



Merry Christmas

Success Comes In Many Forms at Kids Across America

Hope for Youth is uniquely designed to meet urban at-risk youth where they are. Sometimes where they are is struggling at school, dealing with family issues, navigating their teen years, or figuring out who they are. Sometimes where they are is dealing with an eviction notice, visiting a friend or family member in jail or dealing with the death of a loved one way too soon.

We have seen many of the ways God is working in the students' lives. A smile on a student that has not been happy for awhile or a student who experiences something they have never done before. Sometimes success looks like a student accepting Christ or finally deciding to share something during small group discussions.

Even through the storms or just the day to day challenges of life, God is present and working. Sometimes He is quietly working and sometimes He makes a statement.

This summer we had 9 who accepted Christ or rededicated their lives to Him. We saw hearts softened and attitudes change. We saw those who struggled with authority learn how to confront their issues in a positive manner.

Every summer our students look forward to Kids Across America camp which is designed specifically to minister to and connect with students in urban communities across America. Setting aside all of their current struggles and allowing them to just be kids. They learn about the one true God and how He plays the key role in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who financially gave and prayed for our students during Kids Across America. It is only one week out of their lives, but many students will say it is a life changing experience.



Mentorship is Ramping Up!



From the Director Wendy Toups

It is great to be back! After 12 years, many things have changed but much has stayed the same. At the core of all we do, our goal is to make Colossians 1:8 come alive. Presenting every youth complete in Christ is a big job, but our God is bigger!

What does "presenting every youth complete in Christ" look like? From the time a student first attends an event, a time clock has started. We only have a few short years before a student graduates high school to come alongside them and make the gospel come alive. Through our large group events and gender specific outings to College/Career Prep and Mentorship, it is our prayer that our students are fed spiritually, academically and socially. Here is the challenge....

1. We minister to a very transient group of youth and their families. Half of our students move once a year.
2. A majority live below the poverty line and survive on some form of government assistance.
3. Over 90% of our students do not have a father living in the home.
4. Most, if not all, of our students would say they have a friend or family member currently serving time in jail.

The challenge is big but our God is bigger! It is our prayer that this year is a year of growing both bigger and deeper and it takes the support of each of you to make that happen. Every dollar given, every hour served volunteering, every prayer lifted....it takes all of you to make the ministry run effectively. I look forward to meeting you and serving alongside you as we walk this Colossians 1:8 journey together. Thank you for partnering with us.



Mentorship - The act of providing guidance, direction and influence. The definition alone sounds important. Hope for Youth does a great job of providing quality programming, structure and consistency to our students' lives. However, in order for us to truly and effectively reach each student we minister to, we need adult mentors to come alongside our students. Mentors play a vital role in nurturing our students, loving them where they are at and giving them guidance and a safe place to turn if needed.

Our goal this year is to see 50 new youth paired with a committed mentor. We provide the training, teaching curriculum and ideas for creative ways to minister to students through their daily life happenings. The program asks for a two year commitment from the mentee and mentor. It is our hope and prayer, however, that those relationships will extend way beyond the two years.

Volunteer Spotlight



There is no question that Hope for Youth relies heavily on the work of its volunteers. With a staff of just three, the volunteers play an integral part in the success of the ministry. From mentoring, teaching, driving, hanging out, serving food, helping behind the scenes, etc., our volunteers are a talented and committed group.

This quarter we want to say thank you to Thad Scott for his longstanding commitment to the ministry. Thad and his wife have been financial supporters of the ministry over 20 years and he is currently an active

volunteer at our Friday Night Live program. He is committed to getting youth to and from the program, leading a small group discussion, hanging out with youth and doing anything else we ask of him.

Thank you Thad Scott for your never ending commitment to our youth. Hope for Youth is blessed to have you as a part of the team.

SAVE THE DATE

HFY Annual Gala

APRIL 4, 2019

Creative Ways to Give

Our annual budget for this fiscal year is \$282,000. We appreciate every single dollar donated via our website or through the mail. Please consider a year end donation to Hope for Youth.

We do have two other ways to give this holiday season and all year long. Please consider adding Hope for Youth to your giving list in these two unique ways.

1. Go to smile.amazon.com (then log into your account). Make sure to designate Hope for Youth as your charity of choice at the top before shopping.

With the holidays coming, you will be able to shop with ease while knowing you are helping us raise needed funds for the year.

A percentage of your purchase will be sent to Hope for Youth.

2. The newest and fun way you can give is through our online shopping store at <https://hopeforyouth.because.io/>. Here you will find a list of our current needs for each program. These are small tangible items that are valuable to the ministry. You can click and pay on the site, at a wholesale price, for the items you choose and they are then delivered to our office free of charge.

