



Our Vision: Georgetown is a community where no child is hungry, hurt, alone or rejected and all children and youth believe they are loved, respected, and treated with dignity.

Dear Friend,

December 2020

I want to thank you for your faithful support. The Georgetown Project has served almost 33,000 children and youth (and their families) since 1997. In this year like none other, you helped us continue empowering youth in ways that matter. Making a difference in a child's life brings great joy, and for that we are grateful!

Covid-19 hit vulnerable communities—including youth—especially hard. Children had to navigate a strange new world. Their parents were suddenly at home guiding virtual education. They were isolated for months from friends, after school programs, mental health supports and extended family members. Their parents lost employment. They lost loved ones. Through it all, the power of caring relationships unleashed incredible collaborations focused on youth wellbeing.

This year has reaffirmed everything we thought we knew about youth development. Young people need positive relationships with caring adults in their life who Express Care, Challenge Growth, Provide Support, Share Power and Expand Possibilities. We call these Developmental Relationships. However, just half of young people report having strong relationships with adults in their life. Youth 18 and younger make up almost 25% of our community, and 42% of GISD students are economically disadvantaged, so we place high priority on filling gaps and increasing access along a child's journey growing up in Georgetown.

We build resiliency skills with youth, and in 2020 we were challenged as an organization to practice what we preach. We did our best to embrace the digital experience, manage through change and plan the future through a new lens. Because of you, we were able to wrap our arms around 3,040 children and youth and 5,400 parents and childcare providers when they needed us the most.

You are a blessing to us. You are the backbone of our mission, which is to identify needs and develop resources, relationships and services so that youth in Georgetown grow into caring, capable and resilient young adults. Your support is essential as kids recover and refocus on their bright futures where they are ready for college, work and life. The children need you more than ever. I hope you will remember The Georgetown Project in this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Leslie Janca

Leslie Janca
Chief Executive Officer



Please don't miss the backside of this letter for a few examples of how we adapted to do what is best for kids in these challenging times.





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We adapted quickly, and even improved services this year. Programs may have looked different, but we were still there for 8,440 children, youth and families.

Empowering Youth: *NEST Empowerment Center*After School Action Program*Summer Youth Employment Program*Youth Leadership & Service Events*Post-Secondary Education & Supportive Housing Program*



L-2020 NEST grad Kayla (r) proudly displays her artwork on The Square. Kayla is now in our career training and supportive housing program, studying at TSTC to become a welder. R-2020 MLK Youth Service Day, pre-Covid. Daily life in 2020 looks different for sure, but we stayed focused on maintaining and strengthening relationships with kids!

April-May 2020:

We followed GISD's lead and shifted youth programs to virtual and individual case management. Some services are now deeper and more customized to address student needs.

June-Present 2020:

Resumed in-person youth programming, while providing and improving case management and outreach to virtual learners. Creativity and adaptability required in this new normal.

Engaging Parents & Childcare Providers: *Bridges to Growth Parent Center*



L-Educational bags for young children delivered curbside and paired with virtual early learning classes. R- Bilingual Storytime at Bridges to Growth, pre-Covid. Finding the ways, even in a global pandemic!

April-Present 2020:

Shifted training classes for parents, childcare providers and preschoolers to virtual platforms. And class participation tripled! We also held our first successful online childcare training conference.

Onsite group classes will resume when safe in 2021.

Mobilizing Community: *TGP Collaborative for Children & Youth*Afterschool Alliance* Training*Mentoring*Information & Referrals to Community Resources*

We served as a source of stability, connectivity and community for 65 nonprofits, and as an information and referral hub during the shut-down, assisting 525 calls from families seeking youth and community services.

Your Donations Are So Important & Very Much Appreciated:

- Mail (envelope enclosed)
- georgetownproject.org
- facebook.com/TheGeorgetownProject

