

TRAVELING SLIDE PRESENTATION

This traveling exhibit project was inspired by the community engagement and citizenship of the youth of Johns Creek. Student Leadership Johns Creek, which is in its 10th year of service, plays an integral role in cultivating the city's young people's talents and skills to be the future leaders. We realized that documenting the pandemic is sharing how everyone's diverse experiences was akin to riding out the same storm in different boats. These slides will be a teaching tool for the future and available for community/civic organization to check out from the Ocee Library.

**Presented by Student Leadership Johns Creek
In Partnership with Mercer University Tift College of Education
and The Johns Creek Historical Society**



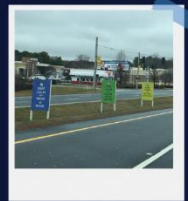
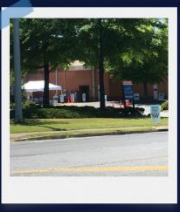
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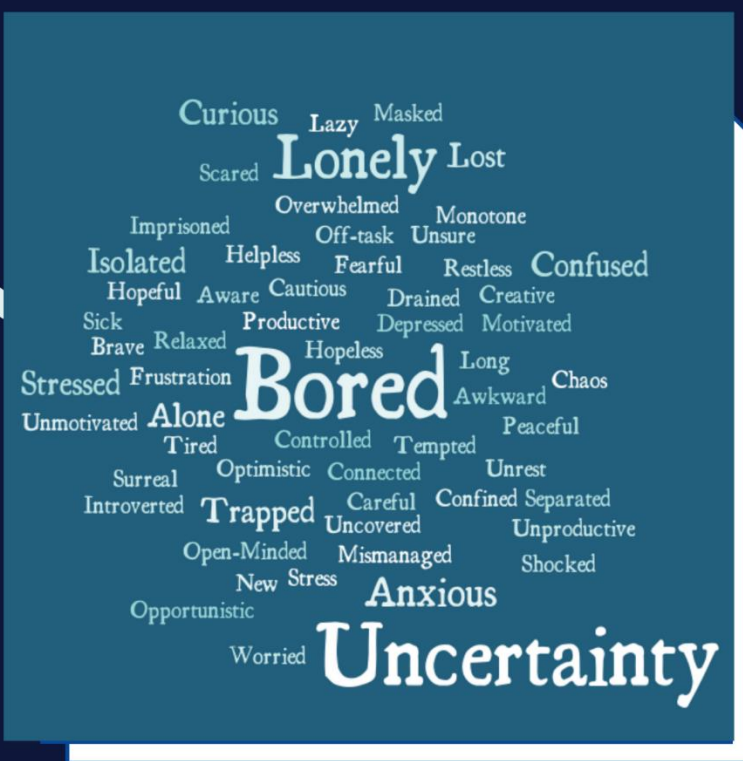
Thirty high school students who are enrolled in the Student Leadership Johns Creek program conducted primary and secondary source research about the impact of the pandemic on their local community of Johns Creek, Georgia. This exhibit highlights the students' research from the Library of Congress' growing archive about the pandemic, and original artifacts including photographs, texts, videos, and oral history interviews.



Documenting the human experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic is crucial to preserving the history of this extraordinary time that we live. Although the coronavirus impacted people across the world (same storm), everyone experienced this pandemic differently (different boats).



STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC



PASSPORT THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

INNOVATION ACADEMY



VIRTUAL SCHOOL

When school went fully virtual, it was crucial that young children understood how to use technology properly. Being in 2nd grade and missing all the fun and seeing all teachers online was not the way to enjoy elementary school.

Photo credit: Lakshana Narayan



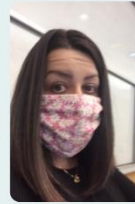
VACCINES

The COVID-19 vaccine shot was approved for children in June 2020. This picture shows a girl getting her second shot.

Photo credit: Aditi Sangham

MASKS

Masks don't have to be plain and drab! During the pandemic, some companies made a profit from fabric masks that were reusable and washable and in fantastic colors and patterns (such as this one). Masks were a crucial player in keeping people safe when they were outside and in the company of others.



LOCAL ARTWORK BY: SUSAN CALDERON



Photo credit: Johns Creek Arts Center



TRAVEL

On a flight to India in October 2020, the flight was completely empty with face masks and shields required. This was very unusual as most international flights during this time were fully booked with no open seats.

Photo Credit: Sara Fatima

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Two siblings wanted to continue learning Taekwondo during Covid. This picture shows them posing in celebration of passing their belt tests in the summer of 2020.

Photo credit: Aabria Muley



ARTWORK

During virtual school in 8th grade, this artist made a drawing that depicts a futuristic city where plants have taken over to symbolize her uncertainty about what bizarre things she thought the future would hold at the time of COVID.

Photo Credit: Aranya Talsabli



HOLIDAY SEASON

Ho ho ho! 'Tis the season for ol' Saint Nick to come to everyone's houses, but with COVID-19 on the loose, he was stuck inside during the season. The team of firefighters knew that many kids would not be happy with this outcome, so they decided to drive around in a Santa costume to cheer the kids up. And it worked!

Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek

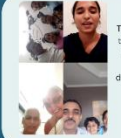


COMICS



This was probably an actual event that occurred. No masks, no talking. People took that very seriously during the pandemic, and some even made memes and comics about it. This is one of them expressing their views on the masks.

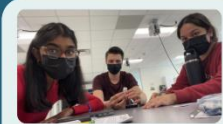
Photo Credit: Rebecca Getzleb



ZOOM CALLS

This is a family having a Zoom call to get together. This is important because some family members were more susceptible to the disease than others, so to be safe, families went on Zoom calls or other video platforms to keep everyone safe.

Photo Credit: Aabria Muley



3 friends can be seen in class following the mask regulation at school.

Photo credit: Lakshana Narayan

OUTDOORS



Hanging out with friends during the pandemic at an outdoor picnic. This shows how normal activities were still continued with regulations.

Photo credit: Chae Lee



EMPTY SHELVES

Stores were empty in the beginning of the pandemic when people were scared and started hoarding essentials like toilet paper and water bottles.

Photo Credit: Johns Creek Historical Society



Members of Innovation Academy's Interact Club attend the Rotary International Convention at Houston all in masks.

Photo credit: Lakshana Narayan

FRIENDS



This selfie was taken during the pandemic when social distancing was heavily mandated with proper masks and sanitation efforts.

Photo credit: Chae Lee



QUARANTINE

When visiting other countries during COVID-19, people were stamped and required to quarantine for 14 days after reaching home in order to maintain the spread of the virus in the community.

Photo Credit: Tanmayia Muwa



A group of friends with masks taking a picture at school celebrating the end of their virtual class.

Photo credit: Aabria Muley

CULTURE

During the annual Hindu holiday of Holi, masks had to be worn at this neighborhood celebration party. The colorful powder that is thrown, as seen, accumulated on the masks.

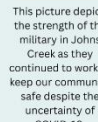
Photo Credit: Niyelshia Junarathnan



COMMUNITY

In this picture, a sign stating, "THIS PARK FACILITY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" is seen. This is especially important as this park could have served as a safe place for citizens of Johns Creek, especially children.

Photos Credit: City of Johns Creek



This picture depicts the strength of the military in Johns Creek as they continued to work to keep our community safe despite the uncertainty of COVID-19.

This picture exemplifies how people managed to keep the joy of holidays going by thinking of innovative ways to continue traditions while keeping caution. A man is seen playing his guitar during Halloween and giving candy through a tube.

Photo Credit: Betty Heigl



Members of Johns Creek associated with Taiwan Can Help, are seen here helping the community by providing medical resources.

Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek



SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS

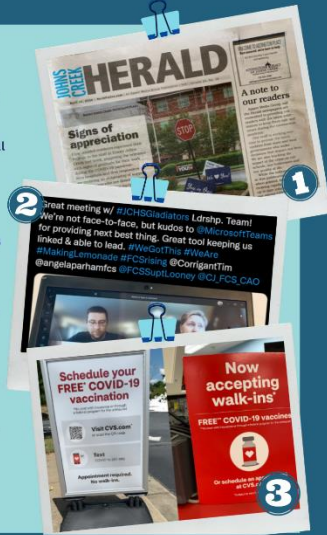
DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE PANDEMIC ON PAPER

JOHNS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 - Signs were put up in front of the Emory Johns Creek hospital giving gratitude to all of the first responders and their work (featured in JCHerald)
- 2 - In-person faculty meetings became impossible this screenshot was tweeted by principal of Johns Creek High School.
- 3 - CVS began offering free vaccinations and accepted walk-in appointments throughout their pharmacies.



One of many stores that closed permanently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



This letter illustrates sympathy toward the class of 2020, who were likely to conclude their high school journey virtually. The principal wrote this letter to provide a sense of comfort and relief to the seniors.



Signs about face coverings became more widespread and more creative!



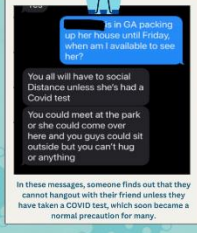
Many churches had to find creative ways to reach their members. Many had on-line church services.



Many items in stores were rationed due to increased demand.

Sometimes I can't feel isolation creeping back in, Wandering what it's like to feel okay while watching from where I've been Light yearning, the plane's still turning, but it might go down in a crash, Slow motion, the way that it's going, wish this would go by in a single flash, Glass wall separating from you and all the fun we had before I took off in my spaceship.

This poem from during the pandemic captures how the author, along with many others, felt during the isolating, frightening pandemic times.

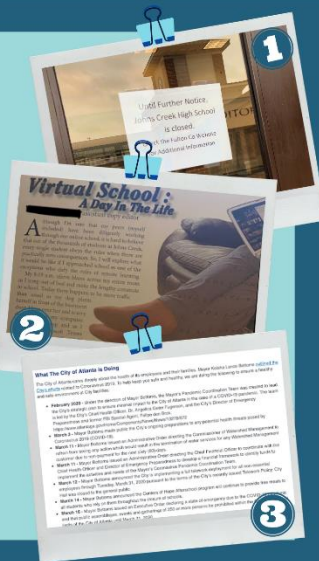


In these messages, someone finds out that they cannot hangout with their friend unless they have taken a COVID test, which soon became a normal precaution for many.



Facebook group that was created to help people find locations offering COVID-19 vaccines near them, which many wouldn't have been able to find otherwise.

1. This is a paper sign posted on the entrance to Johns Creek High School. This sign shows how Fulton County decided to completely close public schools following the outbreak of COVID.
2. This short story emphasizes the loneliness of daily life during the quarantine period. This short story was featured in the Johns Creek High School student magazine.
3. This image presents a timeline of events and actions taken by Atlanta Mayor Bottoms in the weeks leading up to the pandemic.



SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS

DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



STRONGER TOGETHER NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL



BIRTHDAY 'DRIVE THROUGHS':

As celebrations came to a halt many did birthday "drive throughs" to celebrate their big days. Through this, friends were able to embark on the birthday fun by driving to each other's houses to safely celebrate birthdays with the proper PPE.

Credit: Neha Guzman



HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

In April 2020, the United States Air Force Thunderbirds did a flyover of major hospitals to honor healthcare workers. This video is from Hammond Park in Sandy Springs for the flyover at Northside Hospital.

Credit: Katherine Perotta



ASON J. FICHTNER

COVID IN THE MEDIA

The pandemic was the most talked about event in 2020, not just with citizens, but with the media. There would be wide media coverage ranging from COVID case numbers to the influence on our economy. This piece covers the United State's fiscal state during COVID-19, with an economist at Johns Hopkins, College of Economics.

Credit: Library of Congress



COVID ON CAMPAIGNING

During the 2020 election cycle many candidates were tasked with launching their platforms, but doing it without spreading the virus. In Johns Creek's mayoral elections the candidates participated in debates with masks in order to follow CDC guidelines.

Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek



HANDMADE POSTERS

Northview students' handmade posters that were put around the school warns peers to be wary when it comes to germs and sickness. Its purpose is to stop the spread of COVID and other illnesses around the school after the two years we've already had facing a pandemic.

Credit: Northview High School



TIK TOK VIDEOS

At this time, Gen Z found quarantine to be boring, but the emerging app called Tik Tok proved to be something that unified people around the globe in an enthusiastic way. Many around the world engaged in trendy dances, recipes, and workouts that became the only sense of interconnection between different groups of people during COVID-19.

Credit: Riaga Sarraff



VIRTUAL PROM

Northview High School's 2020 graduation was held virtually, and many couples found ways to spend time together. Specifically, from Queen Samantha Izzi and her boyfriend Beau Lark were able to dress up together and rock the night away. Looking back today, many of these seniors have moved on from high school, but still may reflect on the unpredictable times that the COVID-19 pandemic brought.

Credit: Northview High School



MAYOR BODNER

Mayor Michael E. Bodner's address to the City of Johns Creek exemplifies the intensity of the impact of COVID-19 on local politics. The address brings delivered from the Mayor's house also shows how normalcies had to be switched around and accounted for in different ways.

Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek



MEDIA & COMMUNITY

This newspaper from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution headlines information on the pandemic and sharing others' experiences. During the pandemic it was important to be aware of what was going on locally or nationally. Whether it was knowing where to get a vaccine, what the mask policy was, or if the people in your community were healthy.

Credit: AJC



SOCIAL DISTANCING

These signs were a common sight during the midst of the pandemic, especially in crowded public places such as schools and grocery stores. It allowed people to finally start returning to a sense of normalcy, while still ensuring your safety and the people around you.

Credit: Fulton County



ADAPTATIONS

This piece shows how close contact activities such as youth soccer were required to adapt to rising safety concerns and new government regulations. GVEC Director Craig Cunningham narrates Stage 1 in the Return to Play, detailing and reflecting on the actions taken to maintain safe play and to inspire other youth sports club to do the same.

Credit: Northview High School



WITH RESEARCH

The members in Student Leadership Johns Creek produced a documentary film during the pandemic. The students were tasked with creating interesting documentaries while also trying to keep themselves and others around them safe. In many videos the students are seen wearing masks and other PPE.

Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek



MEDIA & COMMUNITY

Northview High School drive-through graduation pictured in the video above is a parent-organized drive-through graduation for graduating seniors. Choosing in the video is parent Ellen Lark who was able to bring friends together safely while also celebrating the seniors that had worked hard.

Photo Credit: Ellen Lark



ONLINE LEARNING

Virtual classrooms across the nation were silenced except for a few. Ella Lazar, student at Northview High School can be seen dancing for her classmates at home. This video shows some of the uncommon fun that students had in their virtual classrooms.

Credit: Katie Bernard



ADAPTATIONS

The pandemic was the most talked about event in 2020, not just with citizens, but with the media. There would be wide media coverage ranging from COVID case numbers to the influence on our economy. This piece covers the United State's fiscal state during COVID-19, with an economist at Johns Hopkins' College of Economics.

Credit: Library of Congress



VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership went completely virtual beginning in March 2020. This included a virtual escape room game event in Lithuania. The students worked as teams to escape the rooms that were across the ocean. The program definitely pivoted, yet was still able to provide valuable leadership skills.

Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek



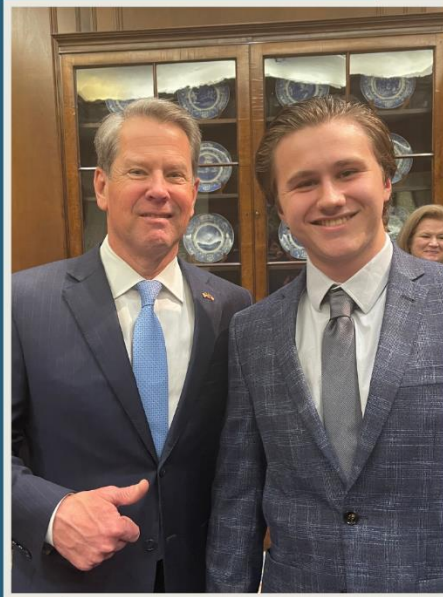
SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



GOVERNOR

BRIAN KEMP

The Governor of the State of Georgia, Brian Kemp, gave us an up-close understanding of his perception of how he executed his plan of action against the pandemic.



**UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
MEMBER**

LUCY MCBATH

"From the moment we learned of confirmed cases in Fulton County, I knew this virus was going to demand a serious response from every level of government."



TALKING IT OUT

SECRETARY OF STATE AMBASSADORS

JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI WILLIS



"I really think you need to get to know and be familiar with your witnesses. It made that bonding strange. You cannot bond so much over a TV screen and social media, so it took that personal effort away."



JUSTICE SHAWN ELLEN LAGRUA

"I enjoy personally interacting with the public, with my staff and my colleagues, but in the beginning of the pandemic, in particular, that just was not feasible."



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD MELTON

"We never ever closed the courts. We absolutely could not close the courts. We felt the responsibility of the court was to keep people safe."

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

FORMER MAYOR MIKE BODKER



"It was a careful balancing act between protecting our first responders, because without first responders, people were going to be in very, very dire straits."



FORMER FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIZ HAUSMANN

"I think we all learned to be a little bit more self-sufficient, and learned to investigate things thoroughly (regarding the false news and reports)."



JOHNS CREEK CITY LEADERS

Pictured L to R: Roland Castro, Bob Mallen, Ed Denmore, Alisha Kohli, Chris Coons and Chris Haggard

GOVERNMENT LEADERS



"This is our moment. This is what bonds us all. Everybody that survived COVID, we all now have some commonality, and we all, for a lack of a better way to describe it, have that scar tissue. I don't think it has to be ugly. I think it can be something that binds us, that we learn from, and are stronger because of it. And pass those learnings on to the next generations behind us."

Mike Looney - Fulton County Superintendent



"I feel like the whole world needs to throw a parade for coming out of COVID, but of course little did I realize we're not out of the tunnel, and it seems like it's just lingering to the point where we can never just say 'we're moving forward'."

John Bradberry - Johns Creek Mayor



"Pets, children and other family members of the lawyers (and the judge) would make noise, or even simply pass through the room routinely. These disruptions served to humanize all the participants and really just demonstrated that we all had a lot in common as humans trying to navigate a disaster."

Rachelle Carnesale - Fulton County Superior Court Judge



"I was worried about technological failures...Internet going out was a major concern in Zoom courtrooms."

Eric Dunaway - Superior Court Judge

LEADERS IN EDUCATION



"Personal experiences varied widely, and it was impossible to make all parents happy with the decisions that were made."

Linda McCain - Former Fulton County Board of Education Board Member



"It was clear I got my joy from interacting with students, and without that it was hard. My joy right now in elementary school, walking into an elementary class; those kids are so joyful!"

Brian Downey - Superintendent, Learning Zone 6



"We hope this never happens again, but we will be very prepared if it does."

Neil Pinnock - Principal, River Trail Middle School



"We did the best that we could, but now we say you know better you do better, but I think that we made the most of it". The main lesson she takes away from this pandemic is to not be hard on herself and there wasn't that idea of work-life balance like she used to have."

Camille Christopher - Principal, Findley Oaks Elementary School



SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS
DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



TALKING IT OUT

SECRETARY OF STATE AMBASSADORS

RELIGIOUS LEADERS



“It allowed us to discover whether or not we were really committed to our mission. Every organization has a mission and a model (how we carry our mission); sometimes, they don't line up. If the model doesn't line up with the mission, the model is broken.”

Pastor Andy Stanley - North Point Community Church



“But my point is we had to be very creative. We did the best we could to accommodate the needs of our people and our community here in Johns Creek.”

Reverend Father Neil Herlihy - St. Bridgid Catholic Church



“The biggest sacrifice we had to make, hands-down, was interacting with people because communities thrive and are built on engaging with others.”

Rabbi Hirshy Minkowicz, - Chabad North Fulton



An interview with Emory Johns Creek CEO Marilyn Margolis. "Anything we could do for the staff to make their lives easier, we did."



An interview with Northview teachers Tanla Pope and Jean Armstrong. "Experiences define growth."



An interview with Stat Medical Center Dr. Jim Dugal. "I got COVID in November...I was rushed to the hospital. I died twice, my heart stopped two times."



An interview with Emory Johns Creek VP Heather Redrick. "It was emotional. We were scared. We were dealing with things we hadn't seen before."

MORE CITY OF JOHNS CREEK VOICES



“We would come in and fog the building, everything with disinfecting stuff, and then we were going out and giving people tests that were city employees or family members of city employees and you know just odds-and-ends outside of the norm of being a firefighter.”

Chris Coons - Johns Creek Fire Chief - Earned nickname "Captain Corona" during COVID as he was the person in charge of city response.



“In terms of personal experiences, Major Castro had to get off social media due to negative comments towards police officers, but found comfort in being able to exercise outside without the stress of confinement.”

Roland Castro - Johns Creek Interim Chief of Police During Pandemic



“I was officially sworn in as the city manager on a Monday on Tuesday I shut the city down for the first time that's never right and hopefully I'll never have to do that again but that was the decision I made.”

Ed Denimore - Johns Creek City Manager



“Having kids and schools being closed had a big impact to not just me but also my staff. Being understanding that 'hey you got to take care of the child care', you got to get to work serve the community.”

Chris Haggard - Johns Creek Public Works Director

MORE VOICES IN THE STORM



“It was scary in that it was unknown. I'd never heard of such a thing and couldn't believe it had happened.”

Robin Buckley - CEO Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce



“I remember, as a teacher, at that time I was teaching special education students or students with special needs at a social study setting, teaching US history, and we would start the class off with a CNN program. It was called CNN 10. And we were learning about COVID, elsewhere in China and all of a sudden, it was here.”

Chris Bray - Special Education Teacher - Innovation Academy



“The way I see it, it was this sort of a bell curve of an experience. In the beginning we couldn't believe it was happening and then you are in the midst of it all trying to figure out how to do things.”

Bob Mulien - City of Johns Creek Director of Communication



“But then 2 weeks turned into months turned into a year or two or something like that and I started to realize that COVID was serious since we saw many people actually getting ill and hospitalized and even dying unfortunately.”

Nita Wilspear - Northview High School Student



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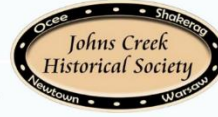
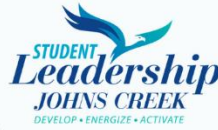
SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS



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Consortium Member



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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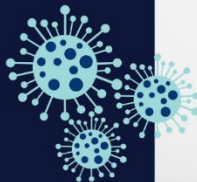


SECRETARY OF STATE AMBASSADORS

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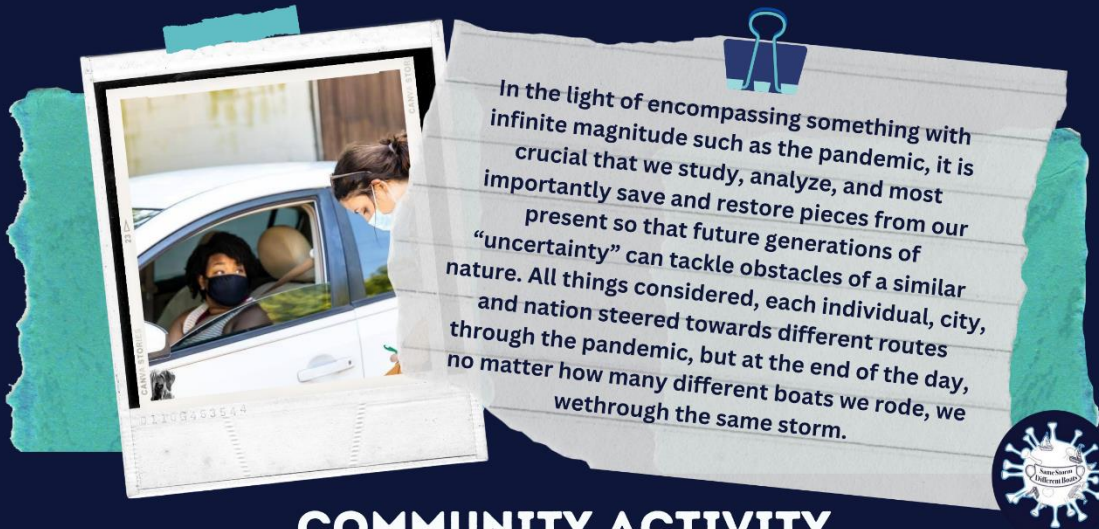
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SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS

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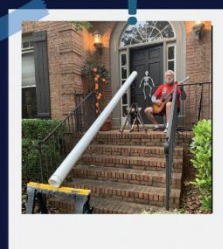


COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES LIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC !



SCAN TO
RECORD A
FLIPGRID
VIDEO!



SCAN TO
WRITE A
JAMBOARD
REFLECTION!



TYING IT TOGETHER: CONCLUSION