that set the tone for a night of fun. The evening continues with a designer fashion show presented by Von Maur showcasing the hottest trends in fashion, shoes, handbags, hats, accessories and more! Awards will be presented for Best in Shoe, so plan to wear your favorite sexy heels.

The Key-to-the-Closet Raffle, sponsored by Churchill Downs, will provide one lucky winner with a $10,000 shopping spree at Von Maur. Raffle tickets are $100 and 200 tickets will be sold.

You will also want to check out our “Shoe Guys” who will be working the crowd and showing off the hottest footwear of the season, all on silver platters, of course. For a preview, visit our Instagram page at FamilyScholarHouse.

While the 2020 event is already sold out, you can be among the first to buy tickets for WW&S 2021 by purchasing a Churchill Downs Key-to-the-Closet Raffle ticket now. Remember $100 gets you a 1 in 200 chance at $10,000 shopping spree. This is our kind of math. You don’t have to be present to win! To purchase your Key-to-the-Closet tickets, please visit: www.WineWomenandShoes.com/Louisville
Nursing and social work consistently remain as the top two career paths for Family Scholar House participants. It is no surprise they choose these fields. Just as others have invested in the lives of our single parent students throughout their lives, they, too, now have the opportunity to invest in others.

Michele and her son came to Family Scholar House looking for a fresh start. Michele began her academic career at Ivy Tech Community College pursuing her Associate Degree of Science in Human Services. Through her studies, she quickly realized her passion for helping others and knew she wanted to pursue a career that allowed her to do just that. Upon graduating with her Associates degree, she transferred to the University of Louisville, pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Psychology. Throughout her time with us, Michele and her son were active in our program, attending cafe nights (where Michele volunteered often to stay and wash dishes and clean up), participating in Reverse Trick or Treating, and taking advantage of many community events that allowed them to spend quality time together.

Michele also explored a variety of careers through the job shadowing program. It was through this program she discovered the careers that weren’t for her and more importantly the one that interested her the most: social services. Michele now shares her skills with Child Protective Services, where she works as a case investigator. In her current role, she is responsible for accessing, identifying and documenting abuse and neglect cases and finding the appropriate services to enhance child welfare. Through her work, she connects families to needed resources and passionately protects children in our community.

Although Michele and Jeremiah no longer live at Family Scholar House, her spirit of giving back is evident, whether it be to her job, her community, or Family Scholar House. Michele and Jeremiah will always be a part of the family.
With five Louisville campuses, a busy pre-residential program, and two outreach locations, something is always going on at Family Scholar House!

**A FRESH LOOK**

On September 26th, volunteers from UPS offered a much-needed fresh coat of paint to the 56 doors at the Louisville Family Scholar House campus. Doors are particularly important on our campuses as 100% of our residents have experienced unstable housing or homelessness. At FSH, no two door colors repeat on the same floor, so every resident and child can identify their home and connect to a sense of belonging. Despite the intense heat, UPS worked tirelessly until the job was completed! Thanks to their service, the FSH campus looks like new and every family has a brightly colored door to call his or her own.

**HUD ENVISION CENTER**

On October 16th, the city of Louisville and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officially opened the doors of Jefferson County’s very first HUD EnVision Center at Family Scholar House. HUD Southeast Regional Administrator Denise Cleveland-Leggett, Mayor Greg Fischer, and Family Scholar House President & CEO Cathe Dykstra were among the distinguished speakers on hand for the opening, along with an array of attendees.

HUD’s EnVision Centers are premised on the notion that financial support alone can’t solve the problem of poverty, and that collective efforts across a diverse set of organizations, both public and private, are needed to help low-income individuals and families rise up. We are excited for the new opportunities as we continue to serve our community in innovative ways.
HOLIDAY FUN

Family Scholar House was honored to host the First Lady of Kentucky, Britany Beshear and her two children, Will and Lila, for an afternoon of holiday fun with our youngest scholars. Following lunch and a book reading by Mrs. Beshear, the children of Family Scholar House constructed their very own gingerbread houses. Many FSH children have experienced far more than any person should in their short lives, but this afternoon allows them to focus on being kids. Building gingerbread houses, and sneaking a few pieces of candy along the way, has become a staple to the holiday season since 2015.

During the holidays, FSH was like a North Pole outpost that would have impressed even the elves. Community support, through our Adopt-A-Family program, made it possible for every residential participant to receive something from Santa. In addition, every campus had its own celebration with each child receiving a new pair of pajamas and a bedtime story book from Mrs. Claus (she is a very practical gift-giver). Thank you to everyone who made the holiday season so special for our families!

REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING

In October, young residents across all five Family Scholar House campuses celebrated Halloween. Over 200 volunteers, representing GE Appliances, the St. Xavier Swim Team, the Notre Dame Alumni Association, iKeyless, Louisville Collegiate School, the Louisville Apartment Association and many more helped to distribute candy to our trick-or-treaters.

Many of our volunteers even dressed up in costume. One particularly super meeting occurred between a young resident dressed as Batman and the real Batman. Their photo was certainly heroic! We are grateful to everyone in attendance and all those who helped with costumes, candy, and preparation.
On September 20, 2019, Family Scholar House hosted the 22nd Annual Celebration of Education, a gala at the Omni Louisville Hotel. Vicki Dortch served as our Mistress of Ceremonies and brought her enthusiasm to our event. This year’s Celebration was another huge success, with over 500 in attendance. Special thanks to Honorary Chair Jill Bell, our presenting sponsor, PNC, and to all our generous event sponsors. Please see page 11 for a full list.

Each year we present the Lucy Award to recognize community members who share Sisters of Charity of Nazareth member, Dr. Lucy M. Freibert’s, commitment to post-secondary education, gender equality, and leadership development for women. This year’s community recipient was Trilogy Health Services. We truly appreciate the unwavering support they provide to the Louisville community and the numerous ways they have partnered with Family Scholar House over the past six years. The evening featured a Brown-Forman sponsored cocktail reception, giving attendees a chance to sip on delicious spirits, while bidding on auction items. The Celebration continued with a program showcasing recent accomplishments at Family Scholar House and an exciting glimpse into our bright future. Our keynote speaker, Bellarmine men’s basketball coach, Scotty Davenport, is a great example of the power of family, not just the one you are born into but the one you actively choose. Scotty is a strong leader and advocate for education and mentoring the next generation of leaders. After the program, “Endless Summer Band” started the party and dinner guests danced the night away. This year’s Annual Celebration of Education Event elicited laughter and thoughtful reflection from those in attendance and encouraged them to take a fresh look at how we are changing lives, families, and our community together. We invite you to consider the role you might play and in improving the quality of life for our entire community by attending the 23rd Annual Celebration of Education Event next year.
At Family Scholar House, we love hearing from our alumni. Recently, we interviewed Angela Wimsatt, who graduated from the program in 2016.

**What are you up to these days?**
I am working as a neurology nurse on a step-down unit at Norton Brownsboro Hospital with adult patients dealing with strokes, brain tumors, brain cancer, seizures and many more difficult diagnoses. I have developed such a passion for these specific patients and plan to continue to advance my career as our hospital grows and expands in 2020.

I am also currently expanding my family. I got married to the absolute love of my life last year and he has been the best step dad to my Tyler! Now we have blended our families, so I have gained a step son, Max. I am also now pregnant with our little girl, Haley.

**What are your children up to?**
My son, Tyler, has been juggling his ADHD/anxiety/sensory processing disorder and figuring out how to succeed at school. He’s in 3rd grade now and has been working hard to learn coping mechanisms and strategies to get through the day-to-day routines at school. So he’s been really busy with therapy and focusing on improving his mental health in order to succeed educationally. He’s a great kid with so much intellect and curiosity. He loves STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). He wants to be a YouTuber when he grows up and he’s very interested in space exploration.

**How did FSH help you get to where you are today?**
I was 16 when I got pregnant with Tyler. My family was already struggling to find stable housing, and the idea of bringing a new life into the world was daunting. I found FSH through the Teenage Parenting Program (TAPP) and immediately knew I needed to get involved. The hope of giving my son a stable home was so big to me, because when he was born, we lived with friends of the family. I moved into Family Scholar House right after I graduated high school and then began college. We had a home, a real home, to grow and learn how to survive as an independent family while I earned my degree. Without the stability of Family Scholar House, I know I wouldn’t have made it to graduation. Family Scholar House gave me hope that I carried with me every day through every struggle of the four years I worked to get my degree. Now, I am a homeowner and have the ability to be a role model for my son, proving no matter what, there’s still hope for a brighter future.

**What was your favorite activity at FSH?**
My son and I enjoy books and love to read together, so, of course, Toddler Book Club was our favorite. He still has a little stuffed brown bear that was given to him along with a copy of the book “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See” when he was 4 years old. It was the first book that sparked his love for literature.

**Is there any advice you would give to current participants or pre-residents?**
Just do it! Don’t give up. Graduation day is possible and worth every struggle. Those little people are looking at you, so don’t complain. Stay strong and humble. Thank the FSH staff as much as you can and keep going until you hit that finish line.
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