



## #OnHoldAtHome: Humble Stories from the Homebound

Photos by Tania del Carmen Fernández | Stories by Rachel Scott Everett  
Richmond, Virginia

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#OnHoldAtHome is a  
photography series documenting  
hopes, fears, and lessons learned.

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# #ONHoldatHOME

*a photography series*

IN MARCH 2020, COVID-19 disrupted the lives of people all over the world. From the fear of falling ill to the awkwardness of social distancing to the adjustment of working from home or losing a job, our normal routines were upended on many levels.

In particular, creative professionals, like countless other non-essential workers, felt an immediate impact from the pandemic. Despite the downturn, or perhaps inspired by it, the desire to create was stronger than ever. Friends and neighbors, fine art photographer Tania del Carmen Fernández, and creative director, Rachel Scott Everett of EVERGIB, were determined to find a meaningful way to remain productive.

At a social distancing gathering in their neighborhood, The Fan, in Richmond, Virginia, it became clear the pandemic was affecting people differently. Parents were trying to figure out childcare, while at-risk neighbors worried about exposure at the grocery store. Everyone was weathering the same storm, but they were definitely not in the same boat.

Inspired by the different stories, Fernández and Everett decided to join forces to begin documenting the lives of people in their neighborhood during the first week of lockdown.

As weeks turned into months, the project expanded to feature people in different neighborhoods, reflecting the diverse community and perspectives that make up the Greater Richmond Region. During this time, the challenges of the pandemic were met with the global rise of protests over George Floyd's killing, bringing the topic of racial and social inequality front and center.

Richmond, former capital of the Confederacy, soon found itself in the national spotlight with public demands for removal of Confederate memorials, amidst the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement. On July 1, Mayor Levar Stoney ordered the removal of all city-owned Confederate statues, stating, "Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy – it is filled with diversity and love for all – and we need to demonstrate that."



What began as a project to unite people through shared experiences of sheltering in place has now transformed into a powerful documentation of this historic time in Richmond and the world at large.

#OnHoldAtHome aims to provide a platform to help amplify voices and foster open, honest discussions on race, politics, and systemic inequality. Fernández and Everett hope that by sharing stories, there's more opportunity to learn and grow with one another and ultimately, cultivate a more compassionate, open-minded and empathetic society.

From the pandemic to protests, our country has traveled through months of uncertainty, introspection and reflection. According to The New York Times, the U.S. has the highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the world, now surpassing five million. As we make our way through the first wave of this pandemic, it's clear the world has shifted and will never be the same. While no one knows what chapter is coming next, one thing's for certain: there are stories that still need to be told.

# CHAPTER 1

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## *The Lockdown Begins*

March 15, 2020 - April 19, 2020

In early March, the first COVID-19 case is reported in Virginia. Governor Northam declares a state of emergency and extensive closures of schools and businesses begin. As we witness the number of cases exponentially increase each week, the dangers of the virus become evident. Face masks and social distancing become the norm and residents are urged to stay at home as much as possible.



# CHAPTER 2

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## *Time Loses Meaning*

April 19, 2020 - May 24, 2020

Days blur into weeks. Weeks into months. By the end of April, the U.S. reports over 1 million COVID-19 cases. The U.S. economy shrinks by nearly 5% (the steepest drop since the Great Recession in 2008) and unemployment is at nearly 15%. While there's a general restlessness, people also try to make the most of this rare time when the entire world is paused.



# CHAPTER 3

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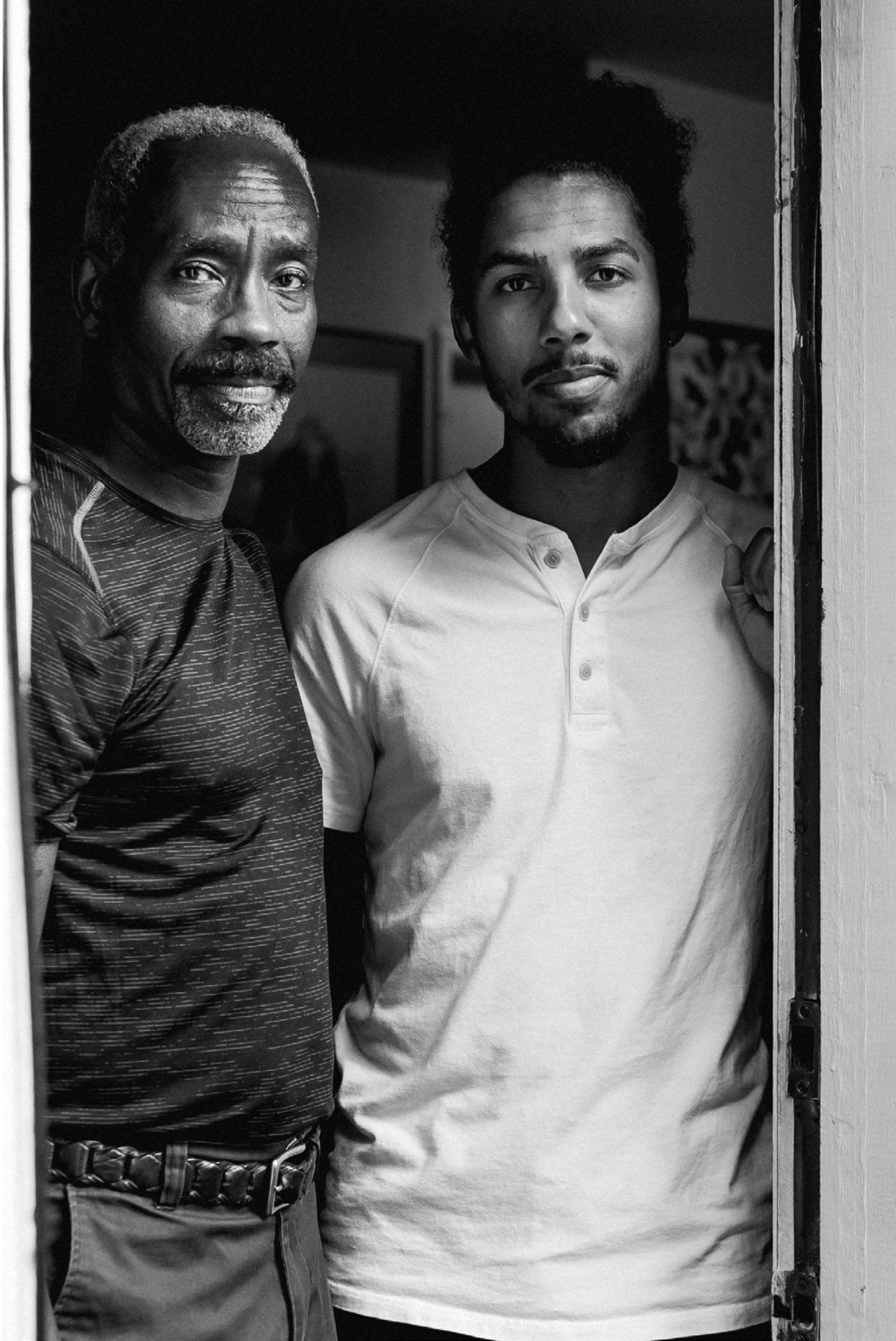
## *Revolution In The Air*

May 24, 2020 - January 20, 2021


In May, the country learns of the senseless killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Protests erupt and the Black Lives Matter movement sweeps the nation. Richmond, Virginia, former capital of the Confederacy, finds itself in the spotlight with the removal of prominent Confederate statues. COVID-19 cases continue to rise, but the topic of racial and social inequality take precedence.

In November, our country elects new leadership in a contentious election. Disinformation and conspiracy theories spread, culminating in an assault on our democracy in the new year. Two weeks after the U.S. Capitol insurrection, President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris are sworn into office.










COVID-19 affects  
everyone, everywhere.  
But it affects different  
groups of people  
differently, deepening  
existing inequalities.”

— Angela

*Angela Patton is CEO of Girls For A Change, a non-profit youth development organization aimed at empowering Black girls and other girls of color.*



She can  
She will




I think we can truly  
grow as a society from  
this experience. I think  
we're going to see a  
real shift in how and  
where people work.”

— Noah

*Noah Scalin stands behind his wife and daughter. Scalin is one of many local artists collaborating with Hamilton Glass, creator of the public art project Mending Walls.*








I love my job and  
helping people.  
I think I'm right where  
I'm supposed to be  
right now.”

— Betty

*Betty is a front line worker whose biggest concern is contracting the virus and possibly giving it to family, friends or anyone she may have to interact with at work.*








Racial and social  
inequality has always  
existed, but not many  
people (including those  
in power) were willing  
to discuss it...”

— Shayy

*Shayy Winn (far right) is an aspiring singer with a neurological condition causing vision impairment, competed in American Idol last year. She says the pandemic has helped her appreciate life more.*








Having had COVID-19,  
I'm living proof that  
the virus is brutal and  
can harm very healthy  
people. I'm not sure my  
lungs will be the same.”

— Anna

*Anna Laughlin, here with her husband and three children, states that she contracted the virus in early 2020 and says the experience was both “isolating and terrifying.”*







As far as our small  
family, we've grown  
closer as we navigate  
quarantine together...  
yes, we argue, but we  
also laugh more now.

— Alicia

*Alicia Diaz, here with her daughters, is originally from Puerto Rico and works as a dance artist and educator who is the process of reimagining her livelihood.*







# #ON*Hold* *at*HOME

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