

# ROCHESTER WOMAN online

{ CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS }

## VERONICA BLACK TURNER

BY LAURIE MCKNIGHT

### CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS SPOTLIGHTS ITS ADOPTION SPECIALIST/ PROGRAM MANAGER, VERONICA BLACK TURNER

COVID-19 has altered all our lives as we knew them to be. One of the pandemic's major impacts has been felt by the great number of children in foster care either waiting to be placed with their forever families, or having their adoption finalization date forestalled due to court closures. CAP has found a way to move forward in new and creative ways.

During this time of social distancing and the halt of in-person family services, Children Awaiting Parents Program Manager and longtime Adoption Specialist Veronica Black approached me—as executive director—to develop strategies to stay connected with her CAP families. With an intense passion for youth

and families, Veronica wanted to establish new ways to retain her critical connections with her families, continuing to monitor already-placed youth, and enticing new families to continue to enroll in training.

Concerns were numerous. How would her families manage without regular services for their placed youth? How would children feel when their

training, and scheduled sessions of certification classes for several families. She scheduled online zoom sessions with her families for monitoring, skill building, family counseling, and fun activities, as well as providing home visits with physical distancing to comply with regulations. Thanks to Veronica's efforts, families and youth have been reassured through the strains and anxiety of the pandemic.

Veronica has been with CAP for 22 years and is devoted to the cause, having adopted three of her four sons from the foster care system. Throughout her tenure at CAP, she has advocated for hundreds of children and families. For years, Veronica has given to the community on behalf of youth

and is well-known to many community organizations for her important work. She has been the recipient of multiple community awards and, as an adoptive parent, she and her sons were the chosen family for the national television program, Home for the Holidays.

Veronica has been a major part of the advocacy and placements for CAP.



adoptions were put on hold? How would youth—ready to be placed—manage their emotions when visits with their potential forever family ceased? Veronica shifted into action.

With a team approach, an immediate program shift occurred. Veronica set up trainers to conduct online certification classes for families who expressed interest in foster/adoptive



Zoom out

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*"Veronica has been a major part of the advocacy and placements for CAP. Her mantra is that no family will fail under her watch."*



Her mantra is that no family will fail under her watch. Her dedication to families and CAP has been a great part of the success of adoptions in our Rochester region.

Families now have the options of

online certification classes, telehealth counseling services with CAP LMSW -CFFT, and, most of all, the knowledge that they are not going through this health crisis alone.

Families looking for support or

interested in training to be foster or adoptive parents can email [veronica@capbook.org](mailto:veronica@capbook.org).

## Finding Families for Waiting Kids.

CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS | DONALD J. CORBETT ADOPTION AGENCY | 

For more information contact:  
888-835-8802 or 585-232-5110  
[info@capbook.org](mailto:info@capbook.org)  
[ChildrenAwaitingParents.org](http://ChildrenAwaitingParents.org)

  

