



## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ICBYK FAMILY

Can you believe It Could Be Your Kid is celebrating its' 1st anniversary? This time last year I was formulating a plan to help my community be more accountable and to help people everywhere understand the dangers of bullying and the power of empathy. With the help of our ICBYK family, which includes you, we have been able to accomplish so much more than I envisioned at that time. I have to take a moment to say "THANK YOU!" for your continued support and your belief in our mission.

In October 2019, I believed that bullying was 100% preventable. I still do. In fact, I believe that all forms of oppression are 100% preventable. We just have to be willing to do the work. It Could Be Your Kid is willing to do the work. In the last year we have hosted skating parties, peer support card parties and bullying prevention workshops.

When Covid-19 disrupted our planned community activities and the lives of children everywhere, we began reading stories and books to children online to bring a sense of comfort and normalcy. After Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd were murdered, we took a very vocal stance against racism and inequity.

In response to continued racial injustice and the absence of accountability, It Could Be Your Kid sponsored the Antiracism Youth Rally and March in Frankfort, Illinois drawing hundreds of supporters. We sponsored summer antiracism education book clubs for students from grades 3 to 12. It Could Be Your Kid also consulted with BIPOC students and parents to get them a seat at the table with school district administrators regarding racial inequity. We didn't stop there.

Because we understand the academic disparities Covid-19 magnified, we created Sweet Reads; a literacy initiative designed to close the access gap faced by low income communities of color. Sweet Reads provides free books, a sweet treat, school supplies and PPE to school aged children in under-resourced communities. In the last month we have given away more than 1000 books, 300+ bookbags, tons of school supplies and so much more. We're increasing literacy one book at a time.

I am so proud of the work we have accomplished as a direct result of your support. Together, we have made the world a better place and we will continue to do so. As you know, October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. We will be spending the month going Beyond Kindness to bring awareness to the reality that kindness isn't enough. We must be anti-hate. We have to be love. Be sure to follow us on social media to join in on the education and excitement!

ICBYK is actively growing and working diligently to extend our reach every day. I will never be able to sufficiently express what it means to have such an amazing support system in all of you. Still, from the deepest part of my heart—Thank you. My personal goal is to be worthy of your trust and your support always.

I'm Glad You're Here,  
Stephanie

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