

# SENDING **HOPE** YOUR WAY

A close-up photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, smiling broadly. She is holding a baby who is lying on their back, also smiling. The woman is wearing a light blue collared shirt. The baby is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a colorful floral pattern. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

*How your gifts are changing families forever*

Fall 2019

## **A LIFE-CHANGING MOMENT**

**YOUR SUPPORT CREATED  
NEW POSSIBILITIES**

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**NICOLE LYNN LEWIS**  
Founder & CEO

# A VOICE FOR CHANGE

*YOUR SUPPORT IS A MEGAPHONE FOR STUDENT PARENTS*

**U**sing your voice to create change is an amazing feeling. What's even more amazing is knowing that someone is listening. More and more, Generation Hope is working with Scholars to amplify their experiences, whether testifying on Capitol Hill or sitting on the set of "Good Morning America." Creating space for them to tell their stories and making sure that they have a seat at the table is something we care about deeply.

Our Scholars' experiences inform the work that we do each day. Their feedback shapes our policies and guides our decisions. The result is authentic programming that is rooted in what is *really* happening in the lives of young parents and their

children. We want to take this authenticity out into the world to influence the way that people think about teen parents, student parents, and their children, as well as the decisions that people make that will impact their future.

*"Your support is making this next-level change possible, and it communicates to our Scholars that their voices matter. You are listening. The world is listening."*

Your support is making this next-level change possible, and it communicates to our Scholars that their voices matter. You are listening. The world is listening.

Thank you for making our daily work with young parents and their children possible, and thank you for coming along on this journey with us as we take this work out into the world.

**Founder & CEO**  
Generation Hope

## SAVE THE DATE!

# THE GENERATION HOPE *Gala*

FRIDAY, June 5, 2020

6:30 PM — 11:00 PM | THE WASHINGTON HILTON  
[supportgenerationhope.org/gala](http://supportgenerationhope.org/gala)



# KIMBERLY KORBEL

## WHY I GIVE

### ABOUT KIMBERLY

Kimberly Korbel, a founding board member of Generation Hope, is an association management professional who for over 35 years has specialized in the leadership of manufacturing trade associations. Kimberly currently serves as the elected Chair of the Board of Advisors of the Council of Manufacturing Associations of the National Association of Manufacturers.



*When we say that Kimberly Korbel has been an integral member of the Generation Hope family since the beginning, we truly mean it. In fact, Kimberly wrote the first check to Generation Hope, was a founding member of our Board of Directors and our first President, sponsored a Scholar in our first class, and has recruited many others to support our mission.*

#### **How did you find out about Generation Hope?**

Nicole approached me when she was just starting Generation Hope -- before the organization even had nonprofit status. I felt particularly drawn to the mission because of my own experience as a teen mother. Having experienced the challenges of going to college while raising a child, I have such appreciation for our Scholars and respect for the hard work they are doing on behalf of their families. One moment that particularly stands out to me in the early days is when we decided to use the word "Scholars" to describe the students we serve. We all agreed that using the term Scholars truly reflects the incredible young people we serve and flies in the face of stereotypes of young parents. That was one of the first important steps in building Generation Hope's values and sense of community.

#### **Why is this work so important?**

It is so crucial for us to support families. Young parents have enormous untapped potential. When young families thrive, our entire community can thrive. Generation Hope is doing this work in such a unique and impactful way. I have seen firsthand how this program changes lives across two generations.

**For six years, you sponsored a Scholar in the program and supported her through both her Associate's and Bachelor's degrees. What was that experience like for you?**

It was such an incredible experience sponsoring Emerita and her son Dominic. Emerita is one of the most driven people I've ever met. When I became her Sponsor, she was working three jobs to support her

*"I have such appreciation for our Scholars and respect for the hard work they are doing on behalf of their families."*

toddler and financially contributing to her family, all while going to school. She faced many obstacles along the way, so seeing her walk across the graduation stage at Northern Virginia Community College and then at George Mason University was so amazing. The direction of her life, and the lives of her children, completely changed as a result of her college degree. I am so proud to have been a part of her story.

**Now that your Scholar has graduated and you have rolled off the Board of Directors, how have you stayed involved with Generation Hope?**

I have stayed involved as a donor and recruited mentors, and I'm always talking about Generation Hope with friends and colleagues. For example, recently I featured Generation Hope at one of my professional events with the goal of encouraging others to support the organization and learn more about the way we're supporting motivated teen parents in reaching their goals.

**What does it mean to you to be part of the Generation Hope community?**

The Generation Hope community is truly special. We are committed to prioritizing relationships, not only between a Scholar and their Sponsor but with staff, board members, and our broader community. I asked a friend to become a mentor and she and I, our Scholars and their children, and my granddaughter had such wonderful times going through this experience together.

**What do you think the future holds for Generation Hope?**

I see continued smart growth in Generation Hope's future, and I can't wait to see what's next. We know that anyone can succeed when someone believes in them.



# A LIFE-CHANGING MOMENT

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It was a cold fall day. Christina Tran had bundled up her 6-month-old daughter Collette and carried her into Starbucks for what would be their first interaction with Generation Hope.

“It’s still like it was yesterday,” Christina smiles, “I put Collette down in her little baby car seat, and we had a two-hour talk with Caroline, the Director of Programming, about Generation Hope. *That was the moment I was able to change my life.* Because of the program, I decided to go back to school. They helped me to find a better job and better childcare, and it’s just pretty amazing.”

Before meeting Caroline, Christina had graduated from high school and had completed one semester of community college before she dropped out to give birth to and provide for her daughter. She was working as a substitute teacher and held two retail jobs, juggling

three jobs at a time, to cover her rent and pay for childcare. But she wanted a better life for Collette.

A friend of Christina’s told her about Generation Hope. “My friend Colleen, she’s a Generation Hope alum now, gave me Caroline’s email.” Caroline talked her through the process, Christina applied, was accepted, and began her journey as a Generation Hope Scholar.

Christina has since earned an Associate’s degree in Teacher Education from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and is currently enrolled at George Mason University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in information technology. Collette, who is 4-years-old now, is thriving in Generation Hope’s Next Generation Academy, which provides our Scholars’ children ages one to five with cognitive and literacy support to ensure that they are kindergarten ready.

"We get a lot of extra people to help us with the things that we might need," Christina explains.

Not only does Christina have a mentor, with whom she shares a strong bond and meets monthly, she has a monthly home visit with a Hope Coach and a monthly family dinner with the other Scholars and their children as part of Next Generation Academy. Christina also receives a \$200 monthly stipend to help pay for childcare or a qualifying developmental activity for Collette.

"Collette has learned a lot of new things," Christina says excitedly. "What's nice and my favorite part is when they do the testing to determine whether Collette is developmentally okay. They do testing for that about every quarter, for Collette and for me as a parent. I know that Collette is up-to-date. She does really well on her tests. We go down a list of things that Collette is supposed to be able to do, things like her letters, colors, or like throwing a ball overhand instead of underhand."

Reading is also highly encouraged, "Every time we meet they give us a book. We usually read every single day before we go to sleep." Christina adds, "We're always doing an activity that helps Collette grow mentally or physically, which is nice. One of my favorite ones is when we used tape to stick leaves on paper so that Collette learns texture and fine motor skills."

Christina says Generation Hope has also encouraged her to use her voice to increase awareness about student parents. She was one of a group of Scholars selected to participate in Generation Hope's Family Friendly Campus Roundtable discussion this year. "There are a lot of things that are missing for parent students," Christina explains. "There's no changing tables in school bathrooms, and there's no childcare and there's no vouchers, and sometimes professors discriminate against parent students."

On campus, Christina often feels like she doesn't belong, but with Generation Hope, "I know I'm not alone," she says. "I have my Generation Hope family. They really are there for you. They don't just say it. They actually act on it."

**"I HAVE MY GENERATION HOPE FAMILY. THEY REALLY ARE THERE FOR YOU. THEY DON'T JUST SAY IT. THEY ACTUALLY ACT ON IT."**

Connecting with other student parents, who share their stories, challenges and what they do to overcome them, has also made Christina stronger and more confident about attending college as a young mom. "There are so many things that professors say or other people say that makes it a less friendly environment for parent students. It makes us feel like we shouldn't even be there," Christina explains. "But I know I worked hard to be here."

"I think it's amazing how positive she is about her future," says Morgan O'Donnell, Christina's mentor and the Director of Regulatory Strategy and Revenue Policy at Pepco Holdings. "The first time we met, I was so impressed with her poise and energy. She is very warm, friendly, and confident. I think she is motivated by the independence and freedom that a college degree and career in information technology will provide. I think she also wants to be a strong example for Collette."

"Morgan is super sweet," Christina smiles. "She's so outgoing, she's so compassionate, and she just cares so much about things. She finished her Bachelor's degree late, but she's still successful, so that gives me hope."

"I didn't graduate from college until I was 30 and understand how certain life changes or circumstances can delay one's education," Morgan explains. "But that delay doesn't necessarily have to be a setback nor a determination of career success."

Seeing Morgan's experience and hearing the stories of fellow Generation Hope Scholars inspires Christina to keep going. They are reminders that you can be successful, no matter your path.

Written by VICTORIA VICKERS





# Generation Hope

*Amplifying & Advocating*

In September, Generation Hope was featured on "Good Morning America"! It was an incredible moment to talk about the experience of young parents in college on a national stage. Scholar Karen Escobar, who attends George Mason University, and her daughter Gloria joined our Founder and CEO Nicole Lynn Lewis live in studio with Robin Roberts and her fellow anchors.

Thanks to you, Generation Hope has grown from working with seven driven teen parents in college in 2010 to 100 Scholars each year. And now, with your continued support, Generation Hope is working to increase awareness about the experiences of young parents in college across the country and the two-generation supports that young families need to thrive.

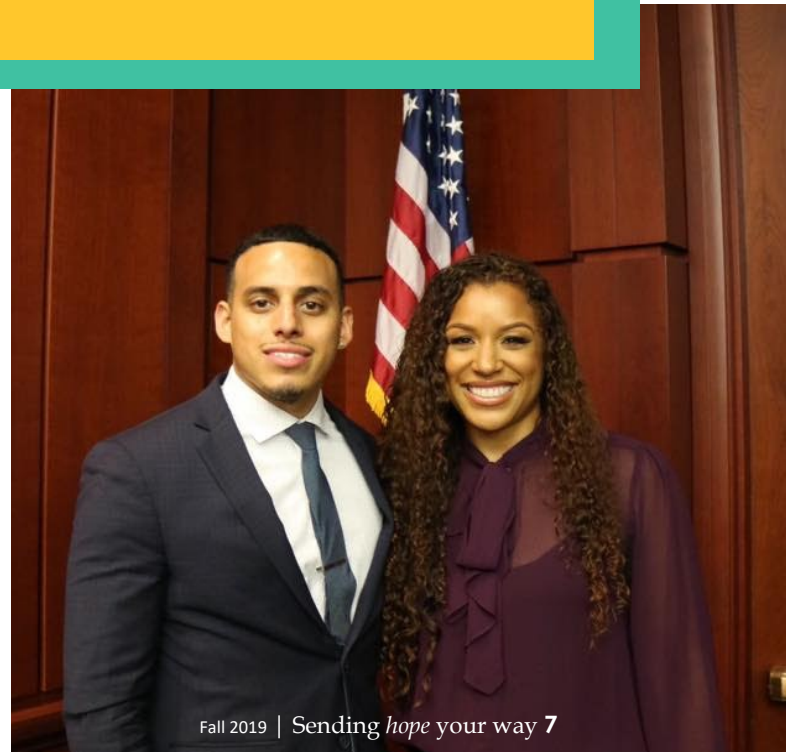
Top: Scholar Nija, her son DJ, Nicole, and Generation Hope Board President Rebecca Linder cut the ribbon on our new office and family-friendly study space pictured at bottom. Our new office will be utilized by our Scholars and their children and will provide space for on-site programming.





**Generation Hope Scholars are incredible advocates!** This fall, Scholars joined our Founder and CEO Nicole Lynn Lewis at Capitol Hill briefings, forums, and roundtables across the country, sharing their experiences as student parents and advocating for increased support for families from Congress, higher education advocates, colleges, and philanthropy.

*Our advocates in action (top left to bottom right):* Scholars Almendra, Ana, Ariel, Romelia, and Karen met with Anne Holton, interim president at George Mason University | Scholars Joseph and Alyssa shared their experiences as young parents in college at Generation Hope's Family Friendly Campus Roundtable | Scholar Ariel spoke on a panel with Nicole at a Capitol Hill Briefing on College Students who are Parents, which was supported by the Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation and co-hosted by Achieving the Dream, Ascend at the Aspen Institute, Center for Law and Social Policy, Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Institute for Women's Policy Research, and Rise.



# Winter Needs



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Please contact  
Michelle Avelino  
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supportgenerationhope.org  
202-656-9539

On November 17 we held our Pancake Battle fall fundraiser at Nationals Park! Thank you to our generous sponsors:



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## YOU CAN IMPACT A YOUNG FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

### donate

- \$50 provides diapers and wipes for a Scholar family
- \$250 provides 10 Scholars with gas cards to help them make it to class each day for one week
- \$5,000 ensures we have a robust Emergency Fund to help Scholars in crisis situations (e.g. eviction, or lack of food or childcare) so these challenges don't prevent them from graduating.

### volunteer

- Provide childcare for Scholars' kiddos at trainings and events
- Volunteer at Generation Hope's holiday party on December 18
- Mentor as an individual (Sponsor) or a group (Resource Family) to help teen parents and their children thrive

## STAY CONNECTED



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