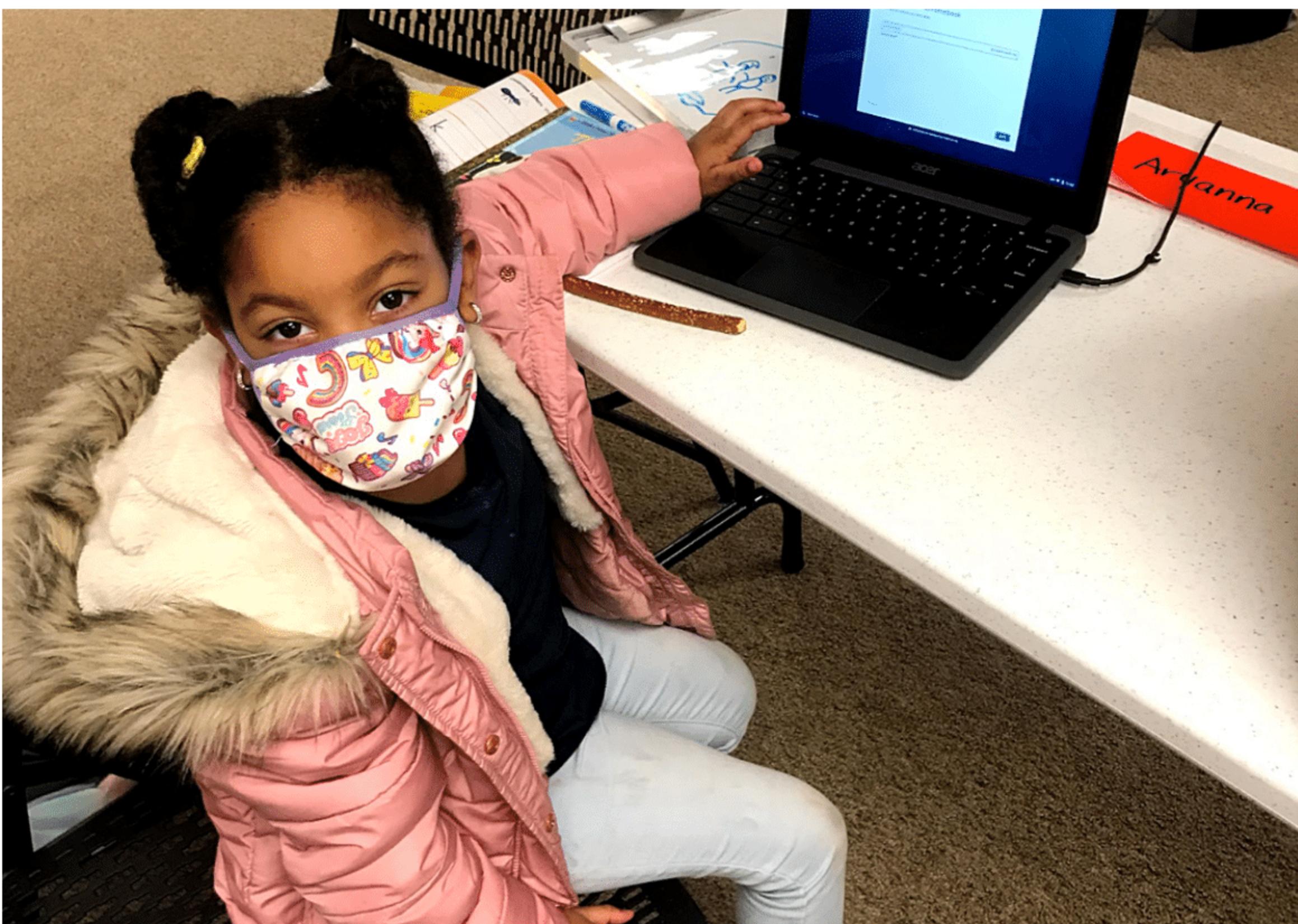




# Oxford Circle

Christian Community Development Association

## OCCCDA Learning Pod



With schools going online this year, families all around the city have been looking for different ways to adjust to going back to work and having their children take on virtual learning. In an effort to help families who, for work reasons, health or technology reasons, have found virtual learning extremely difficult, the team at the Family Resource Center opened a small learning pod to facilitate the on-line learning process. From the beginning of the program in late September, the staff have put an emphasis on intentionally creating an environment that balances kids focusing on their studies and taking breaks. For example, for children who find it difficult to sit in one place for long periods of time, staff employed sand timers to allow the children to visually work toward a goal of sitting... and then the reward of a short brain break.



Parents and staff educators have collaborated on new tips and tricks for making the most out of the online schooling experience. Parents have seen the value in bringing their children to the Learning Pod, and have contributed by volunteering  $\frac{1}{2}$  day each week. This volunteering has been a huge help to the Learning Pod and helped the staff at the Learning Pod have more hands on deck for socially distanced games for break time such as cornhole and inflatable bowling. These relationships they have built have opened doors to helping families in other ways such as applying to charter schools and connecting them with other resources such as

Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas gifts. In adapting to the pandemic, the Learning Pod has turned into a beacon of hope for the children, parents, and staff here at OCCCDA.

"One student asked to use a Sand Timer so he can have wiggle breaks." -*Mary, Staff*

"The Pod has given my daughter a caring and loving environment to start her academic career in the midst of Covid. Extremely thankful." - *Rosa, Parent*

## Matching Gift Update

Thanks to all who have helped us reach our matching goal of \$10,000!

We're grateful and excited to share that our matching donor has extended the challenge to \$15,000!

For the final stretch, the first month of any new recurring donation will be matched.  
OR any giving in 2020 that exceeds your total giving for 2019 will be matched.

Contact [katie@occcda.org](mailto:katie@occcda.org) to learn more.

[Click here](#) to see our progress or to make a donation.

Donor dollars help support the operations of OCCCDA that allow us to leverage grants and community connections to minister holistically in our community.

## Early Childhood Literacy & Street Cleaning



Bi-lingual educators in our PAT (Parents As Teachers) program work with families in Arabic, Haitian-Creole, Mandarin, and Spanish. They've continued online, guiding parents through an Early Childhood Literacy curriculum, with the philosophy: "Read to your kids in your home language, because those skills are transferable!"

We received a grant through Philadelphia's Commerce Department to create street cleaning jobs on our local small business corridor. Not only does this provide decent wage jobs for residents, but keeping the streets cleaner changes the way residents look at our shared space and each other.

## 2020 Tax Incentives

Under the CARES Act for the year 2020 only, Congress has **increased the personal charitable deduction from 60% to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI)!** This level of charitable deduction has never before been available and the increase expires on **December 31!**

Contact [katie@occcda.org](mailto:katie@occcda.org) to learn more.

[Donate Now](#)