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The pandemic amplified our need for reliable high speed internet as the ability to work from home became a requirement. As an educator, it is essential for me to be able to meet with my students virtually. To do so in a meaningful way requires reliable internet service. Living in such a rural area - twenty miles from my school has presented unbelievable challenges for reliable high speed internet. It is frustrating to not be able to do your job because of where you live. Internet, as a form of communication, has also become increasingly important. While I am home, email is the mode of communication with my students and their families. Our electronic classrooms are accessed through the internet. We are unable to function without it.

On a personal level, we have an adult child with a significant disability (autism and a severe intellectual disability) that no longer lives at home. Being able to communicate with his staff through email and to see him virtually while quarantined eases the confusion of this time. When he is able to visit our home, his biggest enjoyment is watching videos on YouTube. As you can imagine, it is not fun when the internet is not working. There is no way for us to explain why we can't "fix it". We have dealt with terrible meltdowns during these times. Our lack of reliable high speed internet kept us from participating in research and receiving tele-therapies for our son.

Please let me know if you need further information or clarification of our needs for this resource. Thank you for your consideration, Tammy

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