



SENDING HOPE YOUR WAY
How your gifts are changing the lives of families forever

A MOTHER'S JOURNEY TO GRADUATION

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED A YOUNG MOTHER FIND COMMUNITY

LISTENING AND LEARNING FOR GREATER IMPACT

Your support helps student parents across the country

With fall comes “back to school” time, and while it may feel like this only applies to those in school, it’s actually an invitation to all of us. The process of better understanding our world, finding solutions to our most pressing problems, and acquiring new skills and information to serve others is a lifelong one. As Founder and CEO of Generation Hope, I have watched our organization grow and thrive over the past 12 years, and one of the things that has remained constant is our commitment to listening and learning — especially from those who are most impacted by the problems we’re working on each day.



In this exciting season for Generation Hope, we’re exploring with our higher education partners what it will take to create college environments that truly embrace and support student parents. Our inaugural FamilyU cohort, for example, just completed its first year of intentional student parent work, and we’ve recently announced the Student Parent Fellows who will serve as leaders at their institutions as they implement new programming and policies. In July, we launched our second FamilyU cohort, further expanding our geographic footprint and driving change for student parents in partnership with seven institutions across the country. At the same time, we’re serving more families and gaining an even deeper understanding of what they face every day. We welcomed our newest — and largest — class of Scholars into our Scholar Program in July, bringing our total number of students to 140, and as part of our new policy work, we’re helping student parents in our program and across the country tell their powerful stories via social media and through original opinion pieces. Their journeys inspire us each and every day.

We invite you to learn alongside us by getting involved. In this newsletter, you will learn more about our work to uplift student parent voices, both locally and nationally. We’ll introduce you to a recent alumna and share her dreams for the future. You’ll read about the Circle of Hope, our new giving opportunity, and you’ll hear more about how FamilyU is impacting student parents nationwide.

Of course, nothing we accomplish would be possible without the steadfast support of our incredible community. We can’t thank you enough for being on this journey toward a better world with us.



Nicole Lynn Lewis
Founder & CEO, Generation Hope

COVID-19 IMPACTS

- More than 25% of Scholars lost work due to COVID-19.
- More than 10% of Scholars were essential workers, struggling to balance parenting, going to school, finding childcare, and working on the front lines during the pandemic.
- Scholars experienced food insecurity, housing instability, domestic violence, isolation, COVID diagnoses, mental health challenges, and other new and magnified challenges.

OUR 2021 IMPACT

122 Scholars receiving wraparound support and **35 Preschool-aged children** receiving early education enrichment



16 Graduates
celebrating degrees



\$147,600 provided in
tuition assistance



500 age-appropriate and culturally-relevant new books given to Scholars' children enrolled in Next Generation Academy



26,000 student parents
impacted through FamilyU
technical assistance services

“ Generation Hope [has] not only helped me and my family through the pandemic but they have been our biggest support since my daughter and I were accepted. I have faced so many challenges these past two years, but because of Generation Hope, my daughter and I didn’t have to face them alone. Generation Hope has helped us with supplies, resources, and the most important thing, motivation to continue to keep pushing through. ”

— **Ja’Neeh Briscoe, Scholar**

WHY I GIVE: ALAN AND IRENE WURTZEL



ABOUT ALAN AND IRENE

Alan and Irene Wurtzel's commitment and support of Generation Hope is not only shown in their personal giving, but also in the way they have engaged their family and community in becoming involved as well. Originally introduced to Generation Hope by their daughter after she prompted him to read *Pregnant Girl*, Alan spoke to us recently about why he is committed to the success of student parents and why he believes everyone should become a part of Generation Hope's community, supporting true pathways for these students to obtain college credentials and secure family-sustaining wages.

Why did *Pregnant Girl* motivate you to make a donation to Generation Hope?

My daughter read the book first and told me that there was a really interesting organization supporting student parents. She said, "There's a book that the founder of Generation Hope wrote that's really worth reading." I bought it, I read it, and I was enthralled. I thought it was a very good story about how she got involved and how Generation Hope came about. When I read the book, I was persuaded that this was a worthwhile objective, and my daughter put me in touch with Nicole. We had a conversation, and it reinforced what I thought, and I decided to support the work.

Why do you think Generation Hope's work is important?

There are two things I look for in philanthropy — is the organization doing the right thing and is it doing it in the right way? Overall, education is always the right thing, but not every organization approaches education access in the right way. What I particularly like about Generation Hope's work is that student parents is a [population] that is overlooked and pushed aside and whose needs are not met. I think it is important to call attention to these needs, both to the public and to the higher education institutions serving these students.

You have spread the news about Generation Hope's work in your family, and you recently helped us make a connection to the Wurtzel Family Foundation to support the participation of one of the institutions in the second cohort of our FamilyU technical assistance program. Why was it important to you to share this mission with your family?

My daughters are interested in making the world a better place and have good hearts. One of my daughters is the contact for a small family foundation in Richmond,

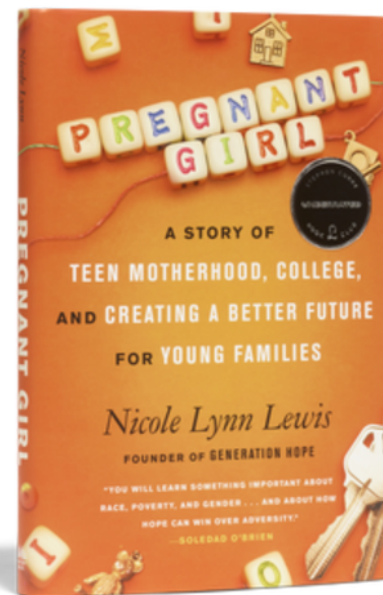
and I suggested that if the foundation had additional support to give, they might devote it to student parents in the Greater Richmond area. She liked the idea and went to work.

What would you say to people who are considering supporting Generation Hope?

Read Nicole's book, which is very persuasive! It is a strong motivator. I had never thought about student parents or students who are parents as a separate category. Students who have dependents to support are more likely to be hard working, persistent, and driven to success. I think you achieve greater impact by supporting students who are parents than by broadly distributing support through higher education institutions.

What are your hopes for the future of Generation Hope?

That it grows and prospers and expands!



Generation Hope's Founder & CEO, Nicole Lynn Lewis, released her memoir *Pregnant Girl* in 2021.



A MOTHER'S JOURNEY TO GRADUATION

Your support helped a young mother find community

“That’s how it all started. On accident.”

Kathy Sheridan, a newly minted alumna of our Scholar program, found Generation Hope unexpectedly and not a moment too soon.

It was 2019 and Kathy was attending Montgomery College (MC), working toward her associate’s degree in social work and raising her son, Alex. A civics class required that she volunteer, so Kathy attended an event where she could learn about local opportunities. Instead, she found Caroline Griswold Short, Director of Programming at Generation Hope.

Their conversation shifted to the Scholar application process when Caroline learned that Kathy was a young parent. “I never thought that I would get in. [But] in a few weeks, I got a phone call, and [Caroline] said that I got accepted as a Scholar.”

Beginnings

Kathy’s family immigrated from Bolivia when she was a child. She went to school in Virginia while learning an entirely new language and culture. She recalls being bullied during those formative years because she was “different.” Kathy persisted, graduated, and decided to attend Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) to study nursing.

During her first year at NOVA, Kathy found out she was pregnant, and Alex was born in November 2013. As a new mom, her priorities quickly shifted, and she was also in an abusive marriage. “Everything that domestic violence brings, I was in it,” she says. Wanting to protect herself and Alex, Kathy gathered the strength to leave the relationship. “There was court hearing after court hearing from then on out.” Ultimately, Kathy gained full custody and moved with her son and parents to Maryland.

With support from her family, Kathy decided to pursue her education again in 2018, four years after stopping out of NOVA when Alex was an infant. But she realized that nursing was not the right path. “I knew I always wanted to help people. So that’s why I wanted to be a nurse. But that was not for me,” Kathy explains. She chose social work after her own challenging experience with the legal system. Kathy interned at Catholic Charities and Family Justice Center, learning even more about the field. A highlight of her internship experiences was serving as a translator in court for a client who was experiencing domestic violence and ended up winning her protective order case. “It was a great day,” Kathy says.

She returned to school in January 2018, enrolling at

MC for social work. Kathy learned about Generation Hope in 2019 and became a Scholar shortly thereafter. She graduated from MC in 2020 with her associate's degree and continued on to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) that fall to earn her bachelor's degree.

Becoming a GH Scholar

When Kathy joined Generation Hope's Scholar program in 2019, it was the first time that she had a support system beyond her immediate family, a group of people singularly focused on helping her achieve her dream of earning a bachelor's degree. One of these people was her Mentor, Lori Anderson, who worked with Kathy for nearly three years. Despite very busy schedules, Lori and Kathy connected throughout the pandemic. When it wasn't possible to meet in person, they would call each other and talk on the phone.

"She's constantly just checking up on me."



Lori mentored Kathy during her years in Generation Hope, providing support and community on her college journey.

In addition to Lori, Kathy sought guidance from Asia Vianna Leak, Generation Hope's Mental Health Manager, who offered emotional support as well as practical advice. She gave Kathy book recommendations to learn more about Alex's ADHD diagnosis and tips for practicing patience as a parent. Other times, Asia just listened. "I [have been] with her since I started Generation Hope. So she's seen me grow up," Kathy explains.

Kathy was also paired with Hope Coach, Sidney Walker. From resume writing to applying for the FAFSA or simply checking in by text, Kathy says Sidney's help was invaluable. "You know, it's not just a coach. It's like a friend in a way that she's there for me, that I can just talk to her."

Before and even during the pandemic, Kathy and Alex



Kathy graduated from University of Maryland, Baltimore County this spring with her son and her family by her side.

took advantage of many enrichment experiences offered by Generation Hope. She fondly remembers a field trip to the United States Capitol Building that Alex enjoyed as a young history buff. Other special memories include bedtime stories read on Facebook Live by Founder and CEO Nicole Lynn Lewis and a kids-only counseling group led by Asia that Alex joined. "I thought that that was incredible...even though we weren't together physically... we were still part of Generation Hope."

Graduation Day

Kathy's commencement ceremony at UMBC came one day before Bolivia's Mother's Day. "It was a Mother's Day gift," Kathy explains.

In attendance were her proud parents, her son, her now-husband, Grant, and Lori. But it still did not feel real. After so many years working toward this goal, Kathy could not believe she had made it. She went home after the ceremony and took a nap, still wearing her cap, gown, and shoes. When she woke up, it finally hit her:

"I did it!"

NEW STUDENT-PARENT REPORT

Kathy is one of 94 young parents who have earned their degrees with the support of Generation Hope and are now pursuing careers and/or enrolled in graduate school. This summer, we collected data to learn about their post-graduation experiences and the impact of a post secondary credential on young families. We just released these findings in a first-of-its-kind report, "Higher Together: The Impact of a College Degree for Young Parents." Visit generationhope.org/alumni-report-2022 to learn more.





INVEST IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR FAMILIES

Join the Circle of Hope, our new giving opportunity

The Circle of Hope is a special community of Generation Hope's most generous supporters who have made multi-year investments in the future of our organization. Circle of Hope members play a critical role in helping meet the ambitious goals of Generation Hope's 2024 Strategic Plan, and have opportunities to engage with other members and leaders in the areas of higher education, entrepreneurship, and economic mobility, as well as Generation Hope leadership, staff, and Scholars.

Giving levels begin at \$2,500/year (\$7,500 total three-year pledge) and feature prominent listings on materials and signage, invitations to community events, a signed copy of *Pregnant Girl* by our Founder and CEO Nicole Lynn Lewis, and additional customizable benefits for the top three levels.

In the year ahead, we'll also have other opportunities for Circle of Hope members to get involved, including:

- Special opportunities to connect with other Circle of Hope members, Generation Hope board members, and our Scholars as part of our community and fundraising events
- A Circle of Hope gathering that will provide an opportunity for Circle of Hope members to connect with Scholars and each other while learning more about the experiences of student parents
- Regular behind-the-scenes updates about our strategic plan and what is ahead for our direct service and systems-change work

If you are interested in making a powerful commitment to a better future for families, you can learn more about our Circle of Hope opportunity and make a gift at generationhope.org/circle-of-hope or contact Jessica Wisser, Director of Development & Communications at jessica@generationhope.org

EXCITING NEWS FROM GENERATION HOPE

CONGRATULATIONS, REGINALD!

Generation Hope COO Reginald Grant was recently announced a Leap Ambassador by the Leap of Reason Ambassadors Community, a private community built to convince social-sector leaders to invest in continuous improvement so nonprofits can be high-performance organizations, with the ability to deliver — over a prolonged period of time — equitable, meaningful, measurable, and financially sustainable results for the people or causes the organization is in existence to serve. We're so proud of Reginald for this recognition!

PREGNANT GIRL TURNS ONE

In May, we celebrated the one-year anniversary and the paperback launch of our Founder and CEO's powerful memoir, *Pregnant Girl*. Get your copy anywhere books are sold today and find out why the *New York Times* said, "Lewis proves that teen mom stories are never simple arcs but constellations of inequities of racism and class that catalyze the chemicals in that pregnancy test."

"ONE OF THE BEST" NONPROFITS

For the third time, Generation Hope has been selected as a featured nonprofit in the Greater Washington Catalogue for Philanthropy. This honor recognizes Generation Hope as "one of the best" nonprofits in the D.C. area.

STUDENT PARENT MONTH

In September, we celebrated National Student Parent Month, sharing Scholar and alumni stories across social media! Check out our channels to learn how we're advocating for and with student parents!





DRIVING CHANGE IN HIGHER ED FOR & WITH STUDENT PARENTS

Our FamilyU Cohorts impact parenting students across the nation

There are nearly 5 million parenting college students across the country, including Generation Hope's inspiring Scholars. Despite making up approximately 25% of today's undergraduates, they are 10 times less likely to earn a bachelor's degree within five years than their non-parenting peers due to a myriad of factors, chief among them is a lack of institutional support. Student parents fall under the radar of most colleges and universities, resulting in campus environments that lack policies and practices that embrace these students and ensure they earn their degrees.

Building upon more than a decade of helping our Scholars achieve their educational goals, Generation Hope

launched a technical assistance program, FamilyU, in 2020 allowing us to partner with colleges to create truly family-friendly institutions that accelerate student parent success.

FamilyU provides consulting to organizations and institutions that are interested in enhancing their supports for parenting students and also engages higher education leaders at a select group of colleges in a two-year capacity-building cohort experience designed to create transformations leading to sustainable improved outcomes for student parents. Within each cohort, institutional teams participate in peer learning convenings and campus-focused independent coaching

sessions with a dedicated member of the Generation Hope staff. They also add a critical member to their institutional team: the Student Parent Fellow. These fellows, who are trained and compensated by Generation Hope, are student parents currently enrolled at each school. They ensure that student parent voice and input are centered throughout the process of implementing programming and practices that will create lasting change for student parents, and they carry out a project of their own during their one-year Fellowship.

Over the past year, FamilyU has impacted an estimated 26,000 parenting college students.



Student Parent Fellow Valeria (left) and Dr. Ja'Bette Lozupone of Montgomery College (right) at a FamilyU Cohort Convening.

"I've always known my calling was to help people with my voice, but I didn't necessarily understand the direction I was to go in. Here I am now, manifestation imagined, and I'm looking forward to using my platform and experiences to help shape new, easier paths for student parents!"

— Lorraine Oyetubo, Student Parent Fellow, Trinity Washington University

"Whatever we do to make education more accessible, more affordable, more flexible, all of those things that will without a doubt affect student parents are also going to directly impact other student populations."

— Dr. Ja'Bette Lozupone, Director of Student Affairs, Montgomery College, FamilyU Cohort Member



Student Parent Fellows Lorraine Oyetubo (left) and Mercy Osei-Hwedie (right) speaking at their orientation to kick off their fellowship.

Want to learn more about FamilyU?

Visit generationhope.org/familyucohort or contact our team at familyu@generationhope.org



Our Class of 2022 Scholar Graduates celebrating with their little ones and our Founder and CEO, Nicole Lynn Lewis.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

DONATE

Make a donation to power Generation Hope's two-generation solution to poverty. Your support makes a difference now more than ever as we just welcomed the largest class of Scholars in Generation Hope history.

- **\$1,000** ensures 8 Scholars can participate in career-readiness programming
- **\$500** provides training for new Scholars and their Mentors to equip them with the tools for successful, supportive mentoring relationships
- **\$100** provides culturally-relevant, age-appropriate books to build the home library of a Next Generation Academy family
- **\$25** provides a gift card to help a Scholar access critical needs like gas and groceries

Make your gift here:



To make in-kind donations, please contact Angie Sanchez: angie@generationhope.org | 202-350-1685

MENTOR A FAMILY

Mentor as a group by becoming a Resource Family! Build a supportive, lasting relationship with a young parent pursuing their college degree and their pre-k little one. Learn more and apply: <https://www.generationhope.org/mentor>

VOLUNTEER

Apply to be a childcare volunteer! We have an urgent need for childcare volunteers this fall. Please sign up online: <https://bit.ly/ghchildcare>. If you have any questions about these opportunities or eligibility, please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator J'Reisz Garcia at j'reisz@generationhope.org. Thank you in advance for volunteering with us!

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