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**A Note From A Friend:**  
*A Graduation Promise*

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*Backpack Drive*



# FOR THE KIDS

Q U A R T E R L Y

## **BACKPACK DRIVE**

Back to School  
with Confidence

## **ABBY'S STORY**

A Cause for  
Celebration

## **COMING UP**

The 6th Annual  
Anti Gala

*ENDING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS* **ONE CHILD AT A TIME.**

# a note from a friend.



As the season for caps and gowns approaches, we will all be overwhelmed with pride and thrilled that some of our loved ones have made it to the next step in their careers: a true reason to celebrate.

The weight of this accomplishment for our youth experiencing homelessness comes with profound urgency. In the United States, there are students experiencing homelessness in over 75% of school districts, and those are just the ones that have been identified. These youth are 87% more likely to drop out of high school than their stably housed peers. But a youth with a high school diploma is almost 400% less likely to be a homeless adult.”

The work of Project Hope Alliance is very personal to me. My journey from homelessness into junior college, with help of Pell Grants, then to UCI, and ultimately to law school and a law firm partnership, underscores the generationally disruptive nature that higher education has on poverty.

At Project Hope, we have seen time and time again, that when we remove the barriers to educational success faced by students experiencing homelessness, our data shows that they can thrive. This is the power of Team Kid (what we lovingly call

our visible army journeying alongside our kids). Our site-based work on junior high and high school campuses is yielding exceptional results.

**With a 100% high school graduation rate amongst our eligible seniors, 100% of our high school graduates are employed or on the path toward post-secondary education, 89% decrease in school absences, 69% decrease in school tardies, 1.8x GPA improvement from their prior school year.**

June will find many of us attending the graduations of our own children, watching them walk toward that diploma and into a promise-filled future. Know that while you may not see them, you are also walking alongside a youth who has experienced homelessness, but because of you, has overcome obstacles, eliminated barriers and is also walking toward a hope and promise-filled future.

For the kids,  
**Jennifer Friend**



# ENDING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

## *ABBY'S STORY*

Abby, age 19, is the oldest of eight children, all of whom are being raised by their single mother. A bright and energetic girl, Abby was able to help raise her siblings while excelling in school. However, this all changed in August of 2017 when Abby's mother lost her job and could no longer afford their apartment. The entire family was forced to split up and sleep on the couches of multiple family friends.

**HAVING LITTLE STABILITY TO BEGIN WITH, THE SUDDEN DISRUPTION TO THEIR FAMILY ROUTINE SEVERELY IMPACTED ABBY'S GRADES AND HER MENTAL WELL-BEING.**

Thankfully, Abby found Project Hope Alliance in the fall of 2017.

Project Hope Alliance was able to assist the family with all the move-in costs needed to secure housing for Abby and the rest of her family. Abby and her siblings were given access to PHA's education programs in order to get back on track in school. With the support and guidance from Project Hope Alliance, Abby was able to overcome significant physical and emotional changes with her schooling, housing, and her overall family structure.

Last year, Abby was able to graduate from high school with honors- a huge accomplishment! She is enrolled in her first semester of college courses and is eager to begin this new journey. Her family is still maintaining their current housing and is beginning to save up money towards buying a home one day. With Abby starting college, the cycle of homelessness is being broken one child at a time!

# BACKPACK *DRIVE*

Help kids experiencing homelessness go back to school with the confidence and tools they need to have a great year. Whether our kids are entering kindergarten or starting their freshman year of college, by donating a new, stylish backpack filled with school supplies, you can ensure that the kids PHA serves start their school year with hope!

**VISIT OUR PAGE TO DONATE**

*[projecthopealliance.org/backpacks](http://projecthopealliance.org/backpacks)*



## THE 6TH ANNUAL ANTI *gala*

HOPE IS IN THE AIR.

Saturday • April 27 • 2019

Lyon Air Museum • Santa Ana

**BUY TICKETS TODAY**

[PROJECTHOPEALLIANCE.ORG/ANTIGALA](http://PROJECTHOPEALLIANCE.ORG/ANTIGALA)