



*Jennifer Friend (left) pictured with Suzi Lyons, Director of Serve Engagement at St Andrews Presbyterian*

## Note from a Friend

Gardening is one of my absolute favorite things to do so I love the spring. There is something exciting, hopeful, restorative, and healing about watching things grow. When planting a seed though you have a vision for what it will become you never really know until it sprouts, grows and evolves into the flower, food, or tree that it is meant to be. I think the reason I love gardening is also why I love my role on the Project Hope Alliance team. I get to plant the seed of our vision, create the environment for growth, and watch our mission, team and kids blossom - become.

We have entitled this year as the year of Becoming for Project Hope Alliance. As you will see in this newsletter, like my garden, our team is growing with each new member adding more layers, beauty and depth. Our youth are blooming too. Spring brings moments of important celebration like prom, graduation, and college applications and exploration. We have the joy of watching and participating in these milestones with them as they bloom where they are planted in an environment rich with love, support and hope. Thank you for making that possible.

## Our Team is Growing!

We are excited to introduce our new Director of Programs, Lucia Nguyen! Lucia joins Project Hope Alliance with 20 years of experience in Orange County's nonprofit sector supporting youth and families. Additionally, we welcomed two new case managers to Team Kid: Angela Garcia and Vanessa Praguedes. Angela and Vanessa have worked with youth in residential facilities and community schools. Welcome to Team Kid, Lucia, Vanessa, and Angela, where all things are possible for students experiencing homelessness!



**Lucia Nguyen**  
Director of Programs



**Vanessa Praguedes**  
Case Manager



**Angela Garcia**  
Case Manager



# Youth Highlight



Our youth are starting 2024 inspired and motivated! Last year, “Jack” attended our Career Workshop focused on Entrepreneurship. Through our workshop, he was introduced to an entrepreneur who shared his journey and explained how to start and run a business. The workshop and speaker planted a seed and prompted Jack to open his own floral business. Through hard work and determination, Jack launched his idea and now his business is thriving! One milestone of which he is proud is completing 20 orders of bouquets for Valentine’s Day! In addition to running his own business, he is working part-time and most importantly, staying focused on graduating from high school this year. We can’t wait to see where Jack’s tenacity and future-focused perspective takes him! We thank our supporters for helping our youth dream and explore new possibilities!

# Youth Advisory Council

Project Hope Alliance launched our Youth Advisory Council to listen to and incorporate youth voice in our mission. Our inaugural members have been setting personal goals, creating vision boards, and finalizing plans for a summer enrichment event that they will lead.

The purpose of our Youth Advisory Council is to incorporate youth voice in shaping and improving our programming while holding a space for peer networking, leadership development, and professional development. All Youth Advisory Council members are currently enrolled in high school, attending community college, involved in extracurricular activities, or working. We are so grateful for their voice, leadership, and commitment to Project Hope Alliance and themselves.





# Become a Partner of Hope!

Project Hope Alliance is excited to announce the launch of our new monthly donor program: **Partner of Hope!**

By becoming a Partner of Hope, your monthly donation will provide 1:1 case management, academic guidance, college and career readiness programming, and fun childhood experiences like trips to the beach for students experiencing homelessness.

**Become a Partner of Hope today!** Sign up online or designate a recurring gift from your donor-advised fund.



Scan here to  
get started!

## Supporter Highlight



On March 10, the St. Andrews Presbyterian community hosted their annual food drive for Project Hope Alliance. This year they collected over 1,200 bags of food for our youth!  
Thank you!



Applied Medical's team recently assembled hygiene kits for our youth. Thank you Applied Medical for years of generous and thoughtful support!



Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation has supported our onsite case management program for two years. We are honored to work alongside funders like IICF to end homelessness, one child at a time.

SAVE THE DATE



10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Anti Gala™

We hope you can join us!

**SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024**

The Harper  
1618 Ohms Way, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

*Invitation to follow.*

Scan QR Code to learn more!



Questions? Email [Annie.S@ProjectHopeAlliance.org](mailto:Annie.S@ProjectHopeAlliance.org)



1954 Placentia Ave #202  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627



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