

**Welcome!** The Generation of Promise Program at Focus: HOPE is a social justice and youth leadership program for 11th grade students in participating schools across Metro Detroit.

Each year we bring together a cohort of approximately 60 students of diverse backgrounds to learn about and promote social and racial justice. The students represent about 15 high schools in the region. Students become part of a powerful cross-cultural network while experiencing Detroit and its surrounding communities in new ways during the 10 months they have together. Their experiences culminate in an intensive Capstone Project that develops their community organizing skills and gives rise to their voice while advancing systems change.

Each student brings their own unique experiences and perspectives to the Generation of Promise program, and we look forward to learning about you through your application.

**The application deadline is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 11:59pm.**

*Generation of Promise Purpose Statement:*

*To build a community of young leaders who advance social and racial justice in Metro Detroit.*

## **Generation of Promise Program Application - Part I**

Personal information

**First Name: \***

**Last Name: \***

**Date of Birth: \***



Month    Day    Year

**Street Address: \***

**City: \***

**State:** \*

**Zip Code:** \*

**Student Cell Number:** \*

Ex: (313) 494-4565

**Student E-mail:** \*

example@example.com - Please make sure you are providing the e-mail address that you check most frequently. Important program information will be communicated primarily via e-mail.

**Home Phone Number:**

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \*

**Parent/Guardian E-mail:** \*

**Parent/Guardian Cell Number:** \*

**School:** \*

Please select your school from the list above. Only students in participating schools are eligible for acceptance into the program.

**CUMULATIVE G.P.A.:** \*

**I will be in 11th grade, at one of the participating schools, during the 2021-2022 Generation of Promise program year. \***

**Please list any school, work, club, extracurricular activities or additional responsibilities: \***

The requested demographic information assists us in understanding the diversity of applicants and helps us to ensure new classes are represented by groups being systemically marginalized. Be advised you are not required to answer these questions and choosing not to will not count against you.

Sometimes we also have the opportunity to create identity-based affinity groups within the program to deepen our learning (ex: LGBTQIA2S+ space, People of Color space, Disabled space, etc.), so this information is useful in helping to organize identity-based programming.

All demographic information will be kept confidential and will only be used for program purposes. If you do not wish to answer you can leave the question blank or select "Prefer not to answer."

### **Race (check all that apply)**

Alaskan Native

American Indian

East Asian

South Asian

Southeast Asian

Black/African American

Native Hawaiian

Pacific Islander

Middle Eastern/North African

White

Don't Know

Prefer not to answer

### **Ethnicity**

(Please write your specific ethnicities in the space below, or leave blank if you prefer not to answer. Note, you can have one or multiple ethnicities. Examples of ethnicities include: Korean, Mexican, Nigerian, Irish, Samoan, Navajo Nation, African American, Filipino-American, American, etc.)

## **Religion**

Buddhist  
Christian (including all Christian denominations, Catholic, and Protestant)  
Hindu  
Jewish  
Muslim  
Sikh  
Spiritual  
Atheist  
Agnostic  
No religion  
Prefer not to respond

## **Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ Community ?**

Yes  
No  
Unsure  
Prefer not to answer

**If you answered yes to the previous question, are you out to your family? (All this information is kept confidential; however, we ask this question to ensure each students' safety and privacy.)**

Yes  
No  
Somewhat  
Prefer not to answer  
N/A

## **Gender Identity**

Cisgender Woman  
Transgender Woman  
Cisgender Man

Transgender Man  
Non-Binary  
Gender Non-Conforming  
Two Spirit  
Questioning  
Prefer not to answer

## **Pronouns You Use**

She/Her/Hers  
He/Him/His  
They/Them/Theirs  
Ze/Hir/Hirs  
I prefer people use my name  
Prefer not to answer

## **Disability/ability status (check all that apply)**

A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)  
A learning disability (ex: ADHD, dyslexia)  
A long-term medical illness (ex: epilepsy, cystic fibrosis)  
A mobility impairment  
A mental health disorder  
A temporary impairment due to illness or injury (ex: broken leg, surgery)  
I do not identify with a disability or impairment  
Prefer not to answer

**Are there any other identities you hold that were not captured in these questions that you would like to share?**

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## **Generation of Promise Program Application - Part II**

### **Essay Questions**

**Note on the essay questions:** Generation of Promise essay questions are the main opportunity for the Selection Committee to learn about why you are passionate about empowering and transforming your community as a young leader and ambassador to the program. Each response should be no less than a paragraph, but no more than a page. (In order to make sure you save your responses, you may want to begin on a Word document then copy and paste.)

If you are completing the paper application, please attach your essay responses on separate sheets of paper or on a word document.

**1. Describe your school environment or neighborhood where you live. What about that environment makes you proud, and what are social aspects you would like to see change? \***

**2. From your current perspective, what do you see as the greatest challenge toward creating an inclusive Metro Detroit region? \***

**3. In the second semester of our Generation of Promise year, you will work with your peers to create a Capstone Project that strengthens your community organizing skills while advocating for systemic change in our communities. What is your level of commitment to learning about and engaging with social justice issues and community efforts? Are there any issues or communities you are most passionate about? Feel free to share any experiences you've had in those areas. \***

4. During your experience in Generation of Promise, you will learn about the region's diversity and need for inclusive leadership to effect positive change. As a delegate from your school, how will you plan to create positive change and share what you've learned? \*

5. What words would your educators, community members, and peers use to describe your leadership ability or style? \*

6. Describe a leader in your life or in your local community whom you respect. What personal qualities do they possess and how do you think you would incorporate those qualities into your own life and your participation in Generation of Promise? \*

## Generation of Promise Program Application - Part III

Teacher/Mentor Recommendation Letter

**Student Directions:** Please include below the name and contact information of the teacher, counselor, coach, or another person that knows you in a school or professional capacity that will be submitting a recommendation on your behalf. **This person must send a recommendation letter to**

[alexa.borromeo@focushope.edu](mailto:alexa.borromeo@focushope.edu). Recommendations are due by the end of the day on Monday, May 24th.

**Recommender Name \***

**Position \***

**Email \***

**Phone Number \***

**Feel free to copy and paste this in a note to your teacher:**

**Teacher/Mentor Directions:** Please submit a letter of recommendation via e-mail to [alexa.borromeo@focushope.edu](mailto:alexa.borromeo@focushope.edu) by Monday, May 24th. We ask that you please describe the qualities of the applicant's character, connection to social justice and community service, and leadership ability that make this student a strong candidate for the Generation of Promise Program. We are grateful for your assistance.

*Generation of Promise is a social justice and youth development program bringing together students from diverse backgrounds and communities across Metro Detroit. The mission of the program is to build a community of young leaders who celebrate diversity and are dedicated to the elimination of discrimination in Metropolitan Detroit. Our efforts are guided by the belief that building relationships among youth of many cultures and ethnicities results in stronger relationships, an appreciation of individual differences and creates a valuable corps of future leaders.*

## **Generation of Promise Program Application - Part IV**

Parent/Guardian Permission

**Please have a parent or guardian review the information below:**

Students in the Generation of Promise are required to participate in the following. Dates are subject to change in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All programming is virtual until further notice. Our ability to have in-person programming will be re-assessed regularly.

- Orientation Meeting (Tues, Aug 3rd OR Thurs, Aug 5th. 5:30-6:30pm for parents and students. Must attend one.)
- Orientation Retreat (August 20-22, 2021) - Retreat attendance is mandatory.)

- Seven Program Day Sessions (1st Thursday of the month\*, October – May)  
These events take students on visits to sites throughout Metropolitan Detroit. Students are required to miss school on each of these program days as well as obtain transportation to and from Focus: HOPE. Students cannot miss more than one program day. \*Some days may be rescheduled to the 2nd Thursday depending on holidays
- Intense Discussion/Dialogue Sessions (occur during program events)  
Within program events, students engage in structured and informative discussions on sensitive issues that include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, inequality, sexuality, and other topics that affect our community and world at large.
- A Student Exchange Experience (January-February 2022)  
Each student chooses a partner from another school to host at school for an entire day and also spends a school day visiting the partner's school. Students are required to obtain transportation to and from the exchange experiences.
- Capstone Project (Jan - May 2022)  
In the second semester, students will work together in groups to create their Capstone Projects which develop students' community organizing skills while advocating for systems change in our communities. While we will ensure that there is substantial time for students to work on their Capstone Projects during program days, this will require students to meet on their own time. We approximate that students will need to meet 3-6 hours a month outside of the program to successfully complete their Capstone Project.

**By checking this box, you are verifying that your parent or guardian has granted you permission to apply to Generation of Promise Program understanding that, if accepted, you would participate in the Promise Program experience from August 2021 through May 2022. Your parent or guardian has read and understands the content of participation and understands that students who miss the initial retreat or more than one program day may be dismissed from the program. \***

Yes, I have received permission from my parent or guardian to apply for (and participate in) the Generation of Promise Program.