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The Downtowner

Randy's Ramblings

By Randy Allman

2020 - What a Year!

2020 – that says it all! So many words pop into our heads when we think about it. Most are not nice words, either. We're all disappointed to have missed out on so many things that bring us joy. LCNFC was forced to cancel events that we love to provide for you, our neighbors. We had to give up hugging some of those we love. That was a tough one! We could not visit some of our favorite local hangouts with our friends. This is life with COVID in 2020! But through it all, we have been amazed at the generosity and kindness we've witnessed over the past seven months. Some raised our spirits. Some brought tears to our eyes. Some made us laugh.

Allison and her kids would honk at our office until we opened the door where they stood in the yard with 'Social Distance HUGS' signs and big smiles. While shopping at Costco in her mask and gloves, Cheryl bought socks, t-shirts, and snacks for us to share with neighbors who were struggling. There were hundreds of donors who gave generously to United Way's Relief Fund, which helped LCNFC, Sans Souci, Su Casa, and others provide emergency financial assistance to those who were suddenly without work and without money in their pockets. Annetta, Bill, and Linda crisscrossed the county delivering "Columbus Cares" signs to recognize our community's amazing essential workers, but to also raise funds for YES Cinema during its temporary shutdown. Even just a few days ago, Izzy and Dale heard LCNFC staff have been working seven days a week to help those in crisis and dropped off trays of treats—nourishment not only for our bodies, but for our souls too. These are just a few examples.

But one that still touches our hearts is a young woman named Brandy. We don't know Brandy. She called our office, long-distance, one night asking what services we were providing during COVID. After filling her in, she shared with us that she grew up in Columbus and is now proudly serving our Country in the military. (Thank you Brandy!) She had received some stimulus funds but wanted to give it to a family in a community that she said had been so good to her. To say we had lumps in our throats was an understatement. And the gifts didn't stop there. Many of you called us asking how you could help your neighbors. Some donated money—even large amounts you could have used yourself. Some mowed their neighbor's lawn because the neighbors didn't have money to put gas in the mower. Some of you cooked meals for several weeks for children whose mother had to take an evening job.

There is no doubt that we all have experienced losses in 2020. It's easy to dwell on what we are missing. We all do it, it's only natural! However, 2020 will never define who we are. Have we been tested? Sure we have. Will we soon forget? Not likely. Hope remains and the light at the end of the tunnel is shining brighter. If you are still having a tough time, call us. We would love to talk. We are proud to live in a community where generous, caring people reach out to complete strangers and where good friends and neighbors never disappoint. Thank you Allison and family, Cheryl, Annetta, Bill, Linda, all of our generous donors, and Brandy. Together we can make 2020 memorable for all the right reasons! ~ Randy Allman

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THE DOWNTOWNER is a newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See the enclosed information for activities and programs or jump online at www.lcnfc.org. Please call the LCNFC at 812-379-1630 for additional information.

