



# Transforming our Nation One Child at a time



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We are OPEN

Remember Kindercottage

## **Hello Friends of Uni-Pres Kindercottage!**

From Brenda Crisp, Executive Director

Many of you have called or stopped by since we re-opened on June 8, 2020. We thank you for your prayers, concerns, donations and best wishes. We are grateful to have a relationship with so many of you and want to update you on our current situation.

In order to remain open, we are required to follow the state's guidelines of allowing only 10 students per class for a total of 40 students. This number is down significantly from our capacity of 82 students. Of course, that impacts us financially both in terms of state funding and tuition thus we continue to lose money each month that we operate. You know too, that we will not cease to operate because each of these children is precious to us. We are and always have been concerned for the well-being of each and every child and their families. Many of our families have been with us for generations and we stay in contact with them. We have tried to continue to offer fresh produce and other foods to the families who have suffered from unemployment or curtailed employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those seeking new employment use our computer space. We are grateful that some of you have continued to donate supplies to us so that we may remain open and share with our families. The State of Illinois mandates that we sanitize our space every two hours thus we wash our hands constantly-before and after every activity. Our need for sanitation products and soap is great. Sometimes it seems that all we do is WASH OUR HANDS!

During the pandemic, we also had a major storm. One of our families lost their entire home to that storm. A tree fell on their home and the hot water tank exploded which caused the rain and water to flood the entire home and destroy their belongings. Mom is a former student and all seven children have attended Uni-Pres. The youngest, twin girls, are still with us. One child has just completed high school and is in her first year of junior college. To date, they have not found affordable housing so the 8 of them are spread out among extended family members. One of the family members volunteers here in our pantry on her day off from work. Some of you have heard of this situation and have made donations to us for this family. Mom has returned to her school bus job and we know that when the time is right, God will open the door and they will all be united under one roof again. Our churches have stepped in to help and when she finds housing; we have money for her deposit, first and last month's rent and some items for the home. We just thank you so much for all of your help. When I ask for your help, you amaze me, make me cry, happy, shout, pray, and love harder. Without you, Uni-Pres could not serve our community.

CHRISTMAS!!! Each year, Christmas seems to come earlier. Already I'm receiving calls from you. YES, we do want to continue our Adopt a Child for Christmas program. Yes, we need hats, gloves and mittens. HOWEVER, due to COVID-19, we are told that we cannot accept homemade goods. They must be purchased. You will hear more from us in mid-October.

We are trying to put together a video that will soon be posted to our website so that you can ZOOM to see us in person. It won't be perfect but we'll try our best.

We are grateful to this group from Ladue Chapel in Missouri, for their generous donations of paper products, jelly, peanut butter, pastas and sauces, many canned vegetables and fruits. We stocked all of our shelves until we couldn't fit anymore and then shared with our in-house families. Thanks to Jacob and Sheri Klein, Jill Brown and Les Hill for delivering.



We continue to keep tabs on our alumni. Here is a photo of 8-year old Nia. She had a heart transplant and is featured on the cover of St. Louis Children's Hospital magazine. In 2018, Nia began to have fainting spells, which led her parents to take her to Children's. Once there she was diagnosed with a heart condition and ultimately received a heart transplant. She is now an active third grader who is doing well. Nia attended Uni-Pres Kindercottage as a preschooler.



May the power of Jesus Christ continually fill you with joy, peace and hope through the Holy Spirit. I hope you enjoy a safe, blessed and healthy day.  
Love, Brenda

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We ask that you remember to include Uni-Pres Kindercottage in your will or trust documents. We would be ever so grateful! Thank you!

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