



Coming together in times apart

PHOTO ESSAY BY: Kalin Morris-Cartagena



Top: Lucy Morris talking with a friend she hasn't seen in about a year
 Above left to right: A closed playground due to COVID-19. Families gathering in a field adjacent to the playground. A shop asking their customers to pray for Charlottesville.

Can anything good come from COVID-19? In a moment where many people are showing discontent over what they perceive as COVID-19's restrictive measures, it may all be on the eye of the beholder. Unlike the online, black and white, gloom and doom pictures that seem to represent this epidemic, Charlottesville is more vibrant than ever. Closed playgrounds are not the end of fun, adjacent fields show a revival of Americana practices, as entire families go outside and enjoy each other at all daylight hours. Business' signs of well wishes are larger than their closed signs. Essential stores' practices have made their bottom line life rather than money. Colorful homemade masks and gloves show a community that appears to say: "even though, I've been told none of these measures will protect me from COVID-19, I will do my part because... 'We are all in this together.'"



Left: Trader Joe's instructions to their customers currently waiting to enter the store.

Right: Known for their sustainable environmental practices, Trader Joe's asks their clientele not to bring reusable bags.