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December 2020

Open Letter to Ophelia Mentors,

Being an Ophelia Mentor is challenging during these times. Here we are, well into the school year during a global pandemic that has forced 'shut down' of all public places and gatherings of 10 or more people. If we want any interaction with other people, we are limited to virtual contact, remote learning, and trying to move forward in a world of zoom meetings.

I know you are aware that your work as a Mentor is a large part of your Mentee's life ... and it becomes an important part of your own life too. Mentors tell us all the time how much they love being an Ophelia Mentor. So many of our Mentors have remained strongly dedicated to the girls of Ophelia to help shepherd them through these difficult times. Thank you to our amazing Mentors, for your continued and even enhanced commitment to Ophelia Girls!

This is the first (and only) time in history we have faced these challenges, but they also present such opportunity! Never before have Mentors held in their hands this level of mentoring for the very youth that need it so profoundly. Today's Ophelia Mentors are being given unique and rare opportunities. Grab it and give these girls the most meaningful of gifts. We must build the bridge that spans what used to be and the new way things will be. We will build that bridge together and model the importance of perseverance and strength.

The things that make life special are still there. You would say Ophelia Girls make life more special. Ophelia Girls would say Mentors make their life more special. We still have those elements! People have lived through pandemics and wars before. Let's focus on staying connected and preparing a better future. The future is ours to make and we can do it!

Stay safe and healthy everyone and thank you for your commitment to Ophelia Project!

Susan Francis
President and Chief Executive Officer
John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation
Home of Ophelia Project