THE EDUCATION ISSUE:
CHANGING LIVES, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION
Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

As I write this, 2020 is not yet over; however, it is safe to say that most, if not all of us, are done with this year.

Individually and collectively, we had all sorts of plans for 2020. Unfortunately, the coronavirus had plans of its own. I think of all the events that have been canceled or rescheduled and, with continued concerns of surges and infection rates, the additional events and activities that are unlikely to take place this year.

Among these many plans, the Class of 2020 went into this year expecting that in late spring, they would put on their commencement robes and walk across a stage to receive their diplomas. While some schools figured out creative ways to mark the occasion, most graduates found their ceremonies canceled. Their disappointment was palpable and frequently shared on social media. We saw this disappointment on the faces of our 75 graduates at Family Scholar House so we created different ways to help them celebrate their educational success.

The thing is, as much as we had all looked forward to the commencements and community celebration for our FSH graduates and their children, the reason for our celebration was not canceled. Our graduates worked diligently to earn their degrees. We could not be more proud of each of them, especially our first graduate to become a medical doctor. (You can read more about Dr. Aleshia Thompson on page 7.)

As confusing and painful as this strange year has been, we have all had a chance to reevaluate and reprioritize the things that matter most. I hope that when this pandemic and its many repercussions are over, I will take with me the lessons I have learned about the things that matter most.

Each year, FSH collects school supplies to ensure our students of ALL ages are ready to succeed in the classroom. While the school year will look different this year, we still need your help in ensuring our scholars continue to rise. We will be collecting the items on the checklist (see below) throughout September. Contact Kate Brackett at kbrackett@familyscholarhouse.org for more information.

Items most needed are: flash drives, folders, index cards, markers, loose leaf paper, notebooks, scissors, and computer paper.
With five Louisville campuses, a busy pre-residential program, and two outreach locations, something is always going on at Family Scholar House! With the onset of COVID-19, our campuses looked very different, however, the services have continued to meet the needs of those that rely on FSH.

Learning, Virtually
Online learning was a new adventure our scholars of all ages embarked on to close out the 2019-20 academic year. Our Academic Coaches worked with each family to ensure they had the technology and the needed supplies to excel in this different type of learning environment. Once the school year wrapped up, the Summer Learning Program took shape. Recognizing that our children were at risk of falling behind, we created supplemental education plans for all of our school age children. Four JCPS teachers joined our team to work with our young scholars individually and in groups to assist them in catching up, getting ahead, and staying engaged in learning throughout the summer. Two of these teachers are FSH graduates, Janine Hogan and Michael Kicklighter, giving back to the program that provided their families with so many opportunities.

Diaper Duty
With 172 kids under the age of 5, diapers, wipes, and pull-ups became an immediate need as grocery store shelves were perpetually empty. We called on our compassionate extended FSH family and they, as always, answered the call. Diapers and wipes were ordered, shipped, delivered and distributed to the families that rely on FSH. We are grateful to each of you who made this possible.

Bleach Teach
If you visited a store in the spring, you know that cleaning supplies were almost impossible to find; but, the need to have them did not diminish for our families. In partnership with our friends at WaterStep, we secured bleach making kits, which allow our team of volunteers to create bleach for our families on an ongoing basis to meet everyone’s needs. FSH staff and Kentucky State Representative Nima Kulkarni spent an afternoon together, learning a new skill that benefits our families.

Door Drops of Delicious Food & Essentials
COVID-19 added a layer of complexity for our single parents jumping on public transportation (with their children) to run to the market for groceries and other daily essentials. This is where Noosh Nosh, Kentucky Harvest, Sysco, and Dare to Care stepped in to meet the needs of our families. KY Harvest brought truck loads (literally!) of meats and pantry foods. Noosh Nosh, a noted Louisville restaurant and long-time supporter of FSH families, donated meals each week. The delicious meals included fresh soup, salads, sandwiches, and pasta. Our families are still raving about them and the verdict is still out on which tasty treat they loved the best, “they were all just so good!”

And while volunteer activities look different right now, we still have a variety of opportunities. If you’re interested in virtual volunteer opportunities for you or your team, email getinvolved@familyscholarhouse.org.
Family Scholar House is pleased to announce the graduating Class of 2020. We are celebrating 75, bringing the total of college degrees earned by FSH participants to 578. We know you are as proud of these scholars as we are. *Drumroll please!*

**Class of 2020**

Cheyenne Allen
Tyrell Baker
Miriam Bass
Shuniquia Bell
Andrayia Bowman
Wendy Broy
Jessica Bullard
Tatiana Burns
Legacy Carter
Justin Christman
Destiny Clark
Kacie Cleveland
Jeri Lynn Cochran
Kendra Cox
Taccara Davis
Jody Day
Dazia Dillard
Angel Dunnon
Hayley Durham
TaSha Edison
Lakiaya Fisher
Tiffany Fitzpatrick
Niah Gilmore, DNP
Aly Griffin
India Green
Jasmin Hansberry
Jessica Harris
Breasia Hite
Victoria Ivy
Deloris Jackson
Travon James
Deja Johnson
Clairessa Johnson
Kalee Johnson
Melecia Justice
Chiquita Lacy
Abria Lennon
Mekhi Lewis
Kendall Link
Shaniece Llera
Layla Lowe
Kenyatta Martin
Rev. Keisha Matlock-Glass
Kiara McElroy
DeAsia Moore
Shakira Murphy
Christine Pusey
Whitney Randall

Antje Riemer
Ivori Robertson
Reneice Ruffin
Cynthia Schepers
Candace Scott
Samyra Seay
Regina Springer
Keisha Taylor
Victoria Thomas
Jessica Thomasson
Aleshia Thompson, M.D.
Nautica Thornton-Malone
Megan Washburn
Raven White
Nicole Williams
Victoria Wilson
Sasha Wilson
Kelsey Winters
Madison Wolf

*For safety reasons, eight additional graduates, all survivors of domestic violence, could not be included in this publication.

Typically we host a community graduation celebration; however, this year our team got very creative and formulated an entire week of celebration for these amazing graduates. The celebration included a parade through all five campuses, special deliveries, and a Zoom celebration. We are so proud of our Class of 2020!
FSH is a Proud Recipient of the National Rise Prize

Family Scholar House was selected to receive a 2020 Rise Prize. Imaginable Futures - a venture of Omidyar Network - and Lumina Foundation, along with a group of leading partner organizations, are awarding $1.55 million to 15 innovative ideas supporting parents' postsecondary education success. FSH is one of only five organizations chosen from across the nation, in the mature program category, each of which received $200,000 in prize funding. This funding supports the FSH Response Center and expanded affiliate opportunities. More information is available at www.theriseprize.com/winners. We are honored to be recognized and look forward to new ways to serve more families and communities.

Wine, Women, & Shoes 2020

Unaware of all that was to come with the coronavirus, we did not know this would be our only event of 2020. On Friday, March 6, 2020, Family Scholar House hosted its 7th Annual Wine Women & Shoes event at the Henry Clay, with our phenomenal mistress of ceremonies, WLKY’s Vicki Dortch. With 360 guests in attendance, and through the collective impact of community leaders, we raised nearly $400,000 making this FSH’s largest fundraising event to date to support the educational programs and services of Family Scholar House.

Wine Women & Shoes, presented by GE Appliances, was a fabulous opportunity for the community to come together to support the mission of Family Scholar House and have a blast in the process! A huge thank you to everyone who made this event a success. For a full list of sponsors, see page 11.

Celebration of Education

Due to COVID-19, our Celebration of Education gala is not able to take place in person this fall, however we are still going to celebrate education. Watch for more information in the coming weeks about how you can celebrate with us and support FSH families.

‘Save the Date’ for FSH’s Celebration of Education Gala on September 24, 2021 at the Omni Louisville Hotel.

When Aleshia and her young daughter Trinity arrived at Family Scholar House in January 2012, she was looking for a new chapter in her life and a safe place for her and her daughter to call home. Studying night and day, she graduated with her Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees from Jefferson Community & Technical College in 2013.

Aleshia knew she wanted to go into healthcare. When several of her professors encouraged her to take more challenging courses, she fell in love with Anatomy, Biology, and Medicine. Aleshia received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Louisville (U of L) in 2016. After graduating, Aleshia and Trinity transitioned out of FSH housing, living two blocks from the campus that was their home and staying connected to FSH. Aleshia worked hard personally and professionally to achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a doctor and was able to care for patients from her previous work as an EMT and Dialysis Technician once she enrolled in the U of L’s School of Medicine.

So, this June, in the very unprecedented year of 2020, Aleshia received her Medical Degree (M.D.) from U of L and has secured a residency at Kansas University Medical Center’s OB/GYN department as an Obstetrician and Gynecologist for the next four years. We are so proud of Aleshia and Trinity and grateful to have them as part of the Family Scholar House family.
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Mission Statement
To end the cycle of poverty and transform our community by empowering families and youth to succeed in education and achieve life-long self-sufficiency.