

Dear Friends of Kids Hope USA,

Through all the uncertainty of this past year, Kids Hope USA is grateful for the commitment of so many, including you, to this ministry of mentoring. We continue to be inspired by the ways that lives of children and mentors are being changed through fun, loving, and consistent relationships.

Just last week, a mentor shared a letter written by a young girl who expressed a deep sadness in not meeting together all year, but also a gratitude for the letters they have written back and forth. "I miss you so much. You were not just my mentor. You were my best friend. I always read your notes when I'm at school and when I go to sleep at night."



This note captures the heart of what mentors and children have done through Kids Hope USA partnerships for 25 years; build friendships that allow for both celebrations and laughter as well as sadness and tears. The bonds that form by spending one hour a week together are strong and lasting, especially when you add the blessings of the prayer partners and the care of teachers and families.

As we close out our 25th school year, we celebrate the tens of millions of hours invested by caring volunteers who mentor, pray, organize, and direct Kids Hope USA programs across the country. Please join us on May 25th, 2021, for our *Celebration of Kids: Hope for the Future* where we'll gather to give thanks, share stories, and look to the future of this amazing ministry.

Gratefully,



Karen Pearson Ph.D.
President Kids Hope USA



2020-21: A Year of Challenge and Creativity

This 25th year of mentoring has presented programs with an unusual set of challenges, since most of our school partners are limiting volunteers and visitors into buildings due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. But, where there's a will, there's a way! Check out these creative and meaningful examples of students and mentors making the best of a tough year.



"After Kam gets done with his work, we play Battleship. Every time he sinks one of my ships, I make the sound of a ship blowing up and he always falls out of his seat laughing. This is what makes mentoring so much fun, to see the *pure happiness!*" ~ Tony in Grandville, MI



"Meeting online has been a wonderful addition [to our Kids Hope USA Program] . . . as it offers a great deal of flexibility for many of our mentors. For example, online mentoring makes it possible for a working dad with 4 young children to spend time each week with his 5th grade student." ~ Annette, Program Director, Baton Rouge, LA



"Our mentors have been extremely faithful in writing and encouraging their students. And all the students have written or drawn pictures at least a few times, if not every time." ~ Lori, Program Director, Zeeland, MI

*Names have been changed for privacy

25 Ways Kids Hope USA is Making a Difference



Students are...

- feeling supported and encouraged
- growing in character
- believing they matter
- having fun
- gaining confidence in school



Mentors are...

- modeling friendship
- representing their church community
- connecting with their local school
- feeling inspired by their student
- joining something bigger than themselves



Prayer Partners are...

- engaging behind the scenes
- lifting up students in prayer
- demonstrating consistency
- championing positive relationships
- praying for the local community



Schools are...

- witnessing the positive impact of churches
- welcoming their neighbors
- feeling inspired by mentors' dedication
- feeling encouraged by their local community
- experiencing greater connectedness



Churches are...

- loving their neighbors
- investing in their communities
- practicing generosity
- opening their hearts to others
- demonstrating inclusivity

Invitation to Give

Kids Hope USA has partnered thousands of mentors and students throughout the years, and we've seen real life change happen because of these relationships. Our growth into over 1,000 elementary and middle schools across the country is made possible because of the generosity of our donors who believe deeply in the mission and ministry of Kids Hope USA. Giving to Kids Hope USA is more than making a donation, it's making an investment in the life of a child!

We invite you to make a gift this spring as we finish our 25th year of mentoring. Your generosity today helps us support our current programs and engage new church-school partners across the country to establish more life-changing relationships in the near future. The need for caring consistent mentors has never been greater and we are eager for Kids Hope USA mentors to step in and make a difference.

Families and schools across the country are counting on the faithful work of Kids Hope USA. Together, with generous supporters like you, we're giving hope to children each day.

For the kids,

Kara Nguyen
Director of Development

\$25 for ~~1~~25
Celebrating 25 Years

Want to give securely online?

Make a gift today at www.kidshopeusa.org/donate

DID YOU KNOW? Taxpayers who do not itemize their tax deductions — meaning they instead take the standard deduction, a flat amount — can take a deduction of up to \$300 for monetary donations made to qualifying nonprofit organizations in 2021. Married couples who file a joint tax return can take a \$600 deduction.



You're Invited!

Celebration of **KIDS HOPE** for the Future

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 1PM EST

Register today at: kidshopeusa.org/25years

Join us for our virtual 25th anniversary celebration as we look to the future with Kids Hope USA President Karen Pearson, Founder Virgil Gulker, and other special guests! We'll look back at the last 25 years and celebrate some of our longest directors, mentors, and friends of Kids Hope USA!



25 DAYS OF KIDS HOPE USA

May 1 - 25, 2021

Join us on Facebook and Instagram for 25 Days of Kids Hope USA May 1st – May 25th! We'll celebrate each day with a story, action item, or way you can connect with Kids Hope USA! Make sure to register today and join us for our 25th anniversary online event, *Celebration of Kids: Hope for the Future* on May 25th. We hope to see you there!



Walking together in 1 on 1 mentoring relationships for 25 years.

