CHILDREN Awaiting Parents SPOTLIGHTS ITS ADOPTION SPECIALIST/PROGRAM MANAGER, VERONICA BLACK TURNER

COVID-19 has altered all our lives in ways we never dreamed. 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 who are currently in their adoption placements but waiting for court dates to move forward. 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 visits, Children’s Awaiting Parents Program Manager and longtime Adoption Specialist Veronica Black approached me—an executive director—to develop strategies to stay connected with her CAP families. With an intense passion for youth and families, Veronica quickly got her ideas off the ground! How would youth—now at home—navigate their emotions when their forever family was unable to visit? How would youth be supported as they continued in their adoptions? Veronica drilled into action.

With a team approach, an immediate program was developed. Veronica set up trainings to conduct online certification classes for families who expressed interest in being adoptive parents and well-known community organizations for her important work. She has been the textbook example of how to advocate for children through this pandemic. Veronica has been a major part of the advocacy and placements for CAP.

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Her mentor is that no family will fall 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 option of online certification classes, self-help counseling services with CAP LMHCs CF, 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 reach Veronica at rochcapbook.org.