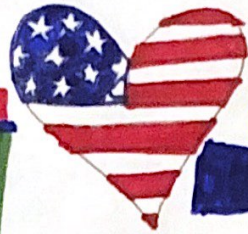


STAY HOME



Stay healthy
Stay strong



LOVE
will heal
the
WORLD

and the
WORLD came
together

DON'T LET
Social Distance lead to
Emotional distancing.
reach out, open up + let
people in...
WE CAN STILL BE
THERE for each other



as the
PEOPLE
Stayed APART

THE CORONA VIRUS is
A WAKE UP CALL
+ OUR chance to
[BUILD] a new +
- LOVING -
Society



ONE DAY
AT A TIME

STAY KIND
STAY PATIENT
STAY HOME

St♥ng

thank
you



"In the middle
of difficulty
lies OPPORTUNITY"

These last few months have been a time that I never imagined would happen in my lifetime. I have often woken up in the morning and had to do a reality check of what is actually happening in the world. I have felt fear, anxiety, sadness and also gratitude for the time I have been with my family and for my health. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been doing my school work online as well as working at the Daycare where I have spent the past three years of my life working. I love that daycare because of what it has given me and how it has enriched my life and helped me to determine the path I want to choose in my future. My coworkers and the children have taught me so much throughout my time there, but especially in these past few months. When I first came back home due to being quarantined, and with the semester going online, I was super upset to have to leave UWEC and had very little motivation. I couldn't stop dwelling on what I had to give up and found it very hard to focus on the positive. I went back to work after about two weeks of being home, and it changed my entire perspective on how I should be viewing COVID-19. My coworkers and the children helped me realize that there is no point in being upset about the situation I was in, because frankly there are people that have it worse than me. I have been lucky enough to have a house to sleep in, food to eat, enough toilet paper, a job I enjoy and have been able to save money for when I return to UWEC next year.

Once I started thinking about all the good things I had, it made me see the rest of the good things going on in the world. I started to notice how communities have come together to help each other stay fed and healthy. I have started to appreciate the essential workers who are putting their lives at risk, I even started to notice more hearts in windows, chalk art on the sidewalks, TV commercials and social media messages finding the good in what is happening during a very dark time.

I decided to make a collage/picture because I thought it would be the best way for me to express how I have felt the past few months. I wanted to make something that was colorful and cheerful to remind people of the good things that are still happening in the world and that it is okay to find a light even in the darkest of times. None of this is to take away from the grim situation we are facing on a global level. It is hard to ignore the lack of medical supplies, the millions of people who have lost their jobs and that the economy is at a historical low point.

In the future, when historians are looking back at documents from the COVID-19 period, they will have plenty of government documents and articles about the economy, the number of deaths, the number of confirmed cases and the medical supplies status. What historians will have trouble seeing, is the little things people are doing to make the world a little brighter each day. Historians will not be able to see the rocks people painted with bright colors reminding us to smile, or the hearts in windows for us to see from our windows. In my picture, I included drawings of the rocks and the windows to give an example of the colors we can see in the dark times. I also included some popular sayings and quotes that are trending right now on social media, such as “The Coronavirus is a wake up call and our chance to build a new and loving society”. I included this quote because I think that it is a very true quote, and that a lot of people are realizing how unfriendly the world was before and that together we can change. Being quarantined and reflecting on things, I hope people see that there is a lot to be thankful for in the world and it does no good for anyone to only focus on the bad things. It reminds me of a saying my Grandma has always told our family, “ You do not have to look too far to find someone worse off than you are.” I want to continue to help in any way I can, focus on the positive and hope that we as a nation can come together and beat this pandemic. One day, I asked a little girl

how she is handling the Coronavirus, and she responds with “Well I get to spend more time with my dad”. It is the little things like that that I want historians to see, that during all this, we were able to count our blessings and still find a way to smile everyday.