



Storyteller

CHILDREN'S CENTER

Dear Friends,

We have all heard the saying “You never know what someone else is going through.” However, we can easily forget to apply it to our day to day lives. Whether it be a coworker whose absence creates more work for us or a friend who keeps cancelling plans, we can be quick to judge rather than to think about the “why” behind their actions. Perhaps they have a sick parent to care for, are mourning the loss of a loved one, or have bills piling up that they can’t afford to pay. **We simply may never know what hardships others are facing.**

This sentiment is equally, if not more important, when getting to know and understand a child. In the past I have seen young children labeled negatively for their behaviors, but since arriving at Storyteller I have observed a different approach. Our teachers do not ask “what is wrong” with a child, but rather “what happened” to a child. This shift in thinking not only contributes to a compassionate and nurturing environment, but also creates a positive ripple effect that can be felt throughout the entire family.

The past year has been difficult for all of us, but for those entering into the pandemic with existing struggles, it has been even more challenging. Many of our children have experienced greater adversity in their short lives than any of us could ever imagine. From homelessness to domestic violence to mental illness, our children and families are going through a lot and now is the time to be kind. It has been a privilege to be a part of an organization that promotes compassion, trust and empathy as tools for change. **While in our care, children learn healthy coping strategies that they will use well beyond their time at Storyteller, and we could not do this critical work without your support.**

As we enter into our 34th year of service, Storyteller remains dedicated to promoting resilience in our children, families, and each other. We may never know what someone else is going through, but we can support those whom we do know are navigating life’s challenges. **Please join us in our efforts by making a donation toward our annual fund to sustain Storyteller Children’s Center’s mission.** On behalf of our entire team, I thank you and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

In gratitude,

Susan Cass, Executive Director

