

Resilient. Ready. and Rising

One of the best things I was told
is that we don't raise children, we raise future adults.
That the toddler, will turn teen,
The teens transform into 20 and traverse 30's
Eventually, the babies will have brains old enough to understand
what was underfoot when they were underage

The babies aren't old enough to ask us yet
About the long term consequences of their childhoods
But once they are, will you be proud to say you have an answer?

When they inevitably ask, where were you?
When their mother wasn't able to afford insurance as an infant?
When their guardian couldn't cover day care?

They'll know the truth by then, that adulthood
is the aftermath of childhood foundation, even when it fails, and often it fails

So they will ask us what we did, when we learned of hungry children
When bills to help families were left on the floor
When the funding fell through,
When the emergency aid ended,
When the election was approaching

They'll ask, what happened
When the fear arrived at our doors
Asked us to abandon people for parties or profit
They'll ask what we did
When a language of lack laced itself into the rhetoric

I hope we can say, amongst all the chaos, something else unfolded at our feet
An opportunity, a moment to meet

Here, at the crossroads of despair and determination
May we say we chose the route of resilience
Let's decide today, to say
We did the right thing even if we had to do it the hard way,
Let's be able to say
When the moment arrived
We didn't run, didn't turn away

We know what turning a blind eye looks like
In policies, in the polls, in politicians pockets
We have seen potential change makers faced with problems and flee from the fight

So don't run, be ready
Rise, to meet the moment
With grounded feet, with open hearts,
with curious eyes, with generous hands,
intentional investment, urgently moving feet,

When moments like these arise
I hope we can say we chose to rise with them
Made our money matter as much as the mission,
Supported each other like how raising a child takes a village

Now is the moment to build capacity and trust,
sow every seed and move every mountain we must
While families raise their children, let's raise the bar

Do the work, so when they ask, you can say
You were resilient, ready, rising
when the moment came.