

REACHING OUT

EAB'S OFFICIAL DOWNTOWN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

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Kids Hope Mentoring Update

Kids Hope USA mentor program completed its first full year at the Lawrence Elementary School. Hooray! It has been an amazing year! We have also been blessed with opportunities, as time allows, to meet with our students throughout the summer.

We ended our final week of mentoring with a pizza party in the elementary cafeteria. Each student was presented with an award certificate of character. Words such as...determination, eagerness to learn, compassion, joyful spirit and growth in confidence were used to describe the mentees. "Silly Awards" were also presented to each student which brought many laughs - "Messy Painter Award", "King of Old Maid", "All-Time Game Winner" were some of the awards. The group was also blessed to have Principal Jennifer Curtis and Instructional Coach Laurajane VanNimen attend our party and share encouraging words to the mentors' faithfulness and impact they are having on the students.

For this newsletter, I asked our mentors to share a few sentences about their year of mentoring. My prayer is that their testimonies will encourage some of you who have been thinking of mentoring to sign up to be a Kids Hope mentor! The staff at school informed me during the last week of school that there will be a need for more mentors next fall. Please let me know if you'd like to consider this great opportunity to impact a child's life.

- Ruth Cowles, Kids Hope USA Director

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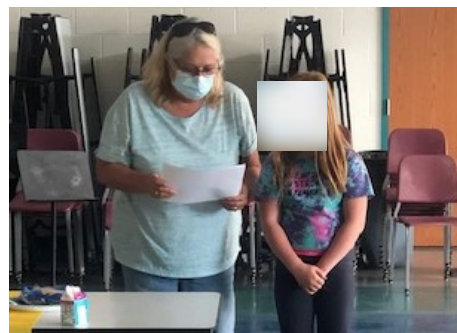
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Mentor Testimonies

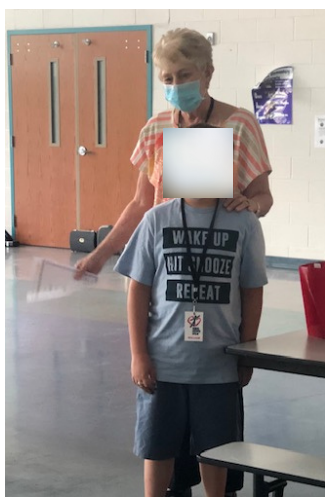
I look forward to meeting with my mentee every week. I've watched him grow as I make a life lesson on pretty much everything we do. I have watched him become more comfortable and just have fun together. We are all unique creations made by God and I like to help bring out the best in him. My mentee helps me as much as I hope I help him. I consider it a privilege to be a part of Kids Hope.

- Rick Romeo

I was concerned with my ability to connect with someone so young, but the first mentoring session removed any doubt about communication issues. As with any process, I learned how to find my student's interests and build on his ability to absorb unique information and ask appropriate open-ended questions. He was very excited about learning things that his curriculum had not yet addressed. The last visit (party) was an excellent example in the fact that my mentee talked openly about almost everything. This was an excellent testament that mentoring has a profound effect on these fragile young lives.

- Dan Miller

We have finished out our school year of mentoring and it has been my privilege to be a part of Kids Hope. You are helping with school work, doing fun things together, but the most rewarding part is building a friendship with a child that needs a little extra attention. Seeing that smile when



he sees you, excited about what we are going to do and asking when I'm coming back. It is only an hour a week, but 60 minutes can make such a difference in a child's life. My thanks to all those who have made this program possible in the Lawrence school system.

- Kathy Haas

Mentoring was a privilege and a wonderful change to pour much needed love and attention into a young man's life. It was very fulfilling to see him change in his confidence. He went from a shy, nontalkative seven-year-old, to a talkative, confident eight-year old. We enjoyed the times we spent together, and I can count the whole experience as a time of not only giving to another, but of service to the Lord.

- Rainelle Shaw



It has been my pleasure to be part of the Kids Hope mentoring program this past year. What a unique, well organized, way to be a blessing in a child's life. I hope many others hear the call to be mentors and blessed in this way.

- Louise Springett

It was a pleasure working with my mentee this year through the Kids Hope Program. Her cheerful personality and enthusiasm for life brought great joy to my heart. I hope that she enjoyed our time together as much as I did. I am hoping that she and I can continue building a relationship together as mentor and mentee next school year through the Kids' Hope Program.

- Robin Taylor

Mentor Day is a highlight of my week! Seeing a student excited that you've arrived to spend time with him, and hearing him chatter all the way as we walk to the mentor room is just the beginning of a great hour with him! The day we got to go outside to throw a frisbee in the side yard was the first I had seen his sweet smile. His smile matched the sparkling eyes I saw each week. I look forward to another year of mentoring him!

- Ruth Cowles

Overheard in the Mentor Room

"So where do you want to sit? Oh, so you want to sit at the head of the table?!"

While painting a picture:

Student: "I can't do this!" (Showing frustration)

Mentor: "You can do it!"

Director's note: It is so amazing to hear our mentors encouraging their students.

Another student while painting, he sang, "I love the blue sky!"

"Are you an overprotective mother?"

Mentors Share in Their Reports

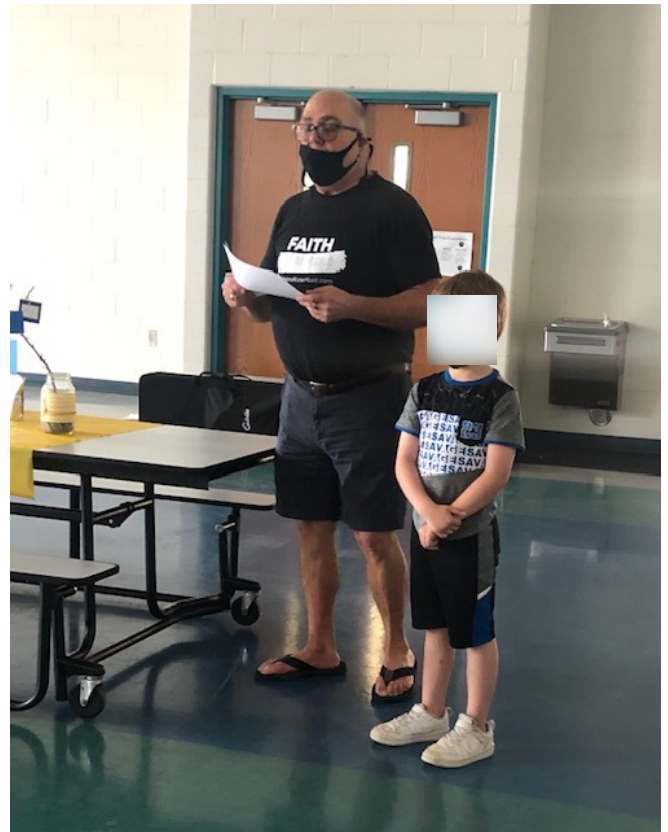
He is smart and a joy to see each week.

I was feeling discouraged today as I felt he used the phrase "I can't do that" to avoid a task he did not want to do. However, upon getting ready to leave, he gave me two hugs and suddenly I was renewed and ready to go again.

We are forming a good bond; he asked if I was coming back next year and I told him, "Yes." He was happy and so was I.

We compared best likes of many topics. I gained a better perspective of my student's character. He is opening up quite a bit and seems to enjoy our weekly meetings.

We had a very good session and did a lot of laughing. He is very fun to work with and we enjoy each other's company.



Downtown Opportunities

9:40 AM Sundays – Pray, wherever you are, for our community and desire for a building downtown!

Please pray specifically for our planning for the 2021-2022 year at the school, involving:

- After School Program (3rd-6th Grades)
- Early Risers (Jr. High & Sr. High)

*See Ruth Cowles if you are interested in helping with our Lawrence Public School students!