



September 2017

Dear friend,

It has been an exciting year for us at MomsHope, and I'd like to share our progress!

We kicked off the year with our first Give Hope Benefit for MomsHope, which was a huge success. Generous donors netted us \$20,000, which allowed us to pull the trigger on several initiatives for the year. (See Anita's GiveHope article).

In working with a consultant, we developed a 2 year strategic plan to help us focus on specific goals for growing MomsHope. They are:

- revise operations materials and create partnerships through outreach
- become self-sufficient: secure office space, fully fund staffing needs
- implement advancement strategy
- implement annual marketing / branding strategy,
- national launch: 'franchise' MomsHope

We are making good progress on these goals. To date, we have networked to develop partnerships with like-minded organizations in the city who have provided qualified candidates, volunteers and guidance. Using revised training model, we have trained 7 mentors and 7 mentees, while increasing our volunteer base by 20! We are working with experts to develop our branding and marketing strategy. In addition, we are actively searching for an Executive Director.

Year to date, we have raised over \$45000. These funds have gone to support our moms in a multitude of ways:

- mentor and mentee training and continuing education
- grants and micro loans to help with car repairs, car payments, and rent. These grants/micro loans help keep a mom on track as they work toward financial stability.
- MomsHope summer picnic – for the kids, fun activities as well as backpack and school supplies. For the adults, educational activities including car preventative maintenance, healthy eating and physical wellness.
- 11 MomsHope kids went to YMCA Camp Kern this summer (see Nogah's story)

Because of you and your generosity, we are changing a generation, one mom at a time. Please consider making a gift to MomsHope.

Many blessings, Janet Lapps, ED

2017 Year-to-date Highlights

- First annual Give Hope Benefit for MomsHope
- Courthney graduated from MomsHope!
- 20 volunteers added to our team, 7 mentors and 7 mentees trained
- We have raised \$45,000!
- 11 MomsHope kids attended summer camp
- Continuing education programs for mentees and volunteers
- HyperQuake "Do Good Initiative" finalist

**Graduation from MomsHope!** *by Courthney*

My life changed in the best way possible 3 years ago when I joined Mom's Hope. I met a fellow mentee at a church event, and she told me about the organization. At first I was really hesitant but decided to see what it was all about. A few weeks after meeting with Janet, I was paired with my mentor Judi. I was shocked to be match so quickly, with someone who I had so much in common with. We hit it right off. Judi has truly been a blessing in my life and to my 7 yr old son Chase. I could NEVER thank Judi enough or repay her for the value and life lessons she has giving me, she never made me feel ashamed or different because I am a single mom.

My heart has been so full from this experience. I have learned more about myself in these last 3 years than I have in a very long time. Since joining MomsHope I paid off \$10,000 in debt, I learned to sew, and among many other things I have become a better mom all together. I can't thank this organization enough. I am able to meet and connect with other single moms who believe in Christ and are looking for a hand up not a hand out! I'm forever changed. If I could describe these last 3 years in one word I'd for sure choose blessed- the experiences I've had, the ones that my son has been able to be a part of, and the memories are enough to last me a lifetime. I not only found myself since becoming a part of MomsHope, but I have gained friends for life!

GiveHope *by Anita*

Our first annual GiveHope Benefit for MomsHope event was a huge success! Thanks to all who supported. It was a blast! While we treasure the memories of that night, we look to the future...

The second annual GiveHope Benefit for MomsHope will take place February 9, 2018! Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss this fun filled night with music & dancing by the Soul Pocket Band, incredible foods by Funky's, & last but not least the amazing spirit of the MomsHope community. The GiveHope Benefit will again be held at the beautiful Transept in OTR.

Sponsorship opportunities: food stations (including the return of the delicious flaming donuts), venue, band, to name a few.

Please email us if you are interested in volunteering or sponsorship.
Hope to see you February 9!

Nogah's Camp Kern story (Age 13)

My time at Camp Kern was amazing! The memories I made will stay with me forever. The program I joined was teen survivor. Survivor doesn't follow the same schedule as the other programs- we don't attend flag pole before meals, and we don't have to participate in main camp activities. It's based off the show survivor so the challenges are exciting. This week survivor had an unusually small group, only 10 kids. The counselors thought this would be a bad thing but in the end, it allowed us to bond better.

Day 1, we were blindfolded, led around camp and then we got on a bus which drove us to an unknown location. When our blindfolds were removed, we were on a path in the forest. We were told that the color of our blindfolds determined our team for the week: my team - green team aka Shawnee, and the red team aka Adena. Each team had 2 counselors. Being put in the middle of nowhere and told to find your way back to camp with 4 other strangers, you get to know a lot about the rest of the team (Jess, Anna, Leo, and Ethan). We got so lost that for the first time, the bus had to pick us up. When we finally got back to camp we were taken to our cabins at Brisben. The Survivor



cabins were 15 minutes from main camp, with no electricity so we used flashlights. The pavilion had electricity and bathrooms and showers so it was fun. That night we had our first tribal council with both teams. The rest of the week, only the team that won the tribal challenge went to tribal council. Tribal council was in the woods at the fire circle, where we discussed the challenge and voted for the teammate that we thought did the best that day. At the final tribal council of the week, the person with the most votes gets a free week at camp.

Each day there was also a reward challenge where you won things like frosties, donuts, Chipotle. The challenges were, well, challenging, but they were extremely fun too. For the raft challenge, a teammate stayed behind while the others ran around camp to get supplies needed to make a raft. Once your team was done making the raft, 2 people had to get across the lake and back. My team won and we got frosties. It was amazing. The challenges throughout the week brought us closer together. After all challenges were over, both teams got together without any hard feelings about who won the challenge. Together, we played cards, told stories, laughed and had a great time. Besides challenges we also did activities together such as zip lining and the giant swing.

At the end of the week, we held tribal council with both teams present. The counselors gave speeches about the week that brought everyone to tears. Even I was crying because it was our last day, and I don't cry, I'm not emotional person. **Overall going to camp was the best thing I did this summer and I would do it again in a heartbeat.**