

Dear Friends,

May 30, 2020

I could never have imagined writing a letter to you in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. And yet, here we are. I pray you and your family are safe and well. As of today, our residents are still COVID-free, and we continue our life altering efforts to keep the virus outside our gates.

Life at Fowler has changed dramatically for the 360 youth and elders that call Fowler "home." The term "Fowler Family" has taken on a new meaning as our residents have not seen their own families since March 12, except through technology. Our staff has sacrificed their family needs to be here. The entire Fowler team is on-site trying to fill the space of family members, friends and volunteers who previously provided socialization and emotional support, shopped for groceries, and performed many other supportive functions. Our residents who have weathered other catastrophic experiences in their lives, have provided hope and encouragement. My heart is full as we have loved and supported each other through this anxious, tiring time. While others may be preparing for a return to normalcy, "Fort Fowler" remains closed and our residents remain isolated from the outside world. We feel at some level, this will continue for months.

One advantage to the pandemic is that it has created clarity in many aspects of our lives. The need for community and connection has been intensified yet simplified. Through the lenses of hope, we find God ever present in our midst. Efforts to love and care for those who need it the most, our youth and elders, are as timely today as they were when our namesake Juliette first dreamed of "the home." *The vulnerabilities of aging will always exist, and children will always need our protection. The pandemic has only made their needs more acute.*

That's why I am asking for your help. A generous donor has offered to match all donations to the One Heart Fund, up to \$50,000. Now as much as ever, your donation matters. Through the One Heart Annual Fund, you provide food, shelter and care for those with extremely low incomes. You give children and youth a stable, loving home. You nurture spirits and provide purpose. With the pandemic, your protection comes in the form of expensive masks, gloves, gowns and sanitizer. Our staff has earned overtime pay. And our war against isolation is as great as the one against the virus.

I ask that you keep us in your prayers. Please give as generously as you can by going to www.fowlercommunities.org/donate-now, or calling 214.515.1342. Thank you for making a difference and walking along side of us in pursuit of excellence.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole".

Nicole Gann
President and CEO
Juliette Fowler Communities

