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A Note from a
Friend: You Fuel
Hope

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5th Annual Anti
Gala: Thank You!

FOR THE KIDS

QUARTERLY

CURRENT NEEDS

Hygiene and Laundry
Items

MEET BRIAN

Promotor Pathway
Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

Houses for Change
Launch Party

Backpack Assembly Party

ENDING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

A NOTE FROM A FRIEND



YOU FUEL HOPE.

I recently returned from Pittsburg where I attended opening night of *Nomad Motel*, a play based in Orange County that tells the story of a young, high school girl living in a motel with her brothers and parents, while simultaneously nurturing hope and protecting her dream of going to college. Admittedly, for me, watching that on stage was otherworldly – the girl was inspired by my personal story.

The play was about resilience, courage, strength, and hope. All things exhibited by the homeless children and youth that Project Hope Alliance has the privilege of walking alongside every day.

We know that homeless youth, without a high school diploma, are 346% more likely to be homeless adults. We also know that kids experiencing homelessness are dropping out of high school or being suspended for reasons that speak more to their economic and housing situations than their lack of aspiration or desire to graduate. We know this to be true because we see firsthand the change that occurs when we eliminate the barriers and fill in the gaps that homelessness has caused in their lives. They flourish. They have hope.

You fuel that hope when you endorse our Promotor Pathway Program. You are helping bring intensive case management, mentor relationships, educational and basic needs support onsite to junior high and high school campuses in our community. You are also creating space for our kids to dream, as well as an opportunity to make their dreams reality. We wait with expectant hopefulness to hear the future stories that will be told about them because of you.

For the kids,

Jennifer Friend



Current Needs:



Shampoo



Conditioner



Body Wash



Laundry Detergent

(preferably allergy friendly)



Fabric Softener



Dryer Sheets

HELP OUR GRADUATES:

100% of seniors enrolled in our Promotor Pathway Program are graduating this year. You can help them get a great start to their future by:



Donating bookstore, clothing store, or Visa gift cards



Sponsoring graduation cap and gowns, prom tickets, grad night tickets, and other services for one or more seniors



Participating in the Back to School Drive to give backpacks and school supplies to seniors who are continuing their education



MEET BRIAN, A PROMOTOR PATHWAY PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

Brian, a senior at Newport Harbor High School (NHHS), can see the finish line of high school right in front of him, commemorated with a walk across the stage and a diploma in hand. But first – Prom, and before that, he still needs to complete his last few volunteer hours to attend the dance, while also trying to finish his last semester of classes, take all of his International Baccalaureate tests, and work to save money to move out with best friends for college in the fall. It's a long list that has become standard for high school students. Brian is feeling what most seniors about to graduate feel: anxious, nervous, but mostly excited about all of the limitless possibilities he has ahead of him.

In 2017, the promise of a bright future did not seem to be on Brian's horizon. His family never had a steady income, and after months of unpaid rent, they were evicted from their home. With nowhere to go, Brian's family was forced to move into a motel.

Brian had been a good student, taking IB courses, such as chemistry, calculus and history to help make college more affordable when it came time to go. Now, with the uncertainty of his family's well-being, the lack of privacy at the motel, and no reliable Internet connection to complete assignments, Brian had a hard time keeping up in school. His family had only one car, so Brian missed school. His absences made it almost impossible for him to keep up in his advanced courses.

Brian got a job and made the tough choice to separate from his parents and sleep on his best friend's couch, so he could be closer to school. Brian went from a college-bound student to a kid simply

trying to make ends meet, while putting on a brave face for his parents. While Brian and his parents were scrambling to secure their financial future, one of their neighbors had heard about Project Hope Alliance's Promotor Pathway Program at NHHS and how the program offers support for kids experiencing homelessness. Taking a chance and calling the school, their neighbor was put through to Tanya, a Promotor, who was able to connect with Brian.

Through the Promotor Pathway Program, Tanya worked with Brian to set goals and make a list of ways for him to achieve those goals. She was an advocate on behalf of Brian, speaking with his teachers about his housing situation and creating a solution to allow Brian to make up the work he missed. Tanya helped Brian gain Internet access by providing him with a WiFi hotspot so he could finish his homework on time. She was even able to help Brian find ACT prep courses and provide the financial means to send his results to colleges throughout the state. Tanya helped with little things such as snacks and school supplies, and was always there to talk when he felt anxious or stressed. Tanya's support allowed Brian to focus on school, and by the time he was ready to apply for college, he had gained the confidence to send in his applications.

Today, Brian is counting down to his last few days at NHHS and has been accepted to Cal State Fullerton, where he is planning to major in Business Administration this fall. He hopes to graduate early, with his IB credits accounting for four semesters of his college general education courses, and plans on joining a recreational basketball team.

Not so long ago, Brian was unsure if he would be able to even go to Prom with his friends, let alone be accepted into college. Now Brian knows that Tanya and the Promotor Pathway Program will be there to support him as he finishes high school and goes through college, up until age 24, to ensure that he will never slip back into the cycle of homelessness.

THE 5TH ANNUAL
ANTI gala:
THANK YOU!

Join Summer Serve
(VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES)



Thank you so much to all of you who joined us for our 5th Annual Anti Gala. Together, we raised almost \$500,000 for the kids! Thanks to our guests and our amazing sponsors, we will provide more children with the exceptional education that they deserve and move more families out of homelessness and into stable homes and self-sufficiency.

We would especially like to thank:

Microsemi, our Hero Sponsor and The Legacy Foundation, Catalyst of Hope recipient.

SUMMER SERVE HANDBOOK:

1

All throughout the summer your family can get involved in helping “end the cycle homelessness, one child at a time.” Go to projecthopealliance.org/summerserve to download our Fifth Annual Summer Serve Handbook for a list of service projects kids and adults of all ages can do to benefit the kids of Project Hope Alliance.

HOUSES FOR CHANGE LAUNCH PARTY:

2

Come to our office in Costa Mesa, Saturday, July 7th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. where children of all ages will have the fun opportunity to learn more about homelessness, decorate and personalize their house-shaped donation boxes, and help fill snack bags for the kids of Project Hope Alliance. Sign up online at projecthopealliance.org/summerserve, as space is limited.

BACKPACK ASSEMBLY PARTY:

3

Children ages 8 and up and adults can join us at our office in Costa Mesa, Saturday, July 28th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. where you can help sort donated items and fill backpacks for our Backpack Drive. Sign up online at projecthopealliance.org/summerserve, as space is limited.

Upcoming Events:

1. Houses for Change Launch Party:

July 14th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 1954 Placentia Ave, Suite #202, Costa Mesa, 92627

2. Backpack Assembly Party:

Saturday, July 28th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 1954 Placentia Ave, Suite #202, Costa Mesa, 92627