When school abruptly ended in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we didn't know what it would mean for completing the rest of the school year or socializing with our friends. As seventh-graders at South County Middle School, we were still just trying to adjust to middle school. When the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) requested donations to assist with providing meals to families, we knew that this was the cause for us to support.

We have been involved in many community service projects ranging from international environmental disasters to our rare gastrointestinal disorder known as eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE). We know how bad it feels when you can't eat.

Akul's family non-profit, Magic of Mothers (MOMs) gave us the platform to capture the donations and to provide donation receipts. We collaborated virtually to design the flyer and to create a fundraising strategy. Donations came from our local Lorton, VA neighborhood and as far away as Cambodia. Everyone's generous support allowed us to raise $1,557 in just a few short weeks. This money will be used to assist the Foundation for FCPS with providing meals to children without access to their school meals.

By Akul Dixit and Riley Williams