April 2020

Dear Friends of Future Link,

These trying times are difficult for all of us and especially difficult on the young adults Future Link serves. About 60% (and growing daily) of our students have lost their hourly wage jobs. Several have become food and housing insecure. Most are stressed as they struggle with distance learning, the lack of technology to continue classes at home, and figure out how to manage this new academic normal. Not surprisingly, feelings of anxiety and depression are provoked with this continuing high level of uncertainty in all aspects of their lives. Now, more than ever, we need your help building our Emergency Fund* to support our vulnerable students with critical needs.

In this uncertain environment, our students need the proactive and high-touch supportive structure that Future Link provides them, and the staff has vowed to do whatever it takes to remain a consistent, positive, and supportive presence in their lives. To do this, we are continuing our operations remotely. The staff speaks daily, encourages mentors and other volunteers to remain connected to the students they assist, and has converted all program events and activities with students from in-person to online. Our weekly seminar classes continue via Zoom and we’re holding virtual lunch hours, checking in with all students by phone, troubleshooting student challenges (financial, academic and technical) as they arise, and regularly sending links to students about employment and food resources. When possible, we are also providing emergency funding to help cover our students’ basic needs. In other words, the goals of academic persistence and degree/credential attainment for our students remain the same; only the support structure has changed due to the obstacles imposed by the pandemic.

During this public health crisis and time of increased vulnerability, Future Link is more committed than ever to keeping our students on track to achieve their academic and career goals. Please donate whatever you can to our Future Link Emergency Fund* so that we may provide immediate assistance to students in whatever form they need (i.e., rent, food, laptop computers, and household supplies).

I hope one day we can look back at this time and refer to it as one when we collectively built greater resilience, growth and strength. As always, Future Link will continue to lift up those in greatest need.

In the spirit of service,

Mindi Jacobson
Mindi P. Jacobson, MPH
Executive Director and Co-Founder

*The recently enacted government stimulus bill (the "CARES Act") allows taxpayers (who take the standard deduction) to claim an “above-the-line” deduction of up to $300 on their 2020 tax return. For those who itemize, cash contributions to nonprofit charities may be fully deducted (up to 100% of AGI) without regard to the usual percentage limitation. Consult your tax advisor for additional information.