

Hello and Welcome—

COVID-19 has changed what it means to be a child in 2020. The youth of today are experiencing new challenges we never could have predicted. We at the Morning Star Foundation are choosing to respond to these challenges with creativity and innovation, so we can continue to carry out our important mission:

to transform our community's most at-risk kids into healthy, happy, and productive adults.

We believe in kids, and we want to inspire them to believe in themselves. Our results are measured by the kids whose lives are forever changed through residential and foster care programs, wrap services, education, and enrichment through play, the arts, and outdoor immersion. We strategically invest in these five pillars of caring to develop a real and lasting positive impact on the community.

When these pillars of caring are combined with your generous donations, it leaves a lasting impact on our community, even amidst the chaos of a worldwide pandemic. Here are just a few examples:

- Your contributions helped fund the **HOPE project**, a new state-of-the-art residential care facility which Morning Star Boys' Ranch is using for quarantine.
- **Dishman Hills Conservancy** is transforming its face-to-face education program into an online video series; teaching kids about nature, geology, and the outdoors from the safety of home.
- **Embrace WA** is giving struggling foster kids a leg up with their academics by connecting them with online tutoring services.
- **Transitions Educare** is providing a safe place for preschool students to learn and grow while their essential worker parents continue their path towards financial independence.

In addition to the positive impact of individual donations, we are incredibly grateful for our increase in volunteerism. We're experiencing exponential growth as many unemployed and displaced workers are eager to come aboard and help. They have shared their knowledge and talents in various ways throughout the organization. Hopefully, we can offer an equally beneficial experience to them while they're here. Even a worldwide pandemic can have its silver-lining...

Although we've encountered a marked reduction in donations, staffing changes, and board member turnover throughout the past year, we are excited about the new opportunities these challenges bring. We have taken this time to focus on a bright future with a new look, new location, new faces, and new ways of fulfilling our mission.


The newest face you will encounter is our website. You will notice that we've spruced things up a bit. We underwent a thorough research process to learn more about what matters to you—our donors and volunteers. We took what we learned and embarked on a journey to redefine ourselves. Our new brand is positioned to help more kids than ever, but this does not come without some obstacles to overcome.

Raising funds the traditional way has been challenged by the restrictions COVID-19 has placed on large events and gatherings. For this reason, we are especially grateful for our new space. The Morning Star Foundation recently moved to a new location designed to host small, intimate gatherings where we can safely get to know one another. The space is modern and open, allowing us to make friends while practicing social distancing. We are also innovating to provide a variety of networking opportunities, both virtually and outdoors, to build a robust network of friends who are also passionate about helping kids.

Establishing new partnerships with local corporations is another area we have seen growth this year. These relationships provide us with access to cutting edge technologies, helping us catapult our operations into the 21st century. Their generosity allows us to increase the value of your donations without adding to our overhead. Many thanks to our corporate sponsors for giving us the ability to do more with less.

In the years to come, I'm sure we will look back to 2020 and remark about how we were able to use this time to transform the way we did things. I feel privileged to play a role in this metamorphosis and am blessed to be in this leadership role. I invite you to explore our new website, learn more about our five pillars of caring, and understand how your donation positively impacts the kids who need it most.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Webster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Webster, MBA
Chief Executive Officer