

For our newest members to The BFD Report, welcome! As a supporter you can expect this monthly newsletter highlighting the important work you helped make happen.

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THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

Friend,

What a year. We started this monthly e-series in January 2021 and hoped it would bring light and hope to each of you: the moms, caregivers, and community members who fuel our mission and programs. Here's the intro from our first newsletter...

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly update where we will give you an inside look into our work and take a moment together to share some hope and inspiration. As we process the grief and heartache of 2020 (and navigate the rest of this pandemic), it's important to celebrate whenever we can. Expect short updates that showcase one part of our work each month and highlight the progress we are making with your support. We're calling it The BFD Report. These updates represent our Big Family Dreams that we are making a reality together. And that's a BFD.

We had no idea what 2021 had in store for us, and how much we would come to rely on these newsletters as a team and community. Almost every meeting we

have on Zoom, someone says “Oooh, that goes in the BFD Report!” Every time we send these newsletters, we get dozens of replies of solidarity and excitement. We didn’t realize quite how important it was to celebrate whenever we can. It turns out that it’s essential, much like our work as caregivers.

There have been SO MANY WINS despite the continued grief and heartache we’ve all experienced. Here are just a few from this past month...

YOUR WINS

- Ten of you joined us for [an hour of virtual yoga](#) and breathing together was a radical act of resistance and a special kind of healing magic.
- A dozen or so of your kids (and one child care center!) participated in [Winter Break Kids Yoga](#), giving parents and providers a chance to sit down or do a little stretching themselves. Hearing your kids tell us their creative ideas for “yellow yoga poses” was the balm we all needed.
- We grieved Sen. Joe Manchin’s lack of compassion for our families together in our [Movement for Mamas and Caregivers Facebook group](#)...and vowed to get the Build Back Better Act over the finish line anyway, come hell or high water.

YOUR IMPACT

We’re still fighting to pass the Build Back Better Act despite Sen. Joe Manchin and the Republican party’s refusal to recognize the work of

mothers and caregivers as essential to our economy. When [Sen. Manchin announced last week](#) that he “couldn’t” support the Build Back Better Act, it felt devastating. So many of us are counting on child tax credit payments to make ends meet, and we’re *so close* to have the major investments in child care and national paid leave program we’ve needed for decades. The need for paid leave feels particularly pressing with the rise of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Our Political Director Courtney Helstein participated in [a national call hosted live on social media](#) by our friends at [Paid Leave for All](#) on December 21. Organizations across the country representing thousands of mothers and caregivers attended and vowed to win the support our families need in 2022. We’ll have lots to do in the new year!

And thanks to each of you, we’re starting the year strong. Your support—through financial contributions, volunteering, resting and caring for yourself, and fighting like hell for the policies we need—continues to make it possible for us to build a future where racial, gender, and economic justice are a reality for moms and caregivers.

That’s a BFD.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Hojnowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being the most prominent part.

Amy Hojnowski
Development Director

Family Forward Oregon & Family Forward Action

P.S. Keep an eye out for invitations to some special restorative events we have planned in December! Because we care, we'll be offering free, virtual events to help you rest and restore. Stay tuned!

Dance Like a Mother is postponed until May 14, 2022!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we made the decision to postpone our annual in-person fundraiser from this October until May 14, 2022 (save the date!). We're excited to come together and celebrate moms and caregivers with you in the new year.



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