It certainly goes without saying, 2020 will be a year that no one will forget. In the past year, we have experienced hardships that no one could have imagined. Our country and our local communities have suffered through the difficulties of navigating a global pandemic amidst increased challenges of unemployment, political unrest, and in our own backyard, the catastrophic events of a devastating fire. While the adversities have been overwhelming, our staff celebrates the incredible acts of heroism and courage that truly highlight the spirit of what makes the work of Kids Unlimited unique.

More than any other year, 2020 reinforced the power of resiliency. Over the last 23 years, we have seen countless successes of children who have risen above difficulties, but none greater than those compounded by Covid19. The impact of losing daily access to our children was devastating and combined with the demise of so many important programs, positions, events, and funding streams connected to our work, we felt debilitated. Suddenly, we recognized the dire need created by the economic impact to our families. The loss of employment for so many, combined with increased isolation and trauma to households already struggling prior to the pandemic, created an urgency for us to respond. With no blueprint other than the immediate recognition of need, Kids Unlimited responded and never could I have been more proud of the difference we made in the face of what seemed like insurmountable odds.

When asked what makes our service to kids and families unique, we need to look no further than the evolution of services provided after the pandemic. For decades, we have believed that at the core of what we do is an unconditional commitment to a relationship with our kids. Not just a service, we share in both the success and the struggle of our kids. For us, our kids are family. When our kids and families needed us the most, we were determined to launch services to accommodate those needs. Our ability to be guided by the importance of necessity, without fearing the recognition that our work had to massively shift, is something collectively we embraced. The responsiveness to evolve our systems to reflect what is needed is at the foundation of who we are. This is a defining quality of the Unlimited.

During the pandemic, the Unlimited meant providing hundreds of thousands of meals, many delivered to homes without transportation, assuring our children would not go hungry. When learning required online services, the Unlimited serviced hundreds of homes with internet and computers while supporting daily parental resources to families in both English and Spanish to ensure equitable learning. Knowing what our kids needed, we delivered art and school supplies so that kids could pursue enrichments despite their inability to be on campus. And to further sustain connections, the Unlimited provided weekly supports to vulnerable families with essential resource assistance and mental health services.

Nothing is more important to us than ensuring all children, regardless of circumstance, have access to opportunity. Through you, Kids Unlimited could provide hope during the toughest of times. Through you, a confidence was built that together, we could overcome. On behalf of our entire organization, I would like to sincerely thank you for your kindness, love, and generosity. I am both proud and humbled by your incredible investments in our kids.

Tom Cole
Founder and CEO
For 23 years, Kids Unlimited has stood as an institution for equity, opportunity, and hope. Our mission to empower youth through opportunity has provided thousands of young people with the support they need to learn, grow, play, dream and achieve. The successes of Kids Unlimited have helped to transform the life of our community, creating equity and integration and as we like to say, leveling the playing field.

Today, Kids Unlimited represents an institution dedicated to removing cultural and poverty barriers to always meet the needs of children. Our programs have grown from grassroots activities to formalized systems designed to empower children and their families with opportunities to be successful. The core of everything we do begins with relationships. Today, decades from our beginning, our work is represented in almost every sector of the community, state, and nation. Our alumni, many who have been the first in their families to graduate from high school are now leaders in health care, business, public service, and education. They are business owners, entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, contractors, artists, teachers, parents, and productive members of their community. Most importantly, they serve as testimonies to what is possible when barriers are removed, and opportunities are accessed.

When the pandemic hit, the challenge of what it meant to maintain a relationship was immediately recognized. Our kids depend on us daily for learning, to access healthy nutrition and find self-esteem and belonging. When the barriers of Covid19 became reality, we immediately found ourselves designing new systems to overcome the obstacles. Not only did we devise innovative learning platforms that were sensitive to both the cultural and economic needs of our kids and families, but we also developed programs to assure kids could still engage with music, arts and even recreation. We provided daily mental health supports, provided hundreds of thousands of freshly prepared nutritious meals to children who might otherwise go hungry and assisted hundreds of children with critical emergency childcare.

Despite the obstacles, we found ways to creatively celebrate the graduation of all 8th grade KU Academy students, open two pre-schools in Jackson County for vulnerable children and open a second KU Academy charter school in White City. Together with the generous support of our community, the work of Kids Unlimited could be responsive and impactful. While the need has always guided the vision, the implementation of programs that grew from the challenges further strengthened and enhanced our ability to provide meaningful resources.
New Beginnings

"In the face of adversity, hope often comes in the form of a friend who reaches out to us"

- Christopher Reeve

While 2020 provided no shortage of disappointments and challenges, it also will be year remembered for new beginnings. During the last year Kids Unlimited was able to open some of our most important organizational accomplishments. With your help, we can celebrate these new beginnings.

Beautifying The Neighborhood

Over the past year our Kids Unlimited campus has undergone one of the most transformative artistic murals in the region. The piece canvasing thousands of square feet and featuring geometric color patterns designed by nationally acclaimed artist Xavi Panneton. The newly moralized Kids Unlimited has received regional and national attention and featured in acclaimed architectural publications.

The mural has helped to not only share a unified vision for our campus but lift the presence of our neighborhood which has historically been recognized as our region’s most distressed neighborhood. With a combination of vibrant colors, shapes and imagery the mural celebrates diversity and lifts the awareness of our work in one of the most historically distressed neighborhoods in the Southern Oregon region.
Just before the pandemic paralyzed our operations, we opened our Kimmel Family Resource Center. The building took over a year to remodel and is home to our first pre-school program, Pre KU. Dedicated to providing culturally responsive learning to students often deprived of early learning programs, the center features kinesthetic learning rooms, indoor playgrounds, outdoor gardens and multi-sensory classrooms dedicated to quality learning standards to help students transition into our KU Academy. The center also integrates a parental literacy center supported by the Meyer Memorial Trust providing a multitude of bi-lingual parent education support services to assist holistic family learning. In addition to literacy, education and wrap around services the center also houses empowerment printing our first entrepreneurial project for middle and high school students providing a full-service printing and embroidery company.

While the opening of this center was incredibly uplifting, it’s unexpected closure was deflating. The energy to bring the building to fruition and it’s connectivity to completing a full campus dedicated to pre-school to college pipeline was a fulfillment of a dream to bridge a history of services together to create a universal system of care for our kids and families. And while the forced closure of the center certainly halted the newly launched services, the center transitioned quickly to an emergency services support center to meet the sudden needs of families unexpectedly impacted by Covid19. The new building became a hub for brokering technology and online education and basic need services for both English and non English speaking families while finding renewed purpose in the fall in hosting our emergency service pre-school.
The Unlimited of 2020

- 522 KU Academy Students Enrolled in Distance Learning or Emergency On-Site Classes
- 1412 Children Participating in After School & Weekend Programs
- 431 Children Enrolled in Our Summer Program 2019/2020
- 58 Children Enrolled in Pre-School Services
- 954 Parents Participating in Our Family Literacy Programs
- 164 Graduates Enrolled in Our Transition Programs
- 393,000 Meals Served to KU Families and Our Community
With emerging population growth and pressing needs for student achievement, KU Academy opened a second campus in White City. The school, a partnership with Eagle Point school district opened in the fall of 2020 with dedicated emergency childcare designed to support our first classes of kindergarten as well as a second site for our pre-school Pre KU.

In addition to the newly opened campus, the center has also provided thousands of fresh, daily cooked meals to vulnerable children and families of the upper Rogue communities.
When our students left the KUA campus on March 13, 2020, we never imagined that they wouldn’t return to the classrooms. We immediately began planning how to support our students academic and socio-emotional needs. This included determining the best platform to reach students for virtual instruction, ensuring that every student had a computer at home and reliable internet access, training our teachers how to use these new digital technologies, and communicating with parents all of the new changes that were occurring. Simple things such as how to organize materials to send home and figuring out who needed internet and school supplies became part of our daily routine.

KUA developed the VIBE (Virtual Instruction Bringing Equity) Comprehensive Distance Learning program, which includes live instruction via Zoom. In the spring, we were one of the few schools to offer daily live instruction to our students - and to continue our music, art, PE, ELD (classes for English learners) and other electives classes virtually. Our parents appreciated the variety of classes and daily interaction with teachers. Our VIBE Advocacy Team checked in on students who weren’t logging in to classes, provided technical assistance, and delivered materials to their homes if needed.

Moreover, our small group instruction via breakout rooms, interventions with specialists to meet individual learning needs, high quality instruction, hands on virtual garden lessons, and teachers office hours for homework help set us apart from other schools.

Finally, the VIBES advocacy team was implemented to assist students with socio-emotional supports and behavioral needs. These efforts were designed to create support services for students who were struggling with any number of adversities experienced during the isolation struggles of covid19 in addition to those who experienced hardships with the Almeda fire. Our ability to evolve and implement services to meet the individual needs of each of our students represented our commitment to the foundation of our work, a relationship.
When the devastating Almeda fire decimated the communities of Phoenix and Talent hundreds of homes were destroyed forever changing the landscape of that community. For 41 members of our Kids Unlimited community it meant, losing everything. In the immediate wake of the fire, Kids Unlimited and our community of supporters began to mobilize campaigns to not only stabilize the immediate families connected to our organization but also leverage our support systems to assist hundreds of people impacted by the natural disaster.

- Clothing and Food Drive with Medford Rogue Rotary Club
- Rogue Valley Essentials and Food Drive: a massive fire relief effort providing thousands of clothing items, basic need toiletries and food items
- Emergency food access to families in Rogue Valley and Upper Rogue
- Emergency childcare
- Emergency lodging provisions
- Permanent housing for 14 individuals displaced with Kids Unlimited managed housing support
Since the onset of the pandemic, Kids Unlimited recognized that the transition to online learning was hardest on homes with limited English proficiency and those struggling with other barriers created by poverty. Beginning in September, Kids Unlimited provided nearly 350 students a day with on site childcare infused with pod learning to assist vulnerable learners who we recognized were most at risk of falling through the cracks. The emergency childcare provision ran 10 hours a day and was designed to provide small groups with tutoring to assist online learning, access to healthy food and nutrition and quality enrichment programs focusing on raising self esteem and confidence.

One of the most important programs of this past year has been our food distribution system. The food program became an essential service for thousands of meals to children who would otherwise face food insecurities because of the pandemic. Each day, freshly prepared and cooked from scratch meals were distributed in the thousands. As the pandemic’s toll increased those in isolation and those facing unemployment, the dependency on our food program grew daily. Since March, Kids Unlimited has provided hundreds of thousands of healthy meals to not only children enrolled in our programs but to children throughout some of the of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Southern Oregon including both Medford and White City. The meal distribution has grown to providing families with 7 days of offerings to ensure that during our communities most volatile time, no child would go hungry. To support families isolated without access to transportation, Kids Unlimited hundreds of hours delivering food daily ensuring access to all.
Our Leadership

**Board of Directors**
- Kids Unlimited
  - Chuck Martinez
  - Stephanie Johnson
  - Rick Hutchins
  - Jeri Olson
  - Pat Huycce
  - Rachael Martin
  - David Carroll
  - Greg Jones
  - Andy Batzer
  - Rocio Mendoza

**KU Academy Medford**
- Board of Directors
  - Michelle Blum
  - Julia McFadden
  - Pedro Cabrerra
  - Paul McClay
  - Greg Aldridge
  - Ryan Bernard
  - Martha Ibarra
  - Jari Hale
  - Pat Barry
  - Lisa Hutchins

**KU Academy White City**
- Board of Directors
  - Rocio Mendoza
  - Larissa Medina
  - Gonzalo Duran Chapparo
  - Lindsay Namanny
  - Nagely Medina
  - Jani Hale
  - Stephanie Johnson - Advisory
  - Jeri Olson - Advisory

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**Leadership**

**Tom Cole**
Founder and CEO

**Cass Weiland**
Chief Financial Officer

**Sunshine Price**
KU Academy Director of Academics

**Raco Verhaaren**
HR & Business Development Director

**Kevin Williams**
Print / Media and IT Director

**Aj Schultz**
KU Academy Director of School Culture

**Judy Patterson**
KU Programs Director

**Crystal Hiddle**
Early Learning Services Director

**Michelle Hull**
Admin Services Director

**Jason Patterson**
Facilities Manager

**Maria Gomez**
Finance Assistance Manager

**Irasema Huerta**
KU Academy Admin Assistant

**Patrick Sewell**
IT Department Director

**Jane McAlvage**
Grants Manager

**Darian Hardaway**
KU Academy Programs Manager

**Jordan Jennings**
Behavior Systems Coordinator

**Susie Garcia**
Literacy Center/Volunteer Manager

**Zoie Sheng**
Program Specialist

**Sean O’Connell**
Food Services Director

**Hilda De Lara Cruz**
Head Chef Medford Campus

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**Teachers**

**Gail Alvarez** - 1st Grade Teacher
**Gina Arellanes** - Teacher
**Adrienne Baraona** - Art Teacher
**Halle Brandenburg** - Kinder Teacher
**Karen Cluff** - 5th Grade Teacher
**Molly Cullen** - 1st Grade Teacher
**Jarrett Davidson** - ELD/Art Teacher
**Orlando De La Cruz** - 7th/8th Math Teacher
**Shelby Dias** - 3rd Grade Teacher
**Magnolia Englehart** - Kindergarten Teacher
**Kathleen Erickson** - 3rd Grade Teacher
**Dominique Fava** - Pre-K Instructor
**Megan Foster** - 4th Grade Teacher
**Whitney Hanlin** - 2nd Grade Teacher
**Cassidy Herick** - 7th/8th Language Arts Teacher
**Jennifer Hobbs** - Preschool Instructor
**Angela Jackson** - Preschool Instructor
**Brianna Johnson** - Music Teacher
**Gabrielle Kelly** - 5th Grade Teacher
**Melinda Koch** - Kinder Teacher
**Teresa LeMay** - 549c Ee
**Hannah Mannenbach** - Substitute Teacher
**Michael McCollom** - 7th/8th Social Studies Teacher
**Callie McQueen** - 549c Ee
**Rose Montan** - Substitute Teacher
**Ashlie Moore** - 549c Ee
**Andrew Norum** - PE Teacher
**Ginger Olinghouse** - ELD Teacher
**Yolanda Rambo de Ortega** - ELD Teacher
**Jaqueline Rangel** - Preschool Instructor
**Jacob Rooks** - PE Teacher
**Tracy Rude** - PE Teacher
**Jennifer Shields** - 2nd Grade Teacher
**Maggie Skyler** - 6th/7th Science Teacher
**Murri Smith** - Float Teacher
**Lupita Vargas** - 8th Science/STEM Coordinator
**Elsa Veloz** - Pre-K Teacher Assistant
**Alexandria Warnke-Cracy** - Kindergarten Teacher
**Emily Warnke-Cracy** - 6th Language Arts Teacher
**Zackary Williams** - 6th Math

**Teacher Aides continued**

**Karla Alanis** - Preschool Teacher Assistant
**Roger Allemand** - Schoolwide Aide
**Danasia Allison** - Schoolwide Aide
**David Alvarez** - Schoolwide Aide
**Rose Alvarez** - Schoolwide Aide
**Bailey Barnhart** - Schoolwide Aide
**Michelle Beguin** - Schoolwide Aide
**Jasmin Borjas** - Schoolwide Aide
**Alondra Cortes** - Schoolwide Aide
**Jessica Cempa** - Schoolwide Aide

**Support Staff**

**Fabiola Banuelos** - Kitchen Assistant
**Reynalda Cortes** - Custodian
**Norberta Cortes Guerra** - Kitchen Assistant
**Cira Cortes-Guerra** - Kitchen Assistant
**Stephanie Denham** - Custodian - White City
**Hillary Ferrell** - Kitchen Assistant
**Yuriitzi Gomez-Ayala** - Translator/Attendance Clerk
**Katrina Hanson** - Kitchen Assistant
**Jenny Hayes** - Kitchen Assistant
**Jose Jimenez** - Receptionist
**Norma Jimenez** - Kitchen Assistant
**Joshua McCann** - Temp Kitchen Aide
**Angela Medina** - Schoolwide Aide
**Anahi Mendoza** - Preschool Aide
**Crisol Meza** - Schoolwide Aide
**Eugenia Miedecke** - Custodian
**Wendy Muro** - Kitchen Assistant
**Karen Perez** - Kitchen Assistant
**Maria Rosas** - Kitchen Aide
**Josefina Tellez** - Evening Custodian
**Kalyn Tresch** - Schoolwide Aide
**Daniela Vargas** - Schoolwide Aide
Because of you...

With help from people like you, we have been able to overcome major adversities that defined 2020 and empowered our students and the community with opportunities to thrive.

Help Us Make a Difference in 2021

Please send your donation by check today, or donate online at kuoregon.org/Give

Name: ____________________________________________
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Medford, OR 97501