



Patiently Waiting

March 13, 2020. That was the last day I stood in front of a classroom on behalf of Family Transition Place (FTP). At the time, I didn't know that it would be the last time for quite a while. If I did, perhaps I would have cherished it more. Maybe I would have stopped and looked around at all the faces having fun and absorbing the information. Maybe I would have listened more carefully

to the hum of conversation or the laughter as the students played the games. But I didn't know, so it was just like any other class.

It's been over six months since that last classroom presentation. During that time, I have (like many people) had my ups and downs. But for the most part I have remained hopeful. I have hoped that our community would be a healthy and safe place for all people. I have hoped that I would get the chance to do what I love again soon. But most of all I have hoped that what FTP has taught the youth of our community can in some way help sustain them during this unpredictable and difficult time. I hope our kids can find inner strength and resiliency. I hope they practice self-care and maintain their mental health. Most of all I hope they have safe and healthy relationships in their lives, and if they don't they remember how to deal with them or who to reach out to for help.

It seems to me like since that day in March that I have been the one receiving an education. I have learned that while I have lost something I have also gained a great deal as well. I'm not in classroom anymore, but I'm still at FTP. I'm working with new colleagues in very different ways and I'm learning about where I work in a very different way. I get to see first-hand what dedication, compassion and kindness look like. I get to see hope given when all hope seemed lost. I understand more now what the front door of FTP means to the people who pass through it...Safety, Support and Hope. I always enjoyed the slogan, but realize now it's much more than that.

So, I patiently wait. I wait for the day when I will get the chance to be in the classroom again. But until then I'm going to soak up every new experience, every moment of learning and every opportunity to witness the courage and strength of the clients and staff of FTP. I used to go to schools to deliver education. Now I remain outside of the schools to receive my education. It's something I'll take with me when I return to the classroom. Hopefully soon.

Story submitted by FTP Youth Educator, Travis Greenley