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Watch President Obama's Commencement Message

The Obama Foundation [info@obama.org]

Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 7:08 AM

To: Steve Johnston



Hi there,

Last night, President Obama addressed America's graduating high school class of 2020, and offered them three simple pieces of advice. First, don't be afraid—America's gone through tough times before. Second, do what you think is right and you'll be part of the solution. And third, build a community. [If you missed his message, be sure to catch it in full.](#)

Below you'll also find a few of the hopeful stories we've witnessed in the past week. Help us share more stories of social connection in this time of social distancing at obama.org/HOPE.

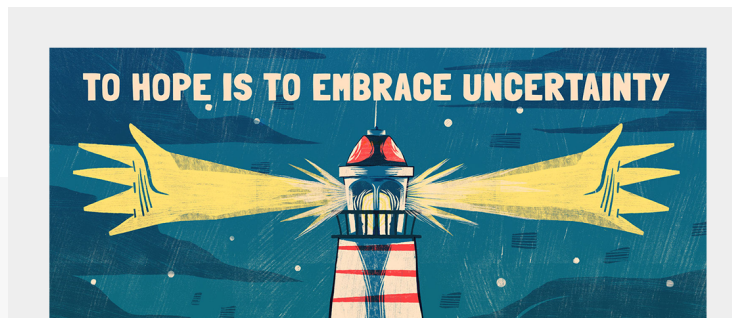
Stay healthy, stay hopeful,

—The Obama Foundation

STORIES OF HOPE



President and Mrs. Obama joined the Chicago Public Library's Live from the Library story time to read "The Word Collector" by Peter H. Reynolds. It's a book about the transformative power of words and no matter your age, we think you'll enjoy it.

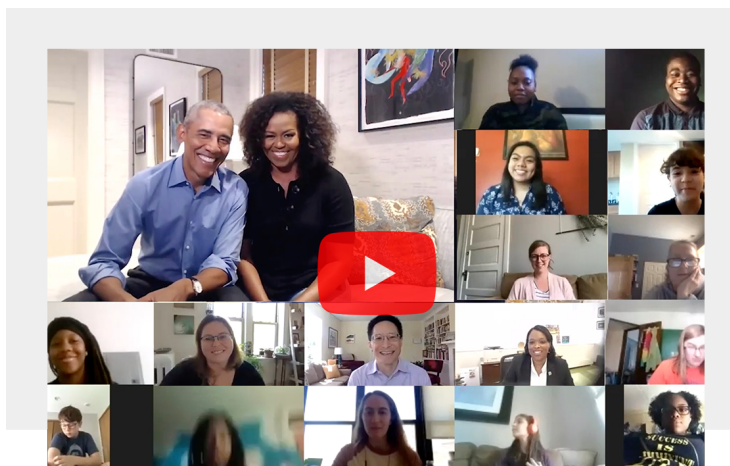




One of our Obama Scholars, Pavel Kounchev, co-founded [Fine Acts](#)—a playground for social change. In response to the pandemic, they launched Spring of Hope online, where they are sharing new uplifting illustrations on their website every day until the end of May.



Obama Foundation Africa Leader Goto Cooper collaborated with seven emerging community organizations across Liberia to create the COVID-19 Partnership Network. The network is educating rural communities about the symptoms of the virus and how to prevent its spread in coordination with the Liberian government and the World Health Organization.



Last week, President and Mrs. Obama gave a few hundred Chicago Public School teachers

and students quite a surprise! They joined CPS' first-ever virtual Civic Life Student Town Hall featuring Eric Liu, the co-founder and CEO of Citizen University, and four incredible student moderators.

STORIES OF HOPE

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