

LAMBSONBUNCH NEWS

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*Coping with crisis
What we have learned*

Dear kinship/foster adoptive families everywhere:

Our adoption of five grandbabies was finally completed in the fall of 2019. These kids were added to a manageable 4 adopted fosters to make a brood of 9 - Yikes!. We took a lot of deep breaths and continued to develop the routines and norms of an ordered family: bedtimes, playtimes, electronic times, reading times, study times, clean up times and, oh yes, get outside times! Despite the numbers, we were feeling pretty confident! Little did we know that it was the age old "calm before the storm".

"Hey honey, the bathroom upstairs needs some toilet paper." In a moment the craziness of the coronavirus set in. Schools shut down and Joie went from being a Teacher's aide to Home Schooling children spread over 8 different grades.

You talk about an "oh crap" moment. We needed to figure out "The Plan" going forward.

I know you understand that Facebook is not a true picture of life; to look at our Facebook page, you would think that we are sailing through this situation like old pros with not a worry, set back, doubt, or failure. Tis not so!!!

We have implemented "systems" as it were, that help us navigate the daily storm of activities, crises, melt downs, and precious memory making moments. We thought we could share some of those with you - some ideas that you could piggy back on or outright use.

One of the favorite things my adult daughter suggested for us in order to have a little more quality one on one time with each child was to take the day of the month that each child was born and make that their special day. This way each child has one special day during the month to look forward to. They know that day is always going to be their special day.



Oh! Are those Arizona helping hands backpacks and school supplies our kiddos are wearing? I believe they are LOL

Yep we still like each other... a lot!!!



Coping with School

Have a routine for everything that goes on in the house

We've all asked ourselves, what the heck do we do about school? It took the schools three weeks to get us materials as the situation evolved. It began, after all, during spring break. So we began with a jam packed laptop, which needed an external drive to speed it up.

With the help of a wonderful charity, we will be receiving two Chromebooks to help navigate the maze of multiple classrooms, passwords and google accounts.

- Our middle school students' teachers each sent their own emails instructing our older students on how to access their work and turn in assignments. We got anxiety just looking at all the different emails with all the different instructions, usernames and passwords.
- To help us get our head around all those separate processes for each separate class, **we set up a quick chart with all the kids accounts and passwords to give us an easy reference for all the kids in a single source.** They wrote their user names and passwords inside their composition notebooks so they could access the accounts on their own rather than needing our help each time log in.
- We created a **storage for their school materials** with a plastic chest of drawers so everyone's "school stuff" has a space.
- We have our studies at the **same time** every day



The older kids tutor their younger brothers and sisters – meaning they help make sure the youngsters have the resources they need to do their assigned work while mom watches over and gives help as needed.

It's amazing to watch the dynamics of the family as they work together and play together. It has been a happy surprise to see how being cooped up together CAN have positive consequences. We love the idea that we are able to teach things that the kids need to learn, yet often times do not get the opportunity to learn, such as, follow through on a viable skill carried through to fruition. We are learning about plants by growing a garden

This topic could go on for days and pages, the key point being—routine is crucial to help them feel secure and give them a sense of normalcy.

Activities to Keep Minds and Bodies Busy

Tied into their education is the idea that these minds and bodies need to be kept occupied

SCIENCE PROJECTS

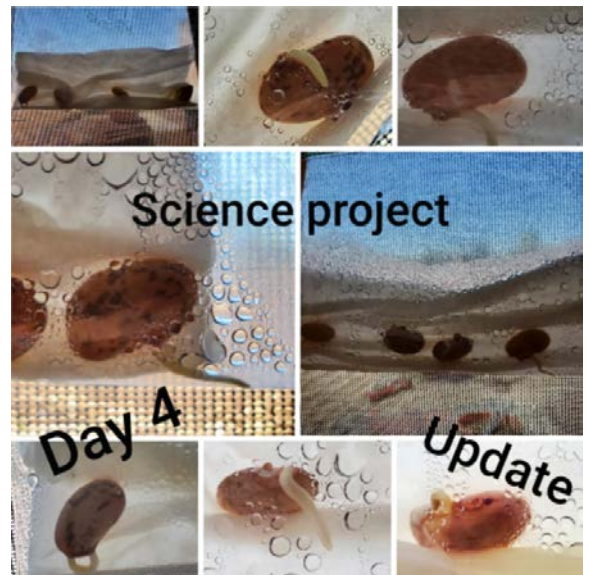
TRANSPLANTING ALOE VERA



BEAN SPROUTING



TRANSPLANTING STARTER PLANTS AND HERB GARDENING



Life skills in a period of uncertainty grounds us and develops our belief in ourselves and our ability to endure all things.

ART PROJECTS

Chalk your walk art contest



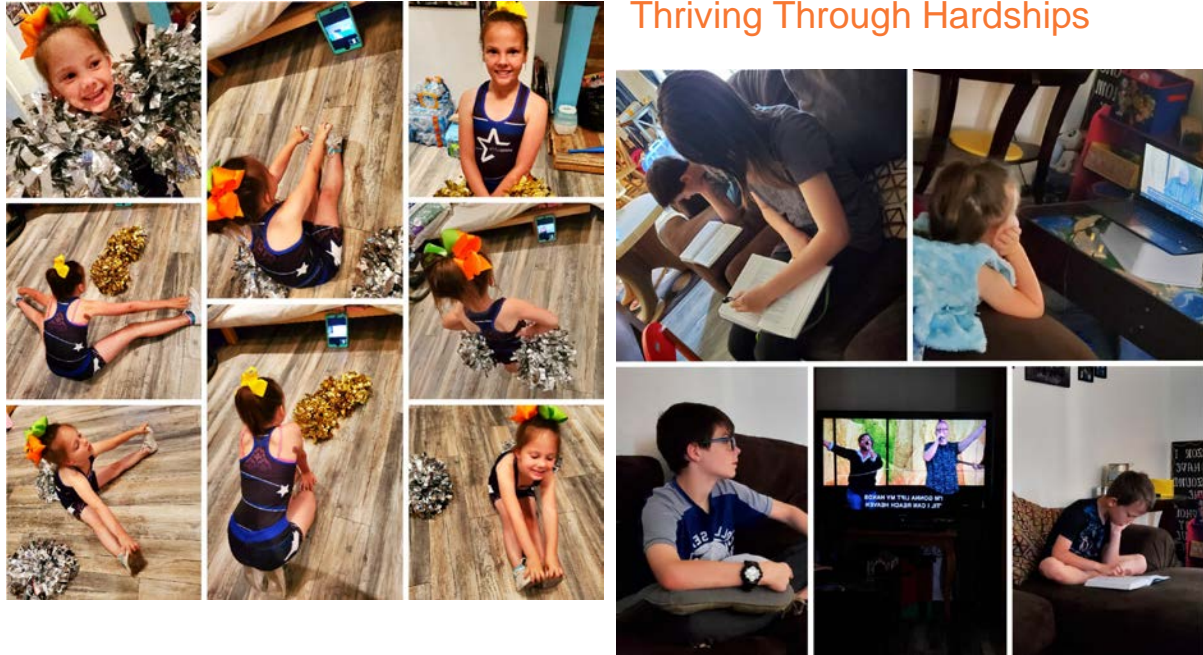
Outside play time



(Curtis sprays our yards with bleach-water mix twice a week)
The skies the limit. This playground cost us 100 dollars if we took it down, which we did.

Where there's a will, there's a way. Yep, that's cliché, but it really is true. We have accumulated our family fun supplies for pennies on the dollar from all kinds of sources- goodwill to savers, yard sales to community Facebook sites etc.

Here's a few we have tried; Badminton, corn hole, tee ball game, frisbee golf, batting cage we saved a few months for, bike rides, nature walks and trampoline mayhem. We have researched funding sources for fosters to be able to do things like camps, and little league sports, including cheer. A little ingenuity and some tech research and our girls amidst this quasi-quarantine continue to do their cheer class every week through ZOOM.



Thriving Through Hardships

We believe our omnipotent partner has no intention of leaving us on the side of the road of life, so our hope and faith in difficult times is based on a sure knowledge of the end result of our faith.

After almost 4 years our lives seemed almost complete. We had a date for our last foster to be adopted. We had even reserved motel rooms for this milestone that we had so anxiously awaited. Joie had made special matching shirts for the entire family to wear. The day before our court date we received a call that devastated us. "Your court date has been cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic."

NOW WHAT! As you can imagine, we were numbed by the news. This little boy wasn't yet going to be a permanent member of our family. We cried too many tears. All the "what if's" raced through our mind.

Our good behavior outings to the dollar movies on Saturday ended.

The idea of not seeing friends or going anywhere settled in on the kids psyche.

Our family reunion was cancelled. Church meetings were cancelled.

And UGH!!! Little league baseball was cancelled, you talk about devastated!!!

...and on and on it (the trial of our faith) goes.

*The stress of watching the shelves empty and the concern that life may have changed permanently weighed/weights heavily on our minds.

Do we have any/enough protection? How bad is it going to get? What do we do if?

We have but one answer. "Be still and know that I am God."

He who holds the universe in his hands is in charge and if we are faithful we shall not fear. We will weather this storm through faith, the association of church and lots of prayer.

There Are Angels Among Us



We are grateful for the chrome books. We also have so many other blessings that have flowed from God through our friends at **Arizona Helping Hands**.

With their help, we have birthday presents for the kids birthdays, school supplies to keep them occupied, bikes the kids ride, shoes on their feet, shirts on their backs, beds to sleep in, covers to keep them warm, pillows upon which to lay their head, as their prayers reach the heavens, and most importantly— **Arizona Helping Hands** has given us ears that listen and hearts that empathize. You couldn't ask for a more caring Non-Profit Organization to have on your side than **Arizona Helping Hands**.

This crisis has brought out the kindness in people's hearts, churches and individuals have helped us with food items. A communal spirit is working its way through the hearts of the people and finding many who are listening to the still small voice and reaching out all around them to help their neighbors. People often burdened by the crunch of time are now sitting on their porches or visiting the lonely and comforting and supporting the weak. As evil tries to push its way into the hearts of men, it is being repelled, as a renaissance of the spirit unfolds. It's quite unexpected. I think the devil is a bit surprised that he has no hold on our hearts. God's army is out doing his work with greater zeal than the earth has seen in quite some time.

Christ himself said, Fear not little flock do good... The Lambson bunch encourages you to support **Arizona Helping Hands** and other worthy organizations as you seek to share our Savior's love.

**If you have any questions or suggestions for other kinship foster adoptive parents write us at lambsonbunch@gmail.com we would love to hear your ideas*