

## Dear Friends of Kids Hope USA,

It's exciting to see and hear about the transformative relationships that are being formed each week. We celebrate how mentors and students meet in-person at school in this one-on-one time together.

At Kids Hope USA, our theme for the 2023-2024 school year is Thrive. Through the dedication of our Kids Hope USA community, we are accomplishing some amazing and exciting things!

We rejoice with the 750+ Kids Hope USA programs, with 24 new partners and 44 new schools that have joined our network since fall 2023. We are grateful for the many ways we are living into this theme of Thrive in equipping our programs to serve including:

- Promoting the health and longevity of programs through co-directors
- Extending program reach through serving another elementary or middle school
- Inviting more mentors and students to experience the power of one-on-one relationships

Friends, I am inspired by the faithful dedication of directors, mentors, and prayer partners who work together to make one-on-one relationships a reality for thousands of students across the country. Thank you for the important role you play in the work of Kids Hope USA. We ask for your continued prayers and support for the 2023-2024 school year as schools begin to wrap up the year and move into summer.

Gratefully,



**Karen Pearson, Ph.D.**  
President, Kids Hope USA



**6,250+**  
one-on-one mentoring  
relationships  
(2023-24 school year)

“

**Our mentors help our students increase their social and academic confidence and become empowered in making good and healthy decisions. And, mentors serve as a friend during these important years.**

- Director of Student Services

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# thriving

## AT KIDS HOPE USA



Here are some of the many ways Kids Hope USA has thrived this school year.

- 13 average number of mentor-student relationships per partnership
- 53% of programs have been serving for at least 10 years
- 1300+ mentors reviewed the NEW mentor training course
- 23% of churches serve at more than one school
- Launched the Kids Hope USA Mentor App
- 12%+ programs have co-directors
- New business and organizational partnerships
- New Spanish translations of existing resources
- 84% of mentors are supported by their prayer partner
- Engaged in outreach conferences
- 90 partners have a NEXT middle school program

## LOOKING AHEAD >>>>>

- Enhancing resources to better serve NEXT middle school programs
- Large-scale conference opportunities for connection
- Mentor course for deepening the mentoring experience
- Running/walking events for awareness and fundraising

We are so grateful for the progress we've seen this past school year and for each person who serves faithfully through Kids Hope USA mentoring! As we look ahead to the future of Kids Hope USA, we are excited about the things to come, because we know that there are many more students who could benefit from another caring and consistent adult in their lives to help them thrive.

Did you know that Kids Hope USA works to raise more than \$1.5 million each school year, to support more than 750 Kids Hope USA programs nationwide and equip and empower 6,250 one-on-one mentoring relationships?

As a faithful supporter, mentor, director, or pastor, we ask you to help us continue this important work of empowering programs to thrive—changing students, mentors, schools, communities—through a financial gift today!

Thank you for joining us in this important work!

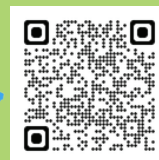
For the kids,

Kara Nguyen

Director of Generosity and Growth



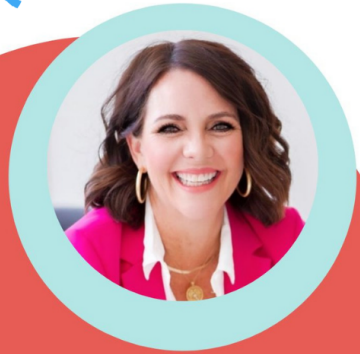
Give securely online at [kidshopeusa.org/donate](https://kidshopeusa.org/donate)



Give Today!

# Resource Highlight

Scan to watch the webinar



**STACI DANFORD**

Educational psychologist with 20+ years of elementary and secondary teaching experience.

To continually support and encourage our partners, Kids Hope USA had the great opportunity to host educational neuroscientist, TEDx Speaker, and gratitude expert Staci Danford for a webinar.

In her engaging event, Staci reinforced the ways in which mentors who step in consistently to show their student they are loved and cared for makes a big difference. And that's not just academic performance or confidence. Staci shared that when a student is continually supported by a mentor, their brain patterns and thinking can actually be supported in a healthy way, too.

Through research and anecdotes, Staci reiterated the answer to the question: **"Does mentoring make a difference?" Answer: "Yes it does!"**



# Partnership Spotlight



**WATCH SEGMENT!**



This is a strong community partnership, and everyone benefits from it. Our scholars benefit from mentors coming in and mentors talking about their personal and professional experiences. Mentors cheer them on for their academic success. Our scholars learn so much, and our mentors also learn from our future leaders.

**Jennifer Williams, Congress Elementary School Principal**



Kids Hope USA provides such a great opportunity for us to engage in our community. It's really so simple but forms such a fun and mutual relationship between us and Congress. Everybody's giving; everyone's receiving.

**Elizabeth Scholtens, Kids Hope USA program director at LaGrave Avenue**



The more I've mentored, the more I love it. I come out here, play games and laugh. Underneath all that fun, I get to give that fundamental support and message to these kids that they're good kids, that we love them.

**Peter Jonker, Pastor at LaGrave Avenue**



**CONGRESS ELEMENTARY AND LAGRAVE AVENUE CHURCH, GRAND RAPIDS, MI**