



Sending *hope* your way

SPRING 2017



*FINALLY  
FINDING  
HOPE*

HOW YOUR GIFT PROVIDED HELP  
AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

# the honor belongs to *you*



**Nicole Lynn Lewis**  
Founder & CEO

*“One of the first and most powerful things that a teen parent hears when they enter our program is, ‘You are important and capable of great things.’ ”*

*“My first job was working as a cashier at Kmart in high school. I learned how important it is to treat everyone with respect. People are not always nice to cashiers, and I have never forgotten that. Say hello to the receptionist or janitor in the same way you would say hello to the CEO.”*

This spring, I have been fortunate to receive honors from the *Washington Business Journal* and *Washingtonian Magazine*. Both articles provided an opportunity for me to reflect on Generation Hope’s seven-year history and my own journey as a leader.

Yes, my first job was working as a cashier at Kmart. It was only a few days per week, but it provided me with an invaluable experience; understanding the importance and value of treating all people with respect. And it has been a core value for me ever since.

Here at Generation Hope, this value is evident in everything we do. Teen parents can be treated so poorly. They are told that their lives will not amount to much. They are often dismissed, discounted, and disrespected. We are intentional about embracing them, valuing them, and believing in them.

As we prepare to welcome our seventh class of Scholars into the program this July, bringing the total number of teen parents that we support in college to 100, I want to *thank you* for making this life-transforming work possible. One of the first and most powerful things that a teen parent hears when they enter our program is, *“You are important and capable of great things.”* So, the honors truly belong to you — someone who makes it all possible.

## YOU ARE INVITED

**JUNE 16, 2017**

Sixth Annual “Pep Rally Under the Stars” Gala

Come dressed in your cocktail attire and college memorabilia for our big bash at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a silent auction, dinner, dancing, and mingling with our amazing Scholars!



# Mozella Perry Ademiluyi

GENERATION HOPE

*in my own words*

When I turned 60, I climbed to Mt. Kilimanjaro's 19,342 foot Uhuru Peak in nine days -- my sister and a childhood friend accompanied me. It took a team of 16 porters and two guides to support our efforts and ensure our success.

My name is Mozella Perry Ademiluyi, and I am the Honorary Chair of Generation Hope's June 16, 2017 "Pep Rally Under the Stars" Gala. Generation Hope's mountaintop goal for this annual fundraiser is \$175,000. It takes a team to climb that mountain, and we need you.

Nicole Lynn Lewis, Generation Hope's CEO, founded this organization to achieve one significant goal: to reduce poverty one family at a time by providing tuition assistance, one-on-one mentoring, and crisis support to teen parents who are attending college in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia.

As a teenage mom herself, Nicole achieved a major mountaintop by overcoming the odds to complete her degree in four years at the College of William & Mary. She is a dynamic and passionate leader who guides teams to support young parents as they work through the challenges that she once faced.

***"WE CLIMBED MT. KILIMANJARO IN 2013 TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF MY FATHER, WHO BECAME A TEENAGE FATHER HIMSELF AT 17."***

We climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2013 to honor the legacy of my father, who became a teenage father himself at 17. He, too, overcame the odds by finishing high school and university. And in 1962, at the age of 33, he achieved his teenage dream of living and working on the African continent by moving his family to East and West Africa for the following 18 years. The sign we carried to Uhuru Peak simply read: *"It's Possible."*



I am inviting you to join me in taking Generation Hope to this year's mountain peak. Let's tell them yes, this year's goal is possible! Becoming a part of this team is easy.

- Become a sponsor (Sponsorships range from \$3,000 to \$50,000. You can sponsor yourself or recruit a sponsor within your network)
- Purchase a table of 10 for \$1,250
- Buy a ticket (\$150) or a couple's ticket (\$275)
- Can't attend on June 16th? Make a donation in lieu of attendance. Any amount will help us reach the mountain peak!

When you do any of these things, you will join me in helping Generation Hope lead close to 100 parenting students to their individual educational summits. Now that's a mountain worth climbing!

To purchase your sponsorship, table or tickets or to make a donation, please go to [www.supportgenerationhope.org/gala](http://www.supportgenerationhope.org/gala). I look forward to seeing you on June 16th!

# FINALLY FINDING HOPE

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## SHE FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS PREGNANT DURING FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Melissa Carpancho found hope when she least expected it. She was just about to trash a stack of old magazines from under her coffee table when something prompted her to stop and sort through them first. Flipping through the stack, Melissa pulled out the Fall 2015 issue of George Mason University's *Mason Magazine*. That's where she found it, on page 38, the story of George Mason alumna Nicole Lynn Lewis, who founded Generation Hope four years after earning her master's degree from George Mason University. The article inspired Melissa to contact Generation Hope.

That was the first time Melissa had ever even read the magazine.

"I never read them because I don't have time," she said. "I'm not sure what prompted me to read that

particular issue, but that week was really hard. **I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MONEY, MY LOANS, AND THINKING I REALLY NEEDED HELP.** It was the first issue of *Mason Magazine* I had ever opened, and I had been a student at Mason for a while."

The application deadline for the 2016 Scholar class was fast approaching. So, Melissa, then a rising junior at George Mason University in Virginia, submitted her application right away.

"It's been less than a year with Generation Hope, and I feel like it's everything I needed in my life," said Melissa, who is on track to graduate from George Mason University in May, with a B.A. Degree after declaring a double major in Psychology and Economics.

Graduation will be a proud day for Melissa and her family, which includes her soon-to-be, three-year-old son Lucas.

Becoming a parent at 19 – her freshman year at Mason – changed Melissa's life in ways she could not have anticipated. "I had to plan fast and figure out what

I wanted to do with my life, basically make changes and tweaks to my goals that were more in line with being a parent.”

It was during orientation week, her freshman year, that Melissa learned she was pregnant. The thought of being a parent was overwhelming.

**“I REMEMBER THINKING — IT ALL LIES IN MY HANDS.** It’s up to me to determine the kind of future me and Lucas and his dad will have. It was a scary thought,” she recalled.

It may have taken three years for Melissa to find Generation Hope, but the extra encouragement Melissa receives from the organization, and her mentor Amy Loder, has created a bond that will last a lifetime. “When I get discouraged, I talk to Amy,” said Melissa. “She has a really big heart, and she really cares.”

As much as Melissa has been inspired by Generation Hope, *she* is an inspiration to others.

“Melissa has a deep inner wisdom and she is able to access it even in the toughest situations,” Amy explained. “She gives a lot of thought to the choices and decisions she makes. She is not afraid to use her voice to speak up for herself and others. She’s persistent. Especially with anything school or work related. She will call or email or show up at an office to make sure she gets an answer, and she does it in a really professional and respectful way. I love it! She’s not afraid to ask for help, which is such an important life lesson.”

Melissa is amazed at how comfortable she is talking to Amy after knowing her for only a short time.

“I wasn’t always so trusting. I know with Generation Hope there’s no judgment and that’s helped me open up. That’s what’s so special about Generation Hope.” Melissa said. “They know all about me, and they really care.”



**Melissa, Lucas, and Amy (Photo: XXXX)**

*In just a few weeks, Melissa will graduate and start her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Administration of Justice at GMU. **She wants to work for the Department of Justice to create justice reform that will improve the treatment and rehabilitation process of inmates, adults, and juveniles.***

Written by VICTORIA VICKERS



“LOVE RECOGNIZES NO BARRIERS. IT JUMPS HURDLES, LEAPS FENCES, PENETRATES WALLS TO ARRIVE AT ITS DESTINATION FULL OF HOPE. “  
MAYA ANGELOU

MENTOR

## ONCE A MONTH, YOU CAN FIND SHAUNA TURNER SPENDING TIME WITH A YOUNG MOTHER IN COLLEGE NAMED PAULA.

They have developed a wonderful mentoring relationship built on listening, sharing, and fun. For Shauna, the desire to be a Sponsor in the Generation Hope Scholar program came from her own experience as a teen mother — a journey of uncertainty, challenges, and triumphs.

In 1990, Shauna dropped out of a traditional high school to give birth to her daughter at age 18. She then went on to marry her husband at 19 and graduated with her high school class while nine months pregnant. She completed her cosmetology

degree in 1991, only a few months before giving birth to her son. Eventually, she earned an associate’s degree, a Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology, and a Master’s of Public Administration.

“As a teen mom, I remember how nervous my family, friends, and teachers were about how my children would turn out,” Shauna said.

**“WHETHER YOU START SMALL BY  
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Her own commitment to her education provided a strong foundation for children. Shauna's daughter has a master's degree in architecture and is currently working at a firm in Virginia while finding time to volunteer for Generation Hope. Her son, who served in the U.S Navy for four years, is now enrolled as a full-time college student.

Shauna discovered Generation Hope when looking for a volunteering opportunity online. Not long after, she watched a CNN Heroes segment on Nicole Lynn Lewis, Generation Hope's Founder and CEO.

**"IT WAS FATE!"** she says. That is when it became clear to Shauna that she needed to become a Generation Hope Sponsor.

Shauna met her Scholar, Paula Romero, during the summer of 2016.

"Paula made a perfect first impression: She's intelligent, motivated, gracious, kind hearted, and beautiful. Most importantly, she's a phenomenal wife, mother, daughter, and student."

Shauna's unpredictable travel schedule meant that their first meeting would need to happen at the Generation Hope office, rather than during the Scholar/Sponsor Training in July. In fact, the biggest challenge she and Paula have faced is finding time to meet. However, they have made it a priority, and despite that unconventional first meeting, they have created numerous memories in the months since. Among Shauna's favorites are Paula's acceptance into

George Mason University, her success at finding a new job, the celebration of her son Jacob's birthday, and the outing they took to see ICE (an American take on the Asian ice lantern festival) at the National Harbor.

While mentoring requires Shauna to share her time and experience with Paula, she has received so much in return.

"I admire Paula's dedication, humility, and gratitude. We are still getting to know one another, and I believe that our relationship will continue to blossom."

Thinking about getting involved with Generation Hope? Shauna has the following message for you:

"Just do it! The Generation Hope staff will give you the support and encouragement that you need to overcome any challenge or fear that you may have. Whether you start small by volunteering at events or



decide to become a Sponsor, you will receive support, love, and encouragement from the Generation Hope family."

If you'd like to learn more about mentoring a Generation Hope Scholar, visit:

[supportgenerationhope.org/why-sponsor](http://supportgenerationhope.org/why-sponsor)

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Written by **CHLOE BARNARD**

# THANK YOU

FOR MAKING THE 2017  
"HOPE STROLL"  
A SUCCESS!

**\$27,150 RAISED!**

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A BIG THANK YOU TO  
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STAY TUNED FOR NEXT  
YEAR'S DATE!

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

### GIVE

Your financial support makes our work possible.

### VOLUNTEER

Use your talents and gifts to impact our Scholars.

### PARTNER

Monthly giving provides support that we can rely on.

### MENTOR

We're accepting application NOW for individuals who want to sponsor our incoming students!

## STAY CONNECTED



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