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On Learning from Home. . .

“I’m hoping things will be back to normal someday.”

Sasha, 9

“I like being at home because you can eat and drink while you are doing your school-work...you don’t even have to raise your hand.”

- Alice

“I like that I can stay with my parents the whole day because I really, really love them.”

- Judah, 7



We started the second quarter of 2020 with our world turned upside down! The Wisconsin Safer at Home orders inspired Rainbow Project staff to find innovative ways to continue offering services.

In April the Grandparents and Other Relatives as Parents (GORP) went virtual for the second month in a row.

With a screen between us, we still gathered to offer humor, hope and healing. We hope to offer you some of the same in this edition.

In this edition you will hear from those who are experiencing the impact of COVID-19. We hear from children who are finishing out the school year at home and we put the spotlight on one of our members, Curt. Enjoy reading about his new role as grandparent and teacher.



**Member
Spotlight:
Curt**

One of our beloved, and trusted members sat down to share his thoughts on

GORP and life in quarantine. Curt wishes you all well and in true fashion, extends his wishes: “Peace to all.”

“What is normal? It’s what we make it.” - Curt, GORP Member

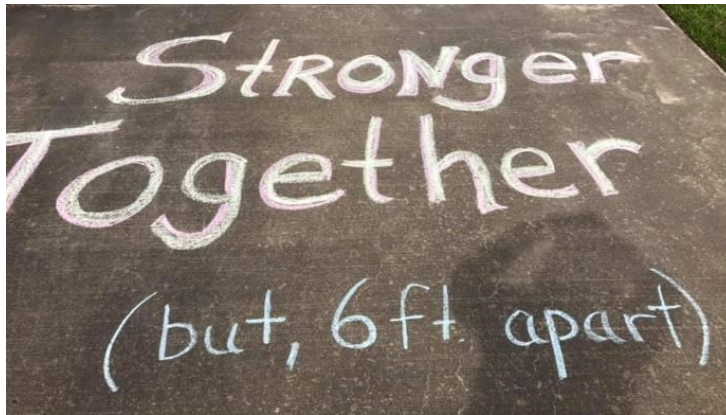
Q: Briefly describe how you came to raise your grandchild.

A: “We came to raising our grandchild because her mom and dad were into drugs and were unable to stop. So we stepped in when she was 8 months old. She is now 14.”



Q: How did you learn of the Grandparent and Other Relatives as Parents Group at the Rainbow Project?

A: “My wife was looking for help with this new chapter in our lives and found The Rainbow Project online.”



Q: What do you want a new member to know about the group?

A: “That we may not have all the answers to your questions, but we will do our best to find the right people for you to talk to. That you are not alone doing this. You were not a bad parent, our children all have their own choices in life.”

Q: You are resilient, what lessons did you learn before quarantine that are helping you during this challenging time?

A: “That there is hope out there, we are strong within ourselves but are better as a group. My faith that we can get through the hard times. One Day At A Time.”

Q: How are you adjusting to being your grandchild's teacher?

A: “With the 14 year old, she is a smart person with a strong drive to be do better. She is also smarter than me at a number of things, like math. As for the 10 year old (from our other child) she is also smart, but looks for the easy way out. Much like myself as a child in school.”

Q: Any interesting lessons you've taught lately?

A: “We had a small deck on the ground in the backyard that needed to be updated. So the 14 year old asked if we could build a new, bigger deck. So I told her what size we needed to build and how far apart the supports need to be. She then had to draw up a plan and give me a list of lumber by size and length we have to get. Then we went shopping. Showed her how we needed to level and square the frame. She measured all the joist to the right length, and used the chop saw. I nailed the frame up, but she nailed all the deck boards down with the air-nailer. Ended up we were short just one deck board, we talked about why that happened. Not bad for her first try at it. So this was a lesson in science and math. I gave her an A+.”

Q: What's your best advice for other grandparents or relatives trying to make the best of quarantine?

A: “We all have our own way to deal with this, and it takes all of us different amounts of time to get where we are. Sometime all we need is a hug and a laugh to make things better for right now. What is normal? It's what we make it.”

SPEAKER'S CORNER

People Stayed Home

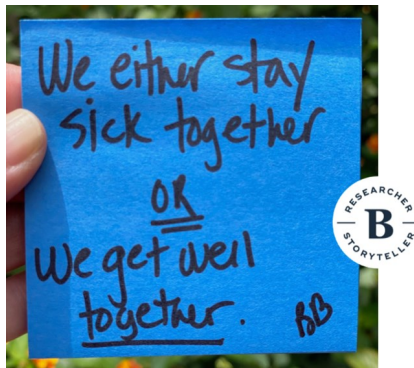
And the people stayed home.
And read books,
And listened,
And rested,
And exercised,
And made art,
And played games,
And learned new ways of being,
And they were still, and listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous,
mindless,
and heartless
ways,
the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses,
and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully,
as they had healed.

- Kitty O'Meara
Lake Mills, Wisconsin



January
Group Support

February
Group Support

March
Group Support

April
Group Support

May
Group Support

June
Group Support

July
Johnathon Martinez, MS
Monica Madrigal, LPC-IT

August
Summer Potluck

September
Families Like Mine
Conference

October
Group Support

November
Caregiver
Appreciation Month-
Jane De Broux,
Caregiver Program
Coordinator,
Area Agency on
Aging of
Dane County

December
Group Support



THE RAINBOW PROJECT, INC.

CHILD & FAMILY COUNSELING & RESOURCE CLINIC

The Rainbow Project Vision

A safe, healthy and nurturing world for children and families

Mission

The Rainbow Project provides restorative healing and hope for young children, and their families who have experienced trauma, building a foundation for the mastery of life sustaining skills.

Values

Respect Philosophy of interactions with others. . .internally, consumers, other professionals and the community

Growth Desire to inspire, support, and foster others. . . consumer, families, colleagues, team members and the community

Compassion Recognition, empathy and support for individual differences. . .including, but not limited to life experiences, culture, background and abilities

Collaboration Interactive roles as part of a larger whole

Excellence Commitment to quality, integrity, leadership, professionalism and thoughtfulness

RESOURCES

Want to join the group or learn more about community resources and referrals? Contact Serena Breining at sbreining@therainbowproject.net