

Dear Friends of Kids Hope USA,

It is exciting to see and hear about the life change that is happening each week as mentors and children meet in-person and in schools again after several disruptive years. One of our new mentors asked his student if it would be ok if he came back next week to meet again. The child paused briefly and asked, "Can you come back tomorrow?"

It's amazing how quickly connections can be made and trust can be built between the students and mentors, all because of an hour of one-on-one time together. We celebrate the transforming power of mentoring and the ways that building a friendship can be life-changing for both the student and the mentor.



At Kids Hope USA, we are inspired to 'Believe What's Possible' in all that we do—including how volunteers can help change the learning environments inside schools, how positive kids can lift up their classmates and teachers, and how churches can expand their mentoring ministries to more than one school in their district and invite more volunteers to step up and get involved! That's why we're celebrating the **24 new churches and 40 new schools** that have joined our network since September 2022. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers, giving generously of their time to build relationships with students in their neighborhood schools.

Since 1995, Kids Hope USA has mobilized Christ-followers to step up and step into the life of a child through a one-on-one mentoring relationship. As part of our focus to Believe What's Possible, we continue to dream of and find new and creative ways to reach more kids through the support of a faithful mentor. Through four pilot partnerships with businesses and organizations, we are mobilizing Christ-followers to build relationships with students in their partner schools. We are also seeing many programs recruit college students in their local programs. These creative ways to invite new mentors to serve are now reaching over 100 new students this year.

Friends, I am grateful for each of you and the important role you play in the work we do at Kids Hope USA. We ask for your prayers of thankfulness for the 2022-2023 school year and for God's blessing over the thousands of mentors and students who build a meaningful relationship each week.

Gratefully,



Karen Pearson Ph.D.
President Kids Hope USA

Since Sept. 2022, Kids Hope USA has...

24

new church programs that said "yes" to Kids Hope USA

40

new schools that welcomed a Kids Hope USA program

101

new donors who gave financially to Kids Hope USA

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Discover some of the ways Kids Hope USA has been stepping into opportunities for growth and supporting one-on-one mentoring programs. Scan the QR code to access these great resources.



LEARN

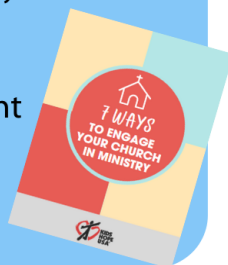
Scan the QR code above to discover resources about what Kids Hope USA has been up to!

- Program Opportunities Podcast
- Resilient Kids Webinar with Dr. Kathy Koch
- National Mentoring Month Podcast

EQUIP

At Kids Hope USA, we continually invest in and support our program leaders—including pastors! Check out and share this eBook with the QR code above, designed for pastors looking to engage their church in ministry.

- Ministry Engagement Ebook



INVITE

Share the exciting opportunities for a Kids Hope USA program with others. Scan the QR code to access and share our learning sessions and website!

- Learning Sessions
- Kids Hope USA Website
- Refer a Friend

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

For the last five years, I've had the privilege of serving as a Kids Hope USA mentor to a young girl at a school in the neighborhood I grew up in. Each year has been uniquely different but centered around a friendship that is strengthened and nurtured week in and week out, with my good friend I'll call "L". The opportunity to serve in this tangible and simple, yet profound, way is such a gift. I'm reminded each day that there are thousands more mentors across the country who are leaning into these life-changing relationships, too. I'm so grateful for this opportunity to befriend "L" and to learn with her and from her these last five years, and I'm thrilled to know that there are so many more mentors who have the privilege to do the same.

These friendships are made possible because of you! They exist through the commitment of our mentors, the care of our prayer partners, the dedication of our directors, and the generosity of our donors. It takes a village to invest in the life of a child, and it takes a village to see Kids Hope USA impacting kids and communities across the country. I hope you'll continue to join us in this important work by making a financial gift to Kids Hope USA this spring. Your generosity allows us to expand and strengthen this ministry and invest in our kids and our communities!

For the kids,

Kara Nguyen

Director of Development

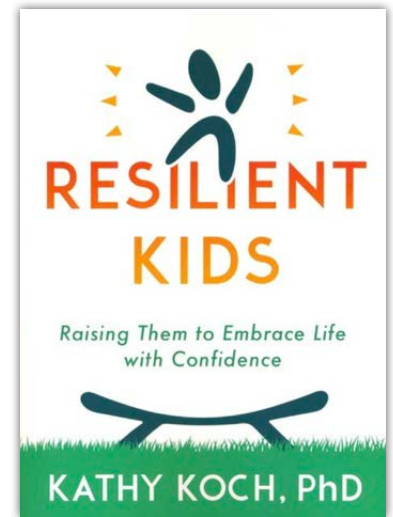


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RESILIENT KIDS WEBINAR

To celebrate National Mentoring Month, Kids Hope USA had the joy of featuring Dr. Kathy Koch for her webinar on Resilient Kids. This webinar was packed full of practical insights and ideas for mentors—as well as parents, aunts and uncles, etc.—to understand the importance of and help their student develop resiliency. Dr. Koch shared how resiliency brings about many benefits for children, including providing opportunities for growth, better mental health, and more effective problem-solving.



Here are a few things we've heard from mentors and directors about how they are promoting resiliency with their students.

8 Ways to Promote Resiliency

1. Teach, so they can be successful
2. Demonstrate unconditional love
3. Build trust. Keep your promises
4. Allow them to struggle (some)
5. Don't rescue them too soon
6. Help them to solve the problem
7. Compliment them specifically
8. Correct, don't criticize



From Dr. Kathy Koch, Resilient Kids, Celebrate Kids, Inc.



I've personally been more intentional in my mentoring sessions about not coming to the rescue too quickly when my student is struggling.

I tried giving more specific compliments. This week, I changed my usual 'good job' to 'You are working so hard on your spelling words. Great effort!'

After a difficult conversation with my student, I reminded her, 'I will always be here for you, no matter what!'

My student and I love to play games! This week, after choosing a new game, I challenged my student to read the directions of the game out loud, so together we learned how to play the game.