



Statement from CEO Bela Moté, to the staff of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning

I stayed up until 1am last night to witness democracy in action as they counted the presidential votes to certify President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. After yesterday's horrific events, where we nearly lost our democracy, I needed to witness the elegance of democracy on one of the darkest days in our nation's history.

As I watched the vote count, they shared a quote by newly elected Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock from Georgia that brought a smile to my face and tears of joy to my eyes. Here is what he said: ***"The other day, because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton went to the polls and picked her youngest son to be a United States senator."***

I'm still reeling and processing what happened yesterday, but even in the darkness there was light—Congress came back to session and did their jobs and held their vows to serve the public, the voters in GA spoke and elected (first Black Senator, and one of the youngest Representatives in our country's history), and themes of morality and ONE country came through in words spoken---all reminders that we can take these horrific events (yesterday's as well as what happened throughout last year) and UNITE as one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I choose to remain hopeful. Please hang in there, and know that the executive team is here if you need a listening ear.

In peace,
Bela