

THE VIRUS AND THE NEW CRISIS FOR KIDS

Many households in the Arkansas Delta every day confront a choice between necessity and immediate necessity—things you *need* to do and things you *have* to do, for simple survival like food, housing and healthcare. The Covid-19 pandemic has made that choice starker and more devastating because it jeopardizes the education of our most vulnerable children. The bizarre reality of the pandemic forces families to confront the reality that they not only need but must have computers, Internet service, and school supplies of a different sort to access that education.



Young volunteers, E' Zuri Flowers and Kingston Shelby help to prepare for school supplies distribution.

The interruption of the traditional educational system is a new crisis for many parents who could not afford or did not have access to the Internet and the hardware and supplies that the sudden reality of education in the Covid-19 era demands.

The Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center and its 18–39 Parental Empowerment Project stepped into the breach with plans to distribute school supplies, including aid with computer and Internet access, for the 300 students of the Marvell-Elaine School District.



Families in the Marvell-Elaine community face a great challenge in providing an education for their children in this crisis, which is likely to last indefinitely for communities like ours.

What can you do to improve the plight of these children and their parents?