



Greetings PEPS families,

To say that 2020 is different would be an understatement. The numerous challenges this year has brought are teaching me to increase my flexibility, relax my expectations, and breathe!

2020 is also constantly reminding me of how critical it is to use my voice. I am doing that in November with my [vote](#) and I encourage you to do the same. Elections matter. Those who win make policy decisions that have a big impact on issues important to families, such as access to affordable childcare, Black maternal health, housing and basic needs support, and so much more. As parents, we have a responsibility to vote, to condemn white supremacy, and to teach our children a better path forward.

We went into 2020 with a new [Strategic Direction](#), which is the culmination of several years of learning, reflection, and collaboration between PEPS Staff and Board. And we are grateful to our community partners and parent-serving organizations who helped to inform this work.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, we have transitioned 78 PEPS Groups from in-person to virtual and have launched an additional 108 groups virtually. We have created 13 virtual Group Leader trainings with four more scheduled through the end of this year, and are stepping up our support for our tremendous leaders. And, we're thrilled to have expanded the scope of parenting stages we serve, piloting and launching a series for [expectant parents](#) and conducting research and development for a new program for [parents of adolescents and teens](#).

As our country continues a long-overdue racial reckoning, we are working to ensure PEPS parents have resources, tools, and support to have critical conversations about race, in community. Over the past several months, 58 Group Leaders have participated in our virtual Advanced Facilitation Training on our Race and Social Identity topics. Plus, we are now delivering Ibram X. Kendi's new baby board book, [Antiracist Baby](#), to Group Leaders and every family who participates in PEPS Groups. We are committed to advancing [racial equity](#) in our community – in PEPS Groups and beyond.

We are grateful to have you alongside us on the journey that is 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana".

Dana Guy
Executive Director, PEPS
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Resources & Inspiration

Building Parenting Confidence in the Time of Coronavirus

Six families share about how participating in a virtual parent peer-support group through PEPS was a lifeline for connection and support. *(Estimated reading time: 10 mins)*

[Read More](#)

Diaper Drive

Nearly 1 in 4 families within King County struggle to afford diapers, one of the most essential items for families with young children. These families rely on local organizations like [Westside Baby](#) to distribute these basic items. Partnering with more than 100 community organizations, Westside Baby anticipates they will be distributing 2.3 million diapers this year to meet the significantly increased needs due to the pandemic.

If your household has a box of unopened diapers in the back of the closet, please consider donating diapers or dollars to families in need through Westside Baby. And, participate in a local [diaper drive](#), hosted by Neighborhood House. \$25 can cover a two-week supply of diapers for one child and \$50 covers a one-month supply for one child.

[Read More](#)

Making a Difference in a Pandemic

Sari Davidson, the founder and owner of a local baby products business, Booginhead, shares how her team and company have been adapting to the pandemic - and finding new ways to support families through innovation and financial relief. *(Estimated reading time: 5 mins)*

[Read More](#)

PEPS is hiring!

Join the team today as the [Operations Coordinator](#). This role is a cross-functional position, providing administrative, fundraising, and program support to keep the organization running smoothly. PEPS offers a family-friendly and collaborative team work environment that values flexibility and professional development. Learn more about this position and apply today - or share this role with someone you know!

Lifelines, Connections, and Community

Local parent, Wendy, and owner of Childish Things, a resale boutique for children's items in North Seattle, shares her reflections on the pandemic and what's keeping her committed to getting to the other (sunnier!) side. (*Estimated reading time: 5 mins*)

[Read More](#)

A Pilot Series for Expectant Parents

We recently wrapped up our second pilot of [Connecting the Expecting](#), a FREE, 6-week virtual peer-support series designed specifically for expectant parents.

Each week's discussion was led by a trained facilitator and covered topics such as preparing for baby, childcare and self care, and how to navigate parenting partnerships.

If you'll be bringing a baby home in the coming months and are interested in joining an upcoming session, solo or with a partner, fill out our [interest form](#) to be contacted for the next available series.

Together, in 2019...

...We served 4,101 parents in 348 PEPS Groups.

...We continued to expand our reach to new communities through collaborations, including new partnerships with two local, community-based organizations.

...We developed a new mission, vision, and values – plus a 5-year strategic plan!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, donors, funders, sponsors, partners, staff and board of directors, and PEPS Group participants for your commitment, generosity, and support in making 2019 an incredible year ❤️

Check out our [2019 Impact Report](#) to read more on what we learned, ways we'd adapted in 2019, and how we intend to even better support families in the coming five years!

What's Her Story Podcast

Local mom, PEPS supporter, former PEPS Group participant, and founder and owner of The Riveter, Amy Nelson, has launched her iHeart podcast, 'What's Her Story with Sam and Amy'!

[Subscribe](#) to the podcast and listen to the very first episode, featuring Olympian Abby Wambach and Untamed author, Glennon Doyle. Hear from these two amazing women as they share their stories and leave you inspired.

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Having to imagine a time in your child's future without you can feel daunting and intimidating - making it increasingly critical to [name a legal guardian](#) and establish an estate plan.

[Gebhardt Law Office](#) can help, providing more than 14 years of expertise and guidance. And, PEPS participants can enjoy a 10% discount on wills. [Get started today.](#)



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