

# MomsHope

December 5, 2016

Dear Friend,

Hope is a powerful force in our lives. It is the fuel we run on when we have little or nothing left. MomsHope, through education and committed relationship, brings that hope to single moms in our area.

MomsHope began in 2010 as a OneCity program to help single, low-income moms break the cycle of poverty through one-on-one, faith-based mentoring.

We're different from other organizations that fill in emergency gaps. Instead, MomsHope is a long-term solution centered around accountability, guidance and resources. Candy, a recent graduate of MomsHope, summed it up well when she said recently, "Many of the moms who are served by MomsHope grew up with a cracked foundation. MomsHope is like the cement truck filling in all the cracks. Now we each have a solid foundation to 'build our house upon,' and our children grow up with a solid foundation!"

The power of our mentoring program is in the stories of the moms we serve. Shekia's journey with MomsHope is a beautiful story of how relationship and hard work have changed the future for her family. Shekia was 22 years old when she heard about MomsHope from her pastor at New Life Temple Church in Madisonville (a neighborhood in downtown Cincinnati). The idea that someone would want to build into her life as a single mom, in a Christ-centered relationship, gave her new-found hope.

Shekia was paired with a MomsHope mentor and began her paralegal studies at the University of Cincinnati while working and raising her toddler son, Stanley. In March, 2015, a few months before Shekia was to graduate from college, she suddenly lost her ability to speak while at work. She spent the next couple of months in and out of the hospital and was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

## *2016 Highlights*

- **2 mentees, Monique and Candy 'graduated' from MomsHope after 4 years. They will share their stories of success told at our "Give Hope" benefit, February 10, 2017**



*Shekia and her mentor, Teresa*

- **MomsHope moved back under the guidance of OneCity Foundation, where the organization was originally launched**
- **Swiya and Shekia, both mentees, earned their college degrees (one with financial assistance from MomsHope)**

MomsHope continued to provide her with one-on-one financial coaching with a financial planner, cooking classes to learn budget-friendly healthy family meals, support in finding community resources, weekly devotionals encouraging her spiritual growth, and acceptance and love. But it was during this time that Shekia's relationship with her mentor, Teresa, became so vitally important. Teresa was by her side, cheering her on, praying for her, and coaching her as Shekia faced extraordinary challenges. Shekia calls Teresa her "spiritual mother" and to see them together is to see two people who share a deep, profound friendship.

Today, Shekia is a living testament to God's miraculous ability to bring hope in darkness. Today, she may walk a little slowly, but her doctor says she's "80 percent healed." Her son is a thriving nine-year-old. She's paid off a small mountain of medical and school bills. She lost 30 pounds (while being restricted in her mobility). She has a college degree. She's working and moved with her little boy into their first apartment this month! Teresa says she counts Shekia's laugh as one of God's gifts, and her joy is infectious.

Being a part of MomsHope has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Because of you and your gifts to MomsHope, we are able to fundamentally change the lives of the single mothers we serve. As we celebrate Christmas and the gift of hope given to us would you prayerfully consider making a gift to MomsHope? Your support for this ministry has been a blessing and we are so grateful for your gift in this season of hope.

Many blessings,



Janet Lapps  
Executive Director

*P.S. If you'd like to make your gift with a credit card, you can do that securely online at [www.moms-hope.org](http://www.moms-hope.org).*

*Thank you so much for your continued partnership with us. Together we are changing the lives of moms and their children!*

## *Highlights, cont'd*

- **MomsHope established a partnership with AAA/Bob Sumerel to assist our moms with car diagnostics and repairs**
- **Thanks to more than 20 committed volunteers, we are an all-volunteer organization**
- **MomsHope made grants to moms for car repairs, new tires, school expenses and housing deposits**
- **Thanks to generous donors, we began a micro-loan program that supported moms with college expenses and utilities**
- **MomsHope offered continuing education, taught by a licensed therapist, to mentors and volunteers**
- **More than 30 volunteers supported MomsHope by in the Queen Bee Half-Marathon, which in turn raised money for MomsHope**
- **We partnered with Vantiv Women's Business Network to provide our moms with an opportunity to provide gifts for their children at the MomsHope Christmas Shopping Experience**

**I want to partner with MomsHope to change lives! Enclosed is my gift of \$**

**Please contact me- I want to know more about Moms Hope!**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in enclosed envelope**

**I want to partner with MomsHope to change lives! Enclosed is my gift of \$**

**Please contact me- I want to know more about Moms Hope!**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in enclosed envelope**

**I want to partner with MomsHope to change lives! Enclosed is my gift of \$**

**Please contact me- I want to know more about Moms Hope!**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in enclosed envelope**

**I want to partner with MomsHope to change lives! Enclosed is my gift of \$**

**Please contact me- I want to know more about Moms Hope!**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in enclosed envelope**