



Issue 1 | January 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

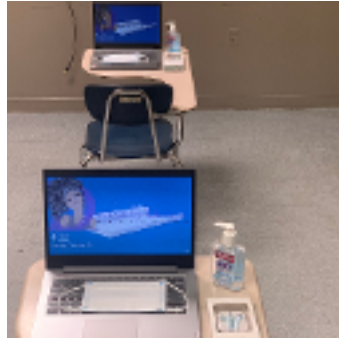


I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and well! Welcome to our first newsletter. We are excited to give you a first glimpse at the wonderful things Divine by Design Mentoring Co (DbD) has accomplished in 2020 and what we have planned for 2021. As a trauma-informed mentoring organization, we understand that 2020 has taken a toll on everyone in one way or another, so we took this time to pour into the community's needs. We decided to shift focus from mentoring to the community's immediate needs, including food and distance learning assistance.

Along with ongoing food distributions, we also held Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets give-a-ways, feeding over 150 families for the holidays. Each basket included family size PPE to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Our toy and coat drives were also a success; we wanted to ensure no family went without essential items during this time. As we embark on 2021, we have exciting things planned! In the new year, we plan to expand the DbD Learning Center by offering classes such as job readiness, life skills, and more. Our trauma-informed mentoring will continue as we work diligently to create innovative ways to provide effective mentoring relationships. Our program, Glitter & Girl talk, is also thriving as we are in our third year with Charles County Public Schools holding weekly groups. What a roller coaster ride 2020 has been, but it has also allowed DbD to serve the community like never before. 2021 will bring new challenges, new opportunities, and new ways to fill in the gaps for the community. Lastly, I cannot end this letter without thanking all of our partners, sponsors, staff, volunteers, and anyone who has supported us in any way!

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DBD IN THE COMMUNITY

Virtual Learning With DbD

During distance learning, DbD recognized the need of working parents and wanted to ensure no student fell behind. We opened the DbD Learning Center; a place parents could trust to bring their child(ren) to guide them to remain successful in school, all while adhering to CDC guidelines. When the doors opened to our l

earning center, we immediately enrolled seven students and have supported ten families. Winter break is now over, and registration is open. If you need a place for your student(s), you may enroll them by going to our sign up page: <https://signup.com/go/VDVqhvc>. Daily spots are limited.

Food Distribution



October 2020 DbD partnered with the Charles County Health Department to provide personal protective equipment and food baskets to those in need. To date, we have supported over 350 families. The pandemic has caused many families to lack in one area or many, so we decided to hold food distributions twice a week to lessen the burden of worrying about food.

Holiday Baskets

Holiday season 2020 was nothing short of miraculous as we were able to provide over 150 families with food baskets that included turkeys to help them bring a traditional meal to their tables and help fill them with cheer. Each basket included family sized PPE to help slow the spread of COVID-19.



Toy Drive

During our 2nd Annual Toy Drive, thanks to our sponsors, DbD supported 15 families with children between the ages of 1 – 17 with toys, books, and clothes. This year we've set a goal to sponsor at least 50 families. To achieve our goal we will begin a Christmas in July toy drive to cover children between the ages of 1-17. Stay tuned for toy drop off days and locations.



Spreading Holiday Cheer



Both Thanksgiving and Christmas were memorable for the kids at the DbD Learning Center. Our Thanksgiving dinner was catered and doubled as a birthday party for one of the center's youth. Christmas was extra special as it was also catered, and multiple donors provided a full Christmas for all children at the center, fulfilling all wishlist items. Both holiday events were filled with happiness, tears of joy, and grateful hearts!

Coming Soon

Podcast

Topics will vary, there will be special guests and a place where you can hear real stories and the way people overcame and of course there will be lots of laughs! Stay tuned for the release date!

Pop up Shop

As we move to help the community recover all that was lost in 2020, we will hold our first ever Pop Up Shop! Unique to others, this is a FREE event for those looking to rejoin the workforce and in need of business attire.

Mentoring

We will continue our unique trauma informed mentoring program. If you or someone you know would like to be a mentor or is in need of mentoring please contact us on our website www.dbdmentoringco.org.