



Message from Our President



I hope that you are all fine and finding your new normal in these challenging and uncertain times. These next few weeks will not be easy, but we will weather the unknown together. Working with such a wonderful group of people is one of my many blessings. I am forever thankful for our Forum Family who are always looking out for one another and providing a helping hand.

Most of our staff are working remotely with only 16 staff working in our Tallahassee office. Fortunately, there is enough space to ensure safe distancing and not all employees are there at the same time. I feel confident that we are doing our part to stop the spread of this virus.

We know that school closures have presented challenges for staff trying to work from home while balancing child care and homeschooling. I appreciate everyone's flexibility as we try to respond to the demands of work and family. Please continue to do your best to be as responsive as possible to work demands. We want to assure our funders that we CAN do this!

If you haven't already done so, please review the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and other COVID-19 documents on the Intranet at http://intranet.flchild.com/internal-forms/#elf_I1_SFIgRm9ybXMvRk1MQQ. Your supervisor can answer any questions you may have.

I appreciate that you all have also adhered to the directives to stay at home as much as possible. We know that this is critical if we are to be successful as a community, state, and nation in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Please take some time to reflect on your blessings and cultivate an attitude of gratitude. We are very grateful that we are able to continue our services and compensate our staff. This isn't something we take lightly as I'm sure you all know of others who have been negatively impacted by this pandemic, including many that work in early learning settings. Please keep them and those affected by this virus in your thoughts and prayers -- and help others where you can. Kindness has a ripple effect.

Wishing you and your family good health and wellness.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shylis A. Kujala".





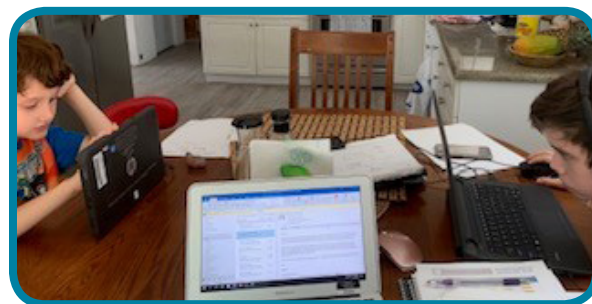
Forum Focus



How are You and Your Family Coping During These Challenging Times?

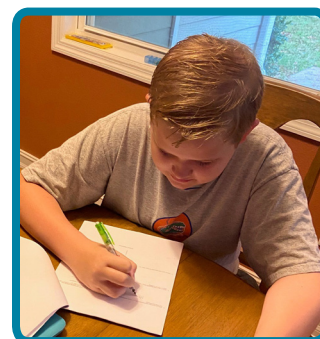
"We're adjusting to the new normal of the virtual schools and working from home all at the same time. It's been a learning experience I can say, but enjoying every moment with my kids. As a family, we support each other by asking what each one needs to complete work. For me, I like keeping silence in the house and have been working around the house on small projects. Watching my boys participate in virtual school makes me realize that all things are possible, even during this crisis."

-Ana Naranjo-Gonzalez, ELCC Professional Development Specialist



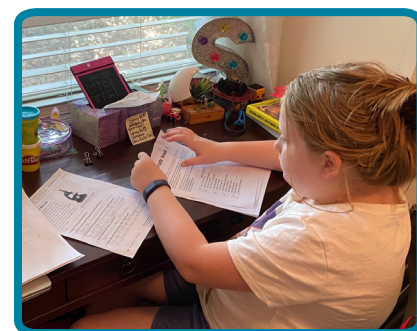
"My family is using Zoom, FaceTime, and Facebook video chat to keep in touch with family and friends both locally and internationally. I have connected with friends who live abroad I hadn't spoken to in many years and we chat on Facebook Messenger every Sunday. I chat with my siblings several times a week on Zoom and all of my nieces and nephews have really enjoyed seeing each other.

They range in age from 2-20, so they are lively conversations, as you might imagine. We are now trying to incorporate my 87 year old father in these chats, so it should be interesting as time goes on.



We are working through the challenges of this new educational learning system at home. My kids are finding their groove. We are trying to maintain a schedule and some normalcy, with plenty of time for breaks and exercise. We are enjoying playing some of the board games we haven't used in a while and the competitive side of each of us is showing.

-Lisa Roberts, Assessment and Coaching Services Project Manager



"I never thought I would be home schooling my children and working remotely, but we are slowly getting into a routine and making the most of it. The kids love virtual learning and have been able to do Zoom meetings with their classmates and teachers to keep in touch. They miss their friends and not being able to visit their grandparents, but my son has been able to talk with his friends who are part of the gaming world. My daughter and I keep in touch by having FaceTime group calls and sending videos to friends and family. We also like to draw inspirational messages and pictures in our driveway. My husband works at the hospital in surgical services, so we cherish the time when the whole family is home. I have to remind myself during these uncertain times that 'This too shall pass.'"

-Jenna Brown, Communications Director



Forum Focus



"As a parent of grown children, I remember there were definitely some hard moments when they were younger as I was trying to work from home. My advice for employees with young children is to go easy, and don't expect them to be supercharged in academics. If they get the basic assignments done, great. And if there's something they are just curious about, this is an ideal opportunity for some 'self-directed learning'! Working on skate boarding tricks in the driveway counts as basic physics, cooking is culinary arts, starting a family garden is biology, and walking/running in the morning and evening is physical education.

My son David is working at the TMH Emergency Room, but thankfully hasn't been exposed to COVID-19 that he knows of. I'm staying put for the next few days, and my husband Jorge does the errands. I think it's really important that we all give each other lots of room, practice graciousness, and understand that this is abnormal for us all."

-Kate Nielsen-Nuñez, Contracts and Grants Administrator



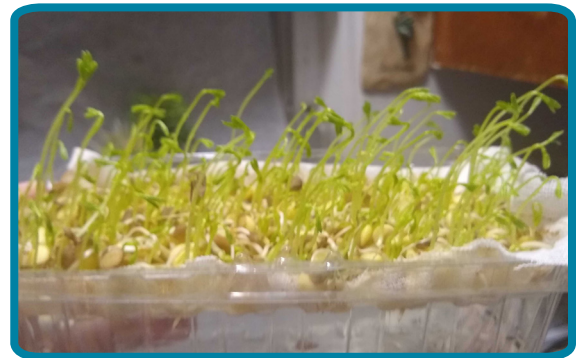
"My girls made artwork and wrote letters for people in elder care facilities. I have kept in touch with friends and family via text and FaceTime calls. Hailey enjoyed sharing her dog with her classmates virtually on Zoom. We have spent more time exercising, playing board and card games, and watching movies as a family. I have been encouraged by how communities around our nation have come together to be sure that children continue to receive meals while their school buildings are closed."

-Melissa Clements, VP/Chief Research Officer



"We have been taking daily walks. The sunshine and fresh air has helped enormously!"

-Liz Randall, HMG Data and Research Manager



"I have been trying my hand at growing microgreens to eat at home during social distancing. These are sprouted from dried lentils! They're really easy to grow and you don't need special equipment to set up. Even if you don't plan on eating them, they could still be a fun activity for kids to watch something grow."

-Angel Kreucher, Graphic Designer



Events and Activities

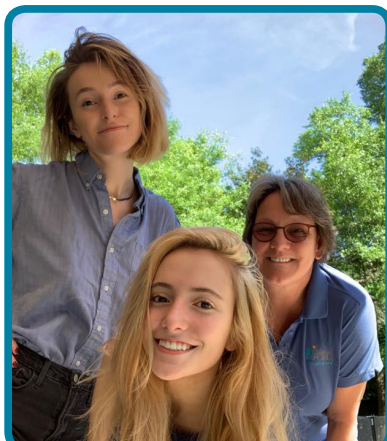


Wearing Blue for Autism Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month

We got our blue on to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day and Wear Blue Day 2020 to promote National Autism Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

National Autism Awareness Month highlights the need to improve the quality of life of those with autism so that they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

All children deserve happy childhoods and bright futures. Child Abuse Prevention Month helps to ensure every child has an equal opportunity for healthy growth and development.





Welcome Newbies!



Jahna Richards
Front Desk Assistant

Loves contemporary dancing and was on the Mahogany Dance Theatre team at FAMU



Evelyn Thomas
Registry Coach

Loves to spend time with her two cats and dog



Brian Hughes
IT Systems Coordinator

Is a beekeeper and has been stung more than 1,000 times



Lisa Carson
T.E.A.C.H. Program Specialist

Loves to sing very loudly in the shower and never wears matching socks



Savannah Ryan
Registry Coach

Is left-handed, loves going to FSU football games, and enjoys watching reruns of Friends



Elliot Shorter
Front Desk Assistant

Played college football for two years at the defensive back and safety/cornerback positions



Forum Happenings



Happy Birthday

April

Laura Cain , Registry	Apr 04
Evelyn Thomas , Registry	Apr 05
Flor Brito , ELCC	Apr 07
Courtney Lee , Registry	Apr 11
Brenda Romuald , T.E.A.C.H.	Apr 11
Kathryn Brockett , Outreach	Apr 25
Kelly Fountain , IT	Apr 25

May

Dawn Lynn , T.E.A.C.H.	May 05
Amanda Gregory , T.E.A.C.H.	May 06
Kate Nielsen-Nuñez , Fiscal	May 11
Caitlin Eliason , Fiscal	May 17
Savannah Ryan , Registry	May 18
Jahna Richards , T.E.A.C.H.	May 21
Nikita Allen , INCENTIVE\$	May 31

Happy Anniversary

April

Cheslee Williamson , T.E.A.C.H.	1 year
Paula Grant , T.E.A.C.H.	8 years
Dasiely Cruz , ELCC.	8 years

May

Cathy Hall , Fiscal	1 year
Amanda Gregory , T.E.A.C.H.	2 years
Tomica King-Jackson , T.E.A.C.H.	2 years
Kathryn Brockett , Outreach	2 years
Ashley Casey , T.E.A.C.H.	4 years
Lisa Roberts , Research	9 years
Erika Williams , INCENTIVE\$	13 years

Stay Safe
and
Be Well

