

Cy-Hope's Providing Opportunities Program

Cy-Hope was birthed in 2011 by a core group of people concerned about the growing number of children in our community living in poverty. We set out on a mission to mobilize the entire Cy-Fair community to provide opportunities for underserved children to succeed in life.



In 2012, Lone Star College counselors contacted Cy-Hope when they noticed wealthier Cy-Fair ISD students getting a head start on college by taking Dual Credit and Advanced Placement courses. They saw a stark difference in the number

of underserved students taking advantage of these classes due to their inability to pay the course fees. Cy-Hope created the Providing Opportunities Program (POP) to assist underserved students with taking college prep classes to reduce this disparity. Taking a Dual Credit class in high school costs \$72 per 3-hour course versus \$224 at community college (in-district) or \$509 (out-of-district), and approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a Texas four-year institution. POP allows students to earn credit for courses that would cost them so much more to take at community or state college, relieving the financial burden on already stretched family budgets. Cy-Hope recognizes not all students are college bound and covers fees required to gain vocational certifications for underserved students taking Career & Technology Education classes.

Numerous studies point to high school graduation and having basic job skills as the critical first steps to breaking the cycle of poverty in the United States. POP helps students graduate high school college or career ready regardless of their socioeconomic status, creating lasting change for them and their families. As one POP student explains: "This opportunity means a lot to my mom because she is proud of me for trying so hard in school and doing the best I can. She thinks it's great that I am getting some college classes out of the way without her having to stress financially. If it weren't for Cy-Hope, I would've probably let this opportunity go, and I wouldn't have taken these classes. I like that I will be somewhat prepared for university, and I will be a semester or two ahead of everyone else. This has helped me because it takes four and a half years to be an engineer. And, now I can do it in four years."

POP has provided 12,140 students with \$607,859 in assistance to date!