

Alexandra Dowling (submitted June 10, 2020)

Note: The photo to accompany this story can be found with the Historical Photos, in the Covid-19 collection.

This is my daughter Lillian Dowling talking to my mother Sandy Faccas via FaceTime video. My parents have lived in Aberdeen since they were married over 30 years ago, and my siblings and I grew up in the A-section. My husband Brandon's family moved to the I-section when he was in elementary school. Brandon and I moved to Matawan to be close to our families, and we look forward to raising Lillian down the street from my brother's children Mandy, John and Jackson.

When the virus was reported in New Jersey, we made the decision to stay home and isolate. We missed our weekly family La Strada Pizza nights, so we spent a lot of time on video chats with our parents, grandparents and siblings. Lillian loves video chats! She crawled for the first time on FaceTime; I propped my iPad on the floor and my parents cheered for her until she crawled all the way across the room to get to them. It was so nice that we were able to share the moment, even if it wasn't in person.

I can't wait to be together as a whole family again! We have a lot of catching up to do!