

Dear Friends of Kids Hope USA,

A new school year is here and we are grateful for the thousands of volunteers who are eager to connect with their students this fall! Without a doubt, the past 18 months have brought challenges and opportunities to churches and schools in ways that have stretched all of us! Amid the uncertainties, adjustments, and disappointments, we have been amazed and encouraged by the resiliency and creativity of children, families, mentors, directors, and prayer partners; all who are eager to resume the relationships they treasure as we begin a new school year. These relationships truly change lives, and the need for one-on-one mentoring like that of our Kids Hope USA programs is at an all-time high across the entire country and we are working tirelessly to reach more children with the love and support of a consistent mentor.



While the last year has brought challenges, Kids Hope USA continues to grow and move ahead. In the last nine months, 46 churches have formed new partnerships with schools in 17 states including three new states: Kansas, Nebraska, and Montana! We love to see the expansion of the Kids Hope USA network, now in 40 states, so we can reach more children, families, and schools! It is inspiring to see churches catch the vision for loving their neighbors in a highly effective, relational ministry like Kids Hope USA. We can't wait to hear stories of new friendships through these programs and we are excited to be sharing more about our future growth later in this update!

Today, more than 1,130 Kids Hope USA church partners are serving in their neighborhood schools, and we are cheering them on as the new year approaches. We know that our principals and counselors are seeing an even greater need for mentors and we're working closely with all programs to JUMPSTART this fall! We are providing resources to program directors that include a new recruiting toolkit, top activities for mentoring meetings, and a webinar with Dr. Emilie DeYoung on practical tips for engaging students! We recognize the need to stay flexible as schools across the country may continue to be impacted by pandemic-related restrictions, but we appreciate your commitment and persistence.

We are thankful to each of you and to God for the amazing ways that Kids Hope USA mentoring has transformed the lives of so many students and volunteers since 1995. We invite you to be generous with your time, your resources and your community connections. Together, we will reach more children with the life-changing support of a mentor. Join the mentoring movement today through your church-school partnership and make a referral to a friend, a neighbor, a pastor, or a teacher. Help us spread the word about Kids Hope USA to more churches and schools in your area. Your encouragement could be the spark that lights a new Kids Hope USA partnership. We have big goals and dreams of reaching thousands more children in the coming few years and we welcome, indeed we need your help!

With gratitude,



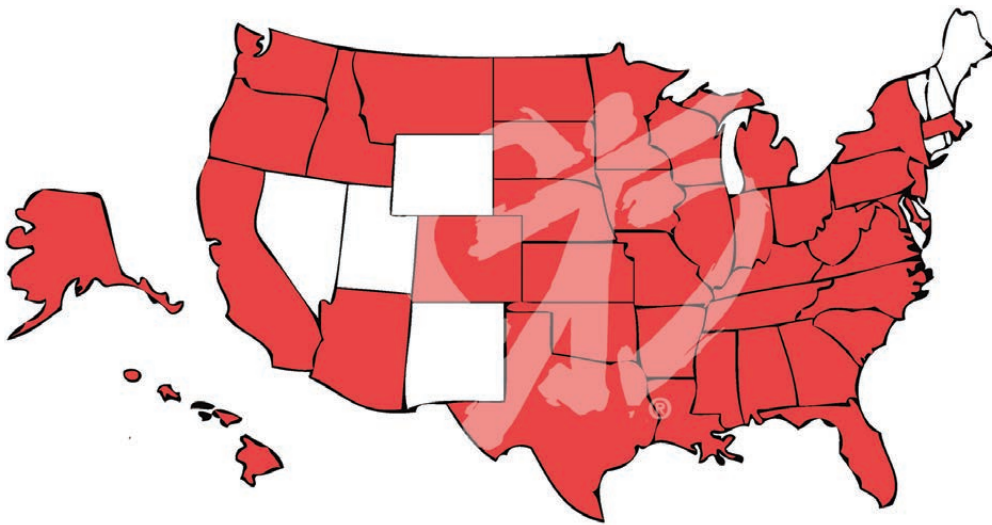
Karen Pearson Ph.D.
President Kids Hope USA



One of the challenging realities of the pandemic is that many students haven't had meaningful learning experiences in schools in more than a year. As we start a new academic year, Kids Hope USA mentors connecting with our students in school or online is more important than ever!

— Nick Cassidy, Principal,
Holland Public Schools

Kids Hope USA Growth Across the Country



- **1,130+** church-school programs
- **10,000+** mentor-student relationships
- **46** new programs in the last 9 months
- **40** states with one or more Kids Hope USA program

Kids Hope USA is expanding our partnerships across the country! This fall, our emphasis is on strengthening existing clusters of Kids Hope USA programs in key states including Michigan, Texas, Illinois, and Montana. We are also working closely with influential churches, organizational partners and church networks in Kansas, Colorado, Ohio, and Arkansas. If you know a church or school that would like to learn more about Kids Hope USA, please connect with us, so we can share our mission of reaching more children with life-changing, mentoring relationships. Email us at info@kidshopeusa.org today!

Why Your Gift Matters

At Kids Hope USA, we move forward because of the generosity of so many who believe in our mission, in our story, and in the kids we reach. Today, thousands of children across the country are waiting for a Kids Hope USA mentor to step into their story and begin building a life-changing relationship. As you have read throughout this letter, you can see that there is critical work on the horizon for Kids Hope USA this school year. Our team is working diligently to launch and re-launch over 1,130 programs this fall after a challenging 18-months with the pandemic, and the urgency to help our programs reach more kids. But, we can't do it without the generosity and support of you, who believe in what we do. Would you consider making a gift to Kids Hope USA today?

Your generosity will send ripples of positive support, love and encouragement into thousands of classrooms, schools, and churches. Every dollar makes a difference, and we hope you'll join us in this important work.

For the kids,

Kara Nguyen
Director of Development

Want to give securely online?
Make a gift today at
www.kidshopeusa.org/donate



When I lived in the Atlanta area, I was introduced to Kids Hope USA by a friend. In 2018, my family and I moved to a small community just north of Orlando, FL. My youngest daughter started school and I decided to sign up to become a substitute teacher. I quickly realized that our schools were full of students with lots of potential who were facing significant challenges in many aspects of their lives. Our teachers are rock stars, but they don't have enough time to meet with each student individually, every day, and I knew many of these students needed more time with caring adults to thrive. I immediately thought of the powerful ways that volunteer mentors from a Kids Hope USA partner church could spend time with many of these children each week. But could I help find a church to partner with this school? I was new to town! Fortunately, my husband is a pastor, so I started with our church, and I felt called to be the program director. I am so excited to launch a Kids Hope USA program in one of our local elementary schools. But my vision doesn't stop there. I am praying that we can find a KHUSA church partner for each school in our district! Join me in praying for God to open eyes, hearts, and minds to help make that dream a reality!

Stacey Weldon,
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
of DeLand, Florida

Our teachers are rock stars, but they don't have enough time to meet with each student individually, every day, and I knew many of these students needed more time with caring adults to thrive.



**Connect with
Kids Hope USA**



Have a Kids Hope USA story or testimonial?
We want to hear it!

Visit [kidshopeusa.org/share-a-story](https://www.kidshopeusa.org/share-a-story) today!



Walking together in 1 on 1 mentoring relationships.

Kids Hope USA®