Dear Friends,

The last two months have brought unprecedented challenges to our society. It is my sincere hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. We are all adapting to a new lifestyle and then re-adapting as conditions demand. Things are no different at Chester County Futures.

We successfully relocated our offices to Coatesville on March 8, 2020. While we saw the pandemic spreading along the west coast, there were roughly 100 confirmed cases in New York City that day. We began to prepare for the pandemic during the relocation process, but in no way could have anticipated the speed in which the schools would close. All of our districts closed by March 13, 2020, a mere five days after we moved. Thank goodness, they did close.

Due to strong partnerships, an agile staff, generous donors and a bit of luck, we have been able to keep our students engaged and became a place where the learning continued while the schools scrambled to deliver on-line lessons. That statement is not a criticism, we have 446 students to attend to, they are dealing with thousands.

So how have we done it?

- **SAP America** – provided access to technology by donating refurbished laptops. These laptops were given to students with need, grades 9 – 12 by February 15th
- **COMCAST Internet Essentials** - all of our students received sign-up information for this valuable program in January
- **Donations** – thanks to an extraordinary effort by Next Level Training, the committee and participants of our Strike Up Some Fun Bowling Event and funders highlighted in this edition, we were ahead of projections for this year
- **Agile staff** – efficiently adapted curriculum for on-line learning and began delivery in one week. The one-to-one guidance our students receive from staff remains solidly in place at a time when they need it most
- **Motivated students** – our students are the best! They have stayed in contact with their coordinators, maintained an 85% attendance and course completion record and they are LEARNING!

We faced some difficult decisions, while others were made for us. We cancelled scheduled college tours and corporate site visits, postponed a partnership with West Chester University’s Health Sciences Department, and postponed our Class of 2020 Graduation Celebration indefinitely. Please take a moment to see their senior portraits in this issue.

In the coming weeks you will learn more about a new CCF Partnership Coalition. Our leadership will work alongside academic, community and corporate leaders to advance our work through digital learning and virtual opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year. In this time of tremendous disruption, we have found an opportunity to assess our work, learn alongside our students and improve our services.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement, we count on it.

Stay well,

Maria McDonald | Executive Director
Remembering Those Who Gave To CCF

By Maria McDonald

People give to Chester County Futures in a variety of ways. Donors support our work with their heartfelt monetary contributions while volunteers support our work with their selfless contributions of time, both equally valued by our students and staff. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic taking hold of our country and this region, Chester County Futures lost two loyal members of our greater community.

Lisa Sands spent over two years mentoring one of our Kennett High School students, now a sophomore at Temple University. Lisa was a gentle and sincere sounding board for her student, allowing her to speak openly about her concerns as a first generation college student. Their friendship helped a talented yet insecure young woman believe in herself and pursue her dreams to become a nurse. Lisa also made herself available to attend trainings and round table meetings for other mentors. Her perspective and dedication will be missed.

Dick Mulford became a donor seven years ago, after an introduction to our organization by his neighbor. I remember sitting on the patio with Dick and listening to his story, he was 80 years old at the time. He was the first in his family to attend college. Dick attended the University of Pennsylvania, B.S. Engineering. He went on to have a successful career at PECO, and served as the President of the Engineers Club at Penn. When I asked him what had given him the most joy in his life, he replied, “Helping young people have some of the opportunities I’ve had thanks to my education.” Dick was a Sponsor A Scholar Donor for Chester County Futures. His support helped a young man from Coatesville stay in our programs. That young man is graduating high school this spring, and will be attending West Chester University.

Two members of our greater community who will be dearly missed but whose lives have made the life of a young person better thanks to their encouragement.

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Futures AHEAD Logo Design Challenge

By Mary Williams

During the February Futures AHEAD meeting, each student participated in the Program-Wide T-Shirt Logo Design Contest. The students were presented with the challenge of creating the winning 2020 program logo based on what they felt best visually represented the Futures AHEAD program.

CCF Staff voted on the winning design concept. This was no easy task as the students created some amazing logos.

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THANK YOU!

We are extremely grateful for the incredible support we have received from the following donors during this especially difficult time:

- Robert E. Lamb Foundation
- SAP Charitable Fund
- WSFS Bank
- Voya Foundation
- Dave & Laura Wiland
- Woodward McCoach, Inc.
- West Pharmaceutical Services
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Aegeon Transamerica Foundation
- Dr. Linda Lamwers & Dr. Leonard Soroka
The Community around CCF Gives Back

By Joe Daye

Over the past several weeks, we as humans and citizens of this country have come together to fight this novel coronavirus outbreak. As our lives have changed as a whole, we are asked to stay safe indoors, in turn changing the way we work, go to school and our daily activities.

For those who are in non-essential positions, some sadly lost employment that helped to sustain their family. While essential workers are asked to continue working, putting themselves and their families at risk. We recognize that these two categories impact our own community within Chester County Futures. Our students may have family members who lost their jobs or are on the front line and we as an organization recognize the added stress this can create. From this realization, one of our board members made the call to help those who have been effected.

Over the past month, CCF board member Virind Gujral has recognized the disparities and offered to provide groceries to families in our program effected by the coronavirus outbreak. With the help of several CCF Student Service Coordinators, he helped give donations to three families within our program. During this mission, he also helped two other families within Chester County.

CCF Partnership with West Chester University

By Harriet Mobley

Our 2020 CCF partnership with West Chester University (WCU) began in February with a visit from seven students having majors that ranged from Sports Medicine to Communication to Nursing.

Our initial meeting began with WCU students sharing their personal experiences of transitioning to college. Keeping in line with our CCF curriculum, WCU students provided support by interacting with 10th grade Oxford students as aids and presenters on various topics. In our meetings together, we covered the value of smart goal planning. WCU students and faculty advisor Daniel Baer provided examples of how planning supports both high school and college students to become focused, organized and more productive.

In our remaining time we covered a full series on job interviewing protocols and procedures. Students learned how to complete an employment application, create a resume and cover letter and request a letter of recommendation.

Our final two sessions concluded with WCU students performing mock interviews with each of the students. Overall, the time together provided students with solid resources to use this summer as they attempt to secure employment.

Strike Up Some Fun Success

On Sunday, March 1st, about 250 people gathered to support and celebrate educational opportunities with Chester County Futures at our 8th Annual Bowling Event. Students, mentors, sponsors, and friends brought their best 50’s attire and spent a fun afternoon at The Palace Bowling and Entertainment Center knocking down pins and raising interest in volunteer engagement. Thanks to enthusiastic supporters, Chester County Futures exceeded their goal, raising over $13,000 and had a great time doing it!
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CCF SENIORS - CLASS OF 2020

Aailyah  Abisai  Aided  Albert  Alexander  Amariah  Antanae  Antwon

Arianna  Ashley  Brittany  Carina  Clarence  Daisy  Darvina  Dessarae

Gianny  Hallie  Iranett  Jaeden  Jakai  Jariana  Jissel  Jonathan

Joshua  Katia  Lois  Madison  Maria  Mayra  Melissa  Miguel

Nakaya  Naomi  Natalie  Nayeli  Noah  Oswaldo  Phylicia  Riley

Sergio  Seth  Stephanie  Storm  Tiffany  Xitlali  Yosimar

ABOUT US
Chester County Futures works with economically at-risk youth to give them the academic support and life skills needed to succeed in school and in life. We support our students with academic enrichment, adult mentoring and scholarship support. We serve students in the Coatesville, Kennett, Oxford, and Phoenixville Area School Districts.

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