



Note from a Friend

2025 marks the beginning of my 13th year as the CEO of Project Hope Alliance. With each new year comes new opportunities to learn, refine, reflect, and grow. Despite the increase in the identified number of Orange County's students experiencing homelessness (now over 29,000), 2025 brings much hope through new partnerships, opportunity, and growth. As we've witnessed in the aftermath of the

tragic and devastating Los Angeles fires, communities know how to rise up and care for one another. We at Project Hope Alliance are seeing this truth in powerful ways.

I hope you enjoy reading our recent newsletter and reflecting on the difference you have made over the past few months: you helped our team grow, you made the holiday season magical for our kids, and we are entering this new year expectant for all that is possible for our children & youth experiencing homelessness because of you. Thank you.

Jennifer Friend
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for providing hope and holiday cheer!

Thank you to our generous and loving community of supporters for making the holidays bright, joyful, and fun for hundreds of kids and their families! Our dignity-based approach and your support made it possible for parents and their children to make special holiday memories of their own, open gifts they could otherwise not afford, and share family meals together.



Team Kid is growing!



*Names listed from left to right from photo.

Since the beginning of this school year, our team has grown by six! Each team member contributes to our mission by providing direct support to youth, evaluating our programs, and strengthening our internal operations. Our ability to deepen our services for our kids is possible because of our generous community of supporters. Thank you!

"I enjoy working for PHA because it aligns with my values and allows me to make an impact on people's lives."-Jessica

"PHA'S mission and approach gives me the opportunity to work alongside our youth and provide assistance and support towards a brighter future ." -Michael

Stephanie Solano
Case Manager

Jessica Sanchez
Case Manager

Alexandra Gomez
Case Manager

Hunter Moreno
Administrative Coordinator

Michael Yanez
Case Manager

Stephanie Albuquerque
Data and Impact Coordinator

Supporter Highlight

What do Project Hope Alliance, The Knights of Kindness, and The Newport Anchors Baseball team have in common? **Alex Williamson.** Alex has been a dedicated Project Hope Alliance supporter for five years. Every year, Alex, along with her family and friends, coordinate donation drives to ensure hundreds of our kids have supplies to be successful in school, holiday gifts and gift cards, and food. Thank you, Alex, for demonstrating compassion, leadership, and the importance of community service.

"As a mom of three whose professional work focuses on supporting parents, children and their families are a central part of my community. Engaging them in this work has been an opportunity not only to educate them on the obstacles facing our neighbors and classmates, but to let them experience philanthropy in a way that is rewarding and fun. When we come together to fill Christmas stockings or backpacks, or when we collect food, they can relate directly to the recipients because they are kids, too. My hope is that by doing this with their friends and teammates they are learning the power of community and building a lifelong desire to give back."

– Alex Williamson





Youth Highlight



Johnny and his family first connected with Project Hope Alliance when they were living at a nearby motel. A few weeks later, they were evicted from the motel and needed support to ensure Johnny and his siblings would remain safe and continue to attend school. Our case managers worked tirelessly to connect Johnny's family to housing assistance programs including Costa Mesa City Outreach. Costa Mesa City Outreach provided motel vouchers, food, and other essentials while the family and our case managers searched for longer-term solutions.

Three months later, another trusted community partner, Families Forward, called with wonderful news – there was an apartment available! To celebrate the family's milestone, Project Hope Alliance took the family to IKEA to purchase their own household necessities like pots, pans, bath towels, and a few decorations to make their new house a home.

Despite his family's hardships, Johnny has stayed committed to school and his future. He has a 3.0 average, is fond of math, and recently discovered his love of music. Johnny feels most comfortable in band class. He has made many friends, loves reading music, and currently enjoys playing the trombone. His dream is to earn a scholarship and play for a university's band. He is currently working on achieving his goal of pursuing college with his Project Hope Alliance case manager, Stephanie.

Project Hope Alliance case manager, Stephanie, also supports Johnny's mom to access support programs like CalFresh and health insurance. Stephanie provides emotional support when life feels stressful and overwhelming for mom, too. Mom works hard, loves her children, and wants her children to focus on their education so they can have a brighter future.

Recently, Mom participated in our Hope for the Holidays drive and was very grateful to select gifts for her kids. Mom was amazed by the variety of beautiful gifts to choose from, especially the scooters, bikes, skateboards, and other gifts that would help her kids play outside. She also received gift cards to Denny's so her family could share a holiday meal together. Mom, dad, and the children have been so grateful for Project Hope Alliance's support, and they continue to work hard to build a brighter future together.



Save the Date!



CAMP HOPE



11th Annual Anti Gala
Project Hope Alliance

When: Saturday, May 17th

Where: Newport Dunes

Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm



We hope to see you there for an evening of friendship, celebration,
and bringing hope to kids experiencing homelessness.



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