



June 5, 2020

Dear Friends of APCH,

We must meet the forces of hate with the power of love. Black lives matter.

A Place Called Home was born out of the civil unrest of 1992 to provide safe harbor for those young people most affected by social and racial injustice. We are living through another moment where those injustices demand our attention and action. We continue to be fully engaged to best serve the needs of our members, their families and our community, particularly those who face the greatest adversity.

We are outraged and our hearts are broken open for our African American community members over yet another mortal blow to Black people at the hands of officers sworn to protect and serve. The murder of citizens by police officers is an affront to all righteous people.

Brutality against African American people is all too common, and for every incident we hear about, there are many more that go unseen and unheard. It's tempting to numb ourselves from the pain and outrage, but we must not, because then hate wins. We will keep fighting for humanity and peace.

The young people served by A Place Called Home are resilient in spite of being born into poverty that is perpetuated by a network of racist and unjust systems - systems that should provide safety and opportunity, but often do just the opposite. Our commitment now and in the future is to channel our energies, including anger and pain to educate and equip ourselves and our members to call out and combat racist behavior that is normalized in our society. We are committed to love, healing, justice and truthful conversations. We are committed to change.

We encourage you to join us in action. Suggestions for how you can help create positive change right now:

- Visit [Change.org](https://www.change.org) and sign petitions supporting justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Share your support with your social network and encourage others to join you
- [Mentor](#) a young person at APCH - share your world view and experience theirs
- [Volunteer](#) as a guest speaker or provide ongoing hands-on support
- Make room at your business for [Interns from APCH](#), or other agencies serving young people of color
- [Donate](#) in support of our mission and programs
- [Commit](#) to being Anti-Racist
- Follow [Black Lives Matter](#) and other Black thought leaders in our LA community
- Join us in having challenging, sometimes uncomfortable, conversations



Hate is a powerful force, but there's one thing stronger. Love.

Love is contagious, and we bring it into all we do every day, so that it will grow and multiply and ignite the will in all of us through these demanding times, to take action towards a brighter, more just future for everyone.

Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director

Barbara Glazer, Board Chair



May 25, 2020

Letter from the Executive Director

APCH was built from the ashes of civic unrest that tore through South Central over 26 years ago. Since that time, we have welcomed thousands of South Central's young people and families across our threshold to take part in our free programs in education, counseling, the arts, nutrition, athletics, college scholarships, and vocational preparation.

Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, our community is facing immediate challenges of epic proportions. All over the world, people are struggling, especially those that were already living in the margins, and APCH is committed to being here as a resilience resource for the tough months and years ahead.

We welcome your support and partnership to keep APCH strong as we negotiate the perils ahead. Right now, the need is for funding.

**APCH moved quickly to respond to our community's immediate needs.** Early on we recognized the need to temporarily suspend our on-site youth programs and have our staff work remotely in the interest of public health. Since our campus closure, APCH has been operating a Family Resource Depot for the distribution of groceries and fresh produce, diapers, hygiene products, books, art supplies, masks and other essentials to hundreds of families in need.

We have also adapted our programs for web-based delivery - **here's what we're doing right now.**

- Our Membership and Counseling Departments are on call daily to provide case management and mental health services by phone, make referrals to emergency resources, sign families up for our weekly grocery deliveries, and provide microgrants to pay urgent expenses.
- Our Programs staff is providing daily enrichment and learning activities to members online, including tutoring, fitness and dance lessons, nutrition classes, art, music and theater classes, and college and vocational preparation. We have even delivered musical instruments and computers to members to facilitate their learning experiences.
- We have kept our Mentoring programs thriving online, and our teens and mentors connected to staff and one another.



- Our charter high school partnership, vocational prep program, and college scholarship program are all running online.

**We are providing these critical services RIGHT NOW because our community doesn't have reserves and many are ineligible for government aid.** We are committed to providing mental health services and continuity of programs for kids who are anxious about what's ahead for them and their families. We are even opening "space" for youth and families on our waiting list, and we will continue building out APCH Online, even as we look forward to reopening our campus the moment we can.

This is our plan for today - but we know there are more challenges ahead even once the virus clears. Perhaps more than any other community in LA, South Central is embarking on what will be a long and arduous road to recovery.

Youth and families will continue to rely on APCH for safety, hope, and a way to a better life. With your support through this period and beyond, we will continue to serve and be ready to reopen our campus when the time is right.

We know that you will receive many requests for support in the coming months. I hope you will stick by APCH and give generously.

Please stay safe, healthy and hopeful, and hold your loved ones tightly, even if it's through a screen. We all need each other, now more than ever.

Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director