

# SENDING HOPE YOUR WAY



*How your gifts are changing families forever*

SPRING 2019

**LIFE**

**INTERRUPTED**

YOUR GIFTS CREATED  
NEW POSSIBILITIES



**NICOLE LYNN LEWIS**  
Founder & CEO

# THE POWER OF ONE

## YOUR SUPPORT GIVES US HOPE

The needs of the world can at times feel overwhelming, but the difference that each of us can make is powerful. Generation Hope was built on this premise — that each of us has the ability to change the world one person and one family at time.

This work is not easy, but you give me hope. Your gifts make it possible for young parents to pursue their college degrees — something others have told them is impossible. Your gifts put a brand new book in the hands of a child of a teen parent through our new children’s program, Next Generation Academy, opening up new worlds and opportunities. Your gifts provide free tutoring to help a student get back on track in a challenging class.

*“Generation Hope was built on this premise — that each of us has the ability to change the world one person and one family at time.”*

This generosity has also allowed Generation Hope to think creatively about how we will help young families thrive. In March, on our 9th birthday, we unveiled a new logo and brand that better reflects our exciting new direction. We are just wrapping up an office expansion and renovation that includes an on-site classroom and family-friendly study area. We are also rolling out new mental health and career-readiness programming that will enhance the way that we support our Scholars and their children and prepare them for the future.

Thank you for giving us hope and proving that one person can make the world a better place.

## PEP RALLY UNDER THE STARS *Gala*

### EMCEE

**JAMES MACGREGOR**

Vice President of Local Markets for American Business Journals

### MVP AWARD

**TAMIKA L. TREMAGLIO**, Greater Washington Managing Principal at Deloitte, and her mother **PAMELA A. LANGLEY**

**FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019**

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

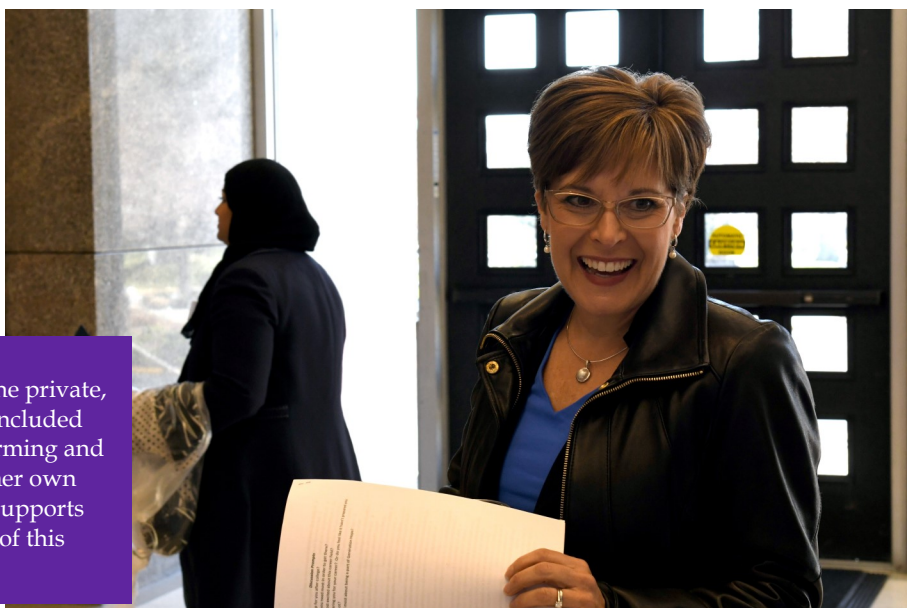
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

# KAREN NUSSLE

## WHY I GIVE

### ABOUT KAREN

Karen is a veteran chief executive with experience in the private, public, political, and nonprofit sectors. Her work has included running high profile national advocacy campaigns, forming and advising national boards, and founding and running her own successful marketing firm. Here, she shares why she supports Generation Hope as a board member and the co-chair of this year's "Pep Rally Under the Stars" Gala.



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

Former founding board member, Kimberly Korbel, was a member of our church, and she introduced Generation Hope to our church community. We sponsored a Scholar as a church and got to know Emerita and her son. We also got to know Nicole and were just so impressed with her and the mission of the organization. We also have a very personal connection to the mission, so we have been supporters from the minute we encountered Generation Hope and their amazing work.

### Why is this work so important?

Because it works and because the statistics are so real and jarring. Only 2% of teen moms complete a college degree by the age of 30. That's a staggering statistic and has very real consequences for generations. The Generation Hope model doesn't just help with this reality, it arrests it. It completely reverses it. That is so important for our Scholars, their children, and our community at large.

### What have you learned from being a part of the Generation Hope community?

Resilience and perseverance. Our Scholars are so inspiring. They are fierce, and nothing can stop them. Also, the way our Sponsors and Resource Families rally to support them gives me so much hope that humanity can actually get it right. We need more of this in our world. People need to be able to seek help and receive help in a way that is dignified and non-judgmental.

### You recently volunteered at the Career Clinic helping with mock interviews, networking skills, and elevator pitches. What was your biggest takeaway from that day?

The smallest bit of encouragement goes a long, long way for our Scholars. It inspired me to give more time

***"OUR SCHOLARS ARE SO INSPIRING. THEY ARE FIERCE, AND NOTHING CAN STOP THEM."***

to this. They can be unsure and lack confidence. I guess we all did at that age, and I needed people in my life to tell me I could do it and show me the way. This is the least we can do for any young person trying to get it right and make their way in the world. They need just a little bit of extra cheerleading, and that is so easy to give.

### You are a chair for the upcoming "Pep Rally Under the Stars" Gala. What do you enjoy most about the Gala?

It's such an inspiring night! Seeing all those graduates who have made it! Celebrating their very difficult journey that results in them reaching the summit of this amazing achievement. Celebrating their hard work, struggle, perseverance, and ultimate success. It's just an honor and privilege to be in the room! To see the alumni, our Sponsors, our Resource Families, and funders all in one room celebrating the work of these Scholars - there is just no better feeling. One of my favorite evenings of the year.

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

I think the future is very bright, and I'm excited to see it develop. I believe Next Generation Academy will be a stunning success and a huge part of the ultimate story of this organization and how it is so unique as a true, two-generation solution to economic mobility. I also have big hopes that we are able to scale Generation Hope to more cities around the country. So many communities need this model. We just need to get more visibility for how successful it is and then help other communities get it started. That is my big dream!

Written by KATHERINE EKLUND



# LIFE

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## INTERRUPTED

YOUR GIFTS CREATED  
NEW POSSIBILITIES

Everything was going as planned. Rebeca Alvarez had just completed her freshman year at Trinity Washington University. She was a part-time server at Riderwood Retirement Community, where she had worked since her senior year in high school. She was sharpening her bilingual skills to establish herself as an interpreter and translator by volunteering at the Law Library of Montgomery County and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. But by the end of the summer of 2014, Rebeca's whole world changed.

"I was pregnant," she says. "I was freaked out because, obviously, it wasn't planned. Then, everything else was rushed. I got married in August of that same year and went back to school, pregnant, in the fall."

**THE CHANGES KEPT COMING.** Rebeca's financial

aid was guaranteed for the fall but because she was now married and due to give birth in January, she had to navigate the FAFSA paperwork as an independent student. As a result, the amount of financial aid that she qualified for was lower. As an added financial burden, she now had to repay a merit scholarship that she had been granted because she took a semester off to give birth and adjust to being a new mom.

"I had to pay like \$1,000," she says. "I was kind of sad about it. Everything was messy. I had to figure out the money for school, the money for childcare, healthcare expenses, regular bills like rent, cable, car insurance. I had to figure it out and take the reins because my husband, he was overwhelmed as well."

It was difficult to be the rock, but Rebeca had to step up. She left her job at Riderwood to do commercial

housekeeping, which paid more and allowed her to work later in the evening and take classes during the day. The days were long. Her baby girl was still asleep when she left for school in the morning and back to sleep when she came home at midnight.

Her mother, a single parent, was also depending on Rebeca – her only child. “My mother, she has a mental illness, so she wasn’t working at the time. I had to be responsible for her as well.”

Thankfully, as soon as Rebeca learned that she was pregnant, she called the college-prep program that assisted her with navigating the college application process and inquired about resources that could help her stay in college. They referred her to Generation Hope.

So much of what Rebeca had lost – her scholarships, friends, the support of her family – she gained back in becoming a Generation Hope Scholar. Over time, the program, which has become a family for Rebeca, filled many of the empty spaces in her life.

“I wasn’t really expecting it to be such a personal connection and such a supportive group,” Rebeca admits. “That was mind-blowing.”

Even when Rebeca’s family had doubts about her ability to get through school, Generation Hope staff and her mentors encouraged her to stay the course.

“GENERATION HOPE HAS BEEN THERE, a constant reminder of ‘You got this!’,” she smiles.

It was more than just the help with tuition. From the weekend trainings on topics like financial literacy, self-care, and communications skills, to the wonderful relationships with her mentors, Rebeca’s time as a Scholar has filled her with hope and helped her grow personally, professionally, and academically. Furthermore, the new children’s program, Next Generation Academy, is now preparing her four-year-old daughter, Cesia, for success in kindergarten and beyond.

All Generation Hope Scholars are matched with a mentor, who is a cheerleader throughout their college journey. Rebeca had the benefit of two Generation Hope mentors. Her first mentor, Catherine Miller, and her husband were in the military and were eventually deployed.

“Catherine taught me a lot about being a hands-on mother,” Rebeca says. “She helped me understand how

to deal with tantrums and how to deal with kids. At that time, I needed that because I didn’t know what I was doing. Sometimes I was so tired, I just wanted to sleep. She was like, ‘No. You need to spend time with Cesia.’ That tough love taught me a lot.”

When Catherine Foot, formerly an attorney, was asked to be Rebeca’s new mentor, “She came ready with a little notebook and her pen. I was like, ‘You’re very organized – I need to be like that!’”

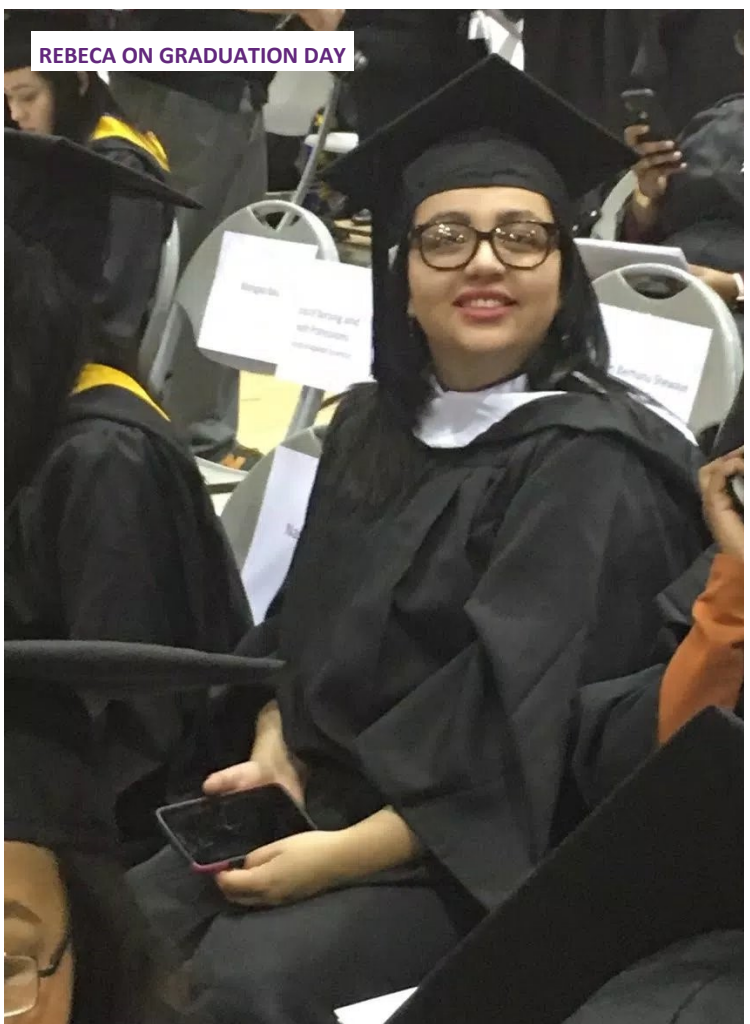
In addition to special dinners at their home, Catherine and her partner Bill also helped Rebeca learn to drive and find a job.

“It’s fun sharing these experiences with her and spending time with Cesia. I feel like I’m very lucky that I was paired with Rebeca,” says Catherine.

Rebeca received her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Trinity Washington University in January 2019. A week later, she accepted a full-time position with the Bar Association of Montgomery County.

Catherine is excited about what is ahead for Rebeca. “She is a blessing in my life. I wish I could see her more, but she’s a busy lady!”

Written by VICTORIA VICKERS





# SEARCHING

*for more*

AN ONLINE SEARCH LED TO A  
LASTING RELATIONSHIP

***“I was looking for different types of organizations to volunteer for. I was looking to help a teenage girl because I was a teenage mom and a single mom. Helping women is a passion of mine.”***

So Aloma Jackson began searching online. It did not take long for her to find Generation Hope – a perfect fit. She immediately signed up for more information and was invited to one of Generation Hope’s Mentor Open Houses to learn more. She attended the event in Alexandria, Virginia and brought a friend.

“I’m sitting and listening to everything. I listened to Nicole’s story and everyone that was there. My friend leaned over to me and said, ‘This is up your alley.’” Aloma laughs.

Soon after, Aloma, who is a property manager, wedding planner, and an aspiring real estate agent, signed up to be a mentor working one-on-one with one of the Scholars in the incoming class. She was matched with Nija Simmons, a student at Anne Arundel Community College, who is raising a three-year-old son named D.J.

**“THEY PICKED THE RIGHT PERSON FOR ME,”** says Aloma. “Our personalities clicked. She reminded me a little bit of me.”

Aloma understands the challenges of being a young mother and not always having the support that you need.

“My parents split when I was 12 so I rebelled a lot. I didn’t know which way to go. I didn’t feel like my mother was in tune with us. I didn’t feel like my father cared enough. I was responsible for my siblings a lot. I took care of them. My life was always given purpose by making sure everyone else was taken care of.”

Now Aloma is a mother of five and a

grandmother of eight, and she feels like Nija is another member of her large family. They enjoy spending time together, whether it is going out to dinner, spending time with Aloma's family and friends, or even helping Nija pick out a car.

"That day, we thought it would only take us maybe two hours to get it done," Aloma remembers. "I picked her up, we got the GPS out, and we headed to Virginia. It literally took us all day. We had two kids in the car all day, and I'm driving, and we are all hungry. We went to four parts of Virginia in one day. That was a great road trip!"

That experience characterizes their relationship. **"WE LAUGH AND SHARE A LOT OF JOKES."**

They also make time to just talk. Sometimes Nija will come and visit with Aloma while she is working. Nija brings her books to study, and they always end up talking about what is happening in Nija's life or with her son D.J.

"She has experienced a lot of things, and she's expressed to me that she loves my support, she loves me, and she treasures what I say to her even when I am very honest with her," Aloma says. "Our relationship is amazing."

Regardless of what Aloma has going on in her life, she makes it a point to be there for Nija.

"You take it personally. You embrace this person and help her to grow. You give her the encouragement she needs," she says. "They become a part of your life."

Aloma is willing to share her own experiences as a young mother in an effort to help Nija. That transparency has helped them become close. She shows Nija how her own mistakes and missteps have affected her life.

And, like all great relationships, the support goes both ways. When Aloma is sick, Nija worries about her.

**"EVEN WHEN I'M BUSY,** and I'm in the middle of

studying for my real estate license or whatever, she'll text me: 'I know you're studying. I know you love me. I just want to let you know that I'm rooting for you, and I miss you.'"

**"You take it personally. You embrace this person and help her to grow. You give her the encouragement she needs. They become a part of your life."**

Recently, Aloma and Nija celebrated a milestone. Nija was struggling with some of her classes, and Aloma helped her reduce her courseload and get back on track.

**"SHE STARTED FOCUSING ON THE THINGS SHE NEEDED TO GET HER TO THE NEXT LEVEL.**

She got honor roll, her GPA is a 3.4, and she earned

her certificate," Aloma says. "Just knowing that I was a part of helping her succeed — Oh my God, when she sent me that certificate, I was in tears."



PHOTOS: DAMIEN CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Written by SOLA AYODEJI

**Interested in being a mentor?** Generation Hope has individual and group mentoring opportunities available now. Individual mentors are paired with teen parents in college to provide one-on-one emotional support that will help them earn their degrees. Groups can mentor together as a Resource Family — a volunteer opportunity for families or groups of people, which can include children, to invest in the educational success of a child of a teen parent with the goal of helping them get ready for kindergarten. Applications are being accepted now at [supportgenerationhope.org](http://supportgenerationhope.org). Questions? Please contact Michelle Avelino at [michelle@supportgenerationhope.org](mailto:michelle@supportgenerationhope.org).

# Spring NEEDS



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YOU CAN IMPACT A YOUNG FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

### donate

- Catering for a monthly Parent Connect meeting for 10 families
- 100 gift bags to put Wish List items in
- Prizes for monthly reading logs (movie tickets, museum passes, etc.)

### volunteer

- Play with children while their parents attend our Gala on May 31st or Hope Conference on June 1st
- Help us pull off our Gala on May 31st
- Mentor as an individual or a group to help teen parents and their children thrive



### DONATION DROP OFFS:

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### VOLUNTEER SIGN UP:

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

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