

# A Note from the Executive Director



At Helping Hand Home we began 2020 with high expectations for what was to come. We were embarking on a historic capital campaign to allow us to serve more children, enhance their quality of care and build our capacity to support more families looking to foster and adopt.

It is safe to say that this year is not what anyone anticipated. We know it is a time of great uncertainty and stress for so many people in our community. The reality is that for the children we serve, uncertainty – as well as anxiety and trauma – are an everyday fact of life. While many people can press pause, stay home and escape from the world, for too many children home is not a safe place.

The need for our expanded capacity was already great. With schools shuttered, we have seen a drop in reports of child abuse statewide. But that isn't because abuse has stopped – it's because the teachers and school counselors who are often the first line of defense for these children aren't seeing them anymore. We are already being told by Child Protective Services to prepare for a surge in new reports when schools reopen later this fall.

It is in the name of these children – who cannot escape – that we are moving forward with our capital campaign. Over the last few months, even while we have largely had to halt traditional campaign activities, we have been humbled by donors who have continued to step up and pledge their support.

As a testament to our community's support and an acknowledgement of the great need for our services, we have raised more than \$1 Million, ***even while the campaign has been on pause.***

In a further demonstration of progress, our site plan permit was issued in July, and we are now in the process of obtaining our building permit. The children and families we serve simply can't wait any longer – and we refuse to lose more precious time to delays.

That's why we need you to help us get across the finish line. The demand for our support and the 24-hour services we provide have only intensified because of COVID –we need your help to meet this demand.

During this pandemic we have seen our extraordinary team work relentlessly to continue to serve and meet the needs of our children. The isolation is tough. School is closed, external activities are shut down, and there are no days off – for our staff or our incredible foster families. Your support to help us in our final sprint will make all the difference.

Ted Keyser  
Executive Director