





### NOTE FROM A FRIEND & BOARD CHAIR

If you know me, you know I love the dictionary and have one on my desk. Words matter. And so, as I sat down to write this note to reflect on the past year and look forward to the one ahead, I pulled out my Webster's.

The theme of this year's Annual Report is Unlocking Potential – both within our organization, and in the lives of the children and youth experiencing homelessness that we have the privilege to journey alongside. So, I looked up our theme words.

Webster's defines unlocking as "to free from restraints or restrictions" and potential as "existing in possibility: capable of development into actuality." What perfect words to capture what you have made possible this year at Project Hope Alliance and what you continue to make possible every day in the lives of the kids we serve! As you will see from this year's Annual Report, your investments have made a profound difference on our organization, our leadership, and our kids. You are unlocking us and making it possible to bring plans and partnerships into actuality to end the cycle of homelessness. And oh, the powerful ways that you have unlocked the potential of our children & youth! Read about the budding third grade scientist & dinosaur lover that is now able to explore in the classroom and play on the soccer field. Or our youth headed off to college to actualize their dreams of higher education and bright futures. So much potential being unlocked because of you. We are deeply grateful for all of it.

Jennifer Friend CEO, Project Hope Alliance

Thanks to you, Project Hope Alliance has broken free from prior constraints to serve more effectively and sustainably. Investments in leadership, space, and infrastructure strengthened operations, maximized efficiency, expanded program delivery, and advanced financial sustainability. As a Board, we stewarded these choices with rigor and care—aligning resources to mission, monitoring risk, and holding ourselves accountable to impact. The most meaningful proof of progress lives in youth stories.

To our donors, partners, volunteers, and team: thank you. Your belief in our mission—and in the brilliance of our young people—makes this work possible.

**Lynn Hemans**Board Chair



### **Our Mission**

To end the cycle of homelessness, one child at a time.

### Our Work

Project Hope Alliance deploys a long-term model of care for kids experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Working alongside our education partners, we embed case managers directly on school campuses to support our kids in real time, every day. Our work is rooted in building trusting relationships with our kids and their families while removing barriers caused by homelessness so our kids can thrive in school and in life.

We believe anything is possible for kids experiencing homelessness.



### Project Hope Alliance Model of Care

This year, we further refined our model of care to better support our kids, their families, and our community, including our education partners.



### Site Based

We embed full-time, professional case managers on elementary, middle, and high school campuses across Newport-Mesa Unified, Huntington Beach Union High School District, and Santa Ana Unified School Districts, as well as a Santa Ana charter school. Each case manager has a dedicated office with a pantry stocked with food, toiletries, and emergency clothing, providing students with a safe space and immediate support. By meeting students where they are, we provide guidance, emotional support, financial assistance, and basic resources so they thrive in school and life.



### **Community Based**

Recognizing the need beyond campuses with embedded case managers, we launched our Community-Based Case Management program to support youth that attend schools without a dedicated PHA case manager on their campus. We also continue supporting youth after they graduate high school as they navigate college and young adulthood. Though we meet them in different settings, our commitment to their success in school and in life remains unchanged.



### Partnership & Advocacy

Supporting the 30,000 children experiencing homelessness in Orange County takes collaboration. We strategically partner with public agencies, such as the Orange County Department of Education, school districts, and nonprofits to best meet the needs of our youth and their families. We further advocate for their needs at the local, state, and national level shining a light on youth homelessness and our model of care as an effective intervention and prevention strategy to end generational homelessness.





Celebrating the people who power our mission every step of the way.



- 1. Partnership Manager, Celso Fuentes (top left) and Chief Partnership Officer, Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala (bottom left) presenting at the OC Department of Education Whole Child Collaborative
- 2. Friends at Edwards Lifesciences building hygiene kits for our kids
- 3. Case managers Kirya and Catherine with Bianka Mathus, Mission Specialist at Calvarv Chapel (center), at our Open House
- 4. Friends at Subaru dropping off new coats to keep our kids warm



5. National League of Young Men volunteers preparing back to school supplies for our kids **6.** Chief Partnership Officer, Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala presenting at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Annual Conference 7. Volunteers beautifying our new Community Space and Board Room during the annual Love Costa Mesa event 8. Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Friend, and Chief Partnership Officer, Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala at the National Network for Youth Hill Day in

Washington D.C.





- **9.** Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Friend, as the keynote speaker at the Santa Ana Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- **10.** Our team is growing! 6 new team members joined Project Hope Alliance this year
- 11. Chief Partnership Officer, Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, at the California Charter Schools Conference
- **12.** 2025 Anti Gala: Camp Hope, Catalyst of Hope honoree, Steve Murow
- 13. Community Engagement Manager, Allen Burnett (right), with our friends from Citizens Business Bank at their annual charity golf tournament
- 14. Our Case managers and friends from Simons Scholars, Western Youth Services, and Project Youth OC at a youth mental health training
- **15.** Friends at Johnson & Johnson building hygiene kits for our kids
- 16. Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Friend, panelist along with Bill Bracken, CEO of Bracken's Kitchen, and Mary Cappellini, Executive Director of SOY, at Costa Mesa State of the City Luncheon
- 17. Guests at our inaugural Volunteer Reception: Hope in Bloom















# Project Hope Alliance At a Glance

### **Our Reach**

Project Hope Alliance supports students experiencing homelessness across three school districts and one charter school in Orange County.









### **Our Impact**

100%

**Belonging** 

100% of youth feel like they belong at PHA

97%



**Access** 

97% of youth feel they have access to more resources

95%



**Goal Planning** 

95% of youth enjoy planning and preparing for the future

### **Youth and Families Served**

Children & Youth

413

**Enrolled in our Case Management Program** 

**Families** 

313

Total Individuals Supported

1191



# Youth Voice Matters:

# Incorporating Technology to Better Support Youth

This year we partnered with EverFree, an Orange County nonprofit, to pilot their international research-based assessment tool, Freedom Lifemap, to support goal planning for our kids across six life domains. Youth voice and choice drive Freedom Lifemap, ensuring our kids are the heroes of their own story. We journey alongside them to help them accomplish their hopes, dreams, and goals. Freedom Lifemap data and assessment results also inform and guide our programming based on the needs, voice, and choice of our youth.

### **Freedom Lifemap Domains**













"Our partnership with Project Hope Alliance shows what's possible when innovative technology meets deep, personal care. Together, we've tailored our Freedom Lifemap technology to equip youth experiencing homelessness with tools to navigate their journey, track progress, and access the stability



and opportunities they deserve. We love working with PHA because of their commitment to data-driven, innovative approaches to addressing youth homelessness. They are driven by deep care for their community, and are constantly seeking better ways to serve and empower young people."

**Kelsey Morgan, PhD** CEO, Everfree



# The Bakery Cakery: A Recipe for Hope

Mixing Flour, Frosting, and a Whole Lot of Heart



Our friends from Anneliese Schools hosted a bake sale to support our kids. We are so grateful for their joy, creativity, and commitment to making a difference for kids in their community just like them.



"This Bakery Cakery fundraiser was a labor of love and a very personal project. The students felt excited about the project from beginning to end and poured all their creativity, hearts, and minds into it. They were not only proud of producing a baked good, but also selling the products to share their proceeds with kids like them who have less. The students exceeded their own expectations and fundraised an amount beyond their dreams to give and share, which made them immensely proud.

For us as teachers, our students exceeded our expectations with the creativity, love, and dedication they approached with this project and saw it through. This was just the first of many more projects for Project Hope Alliance to support their cause and make the world a kinder place where people care for each other."

**Frau Tina, Second Grade Teacher** *Anneliese Schools* 



Kicking off a new Chapter

A chance to play, a chance to grow

Matthew and his family were first connected to Project Hope Alliance in October 2024, shortly after relocating to Costa Mesa to escape danger in their hometown. With the help of their Project Hope Alliance case manager, they secured a safe room to rent, an important step toward stability. Despite ongoing challenges like housing insecurity and food scarcity, the family's resilience and hope have remained strong.

Matthew is a bright, curious third-grade student with a sharp mind and endless questions. Science is his favorite subject; he loves lab work, and his current fascinations are space and dinosaurs. Thanks to generous Project Hope Alliance supporters, Matthew was able to join AYSO soccer, where his passion for the game continues to grow.

Matthew's mother is a steady, nurturing presence, ensuring her children are safe, fed, supported in school, and surrounded by love.

His father works tirelessly to provide and improve their living conditions. Their devotion to their children and to one another is unwavering.

Their goals are simple but powerful: for Matthew to keep succeeding in school and soccer, to move into their own apartment, and for his mom to find part-time work. With determination, love, and continued support, they are steadily moving toward a brighter future.



**Stephanie Solano** *Matthew's Case Manager* 



# A LEGACY OF **LOVE AND HOPE:**

Tyler's memory fuels the hope and support

every child deserves.

In his memory, those who loved Tyler have raised \$60,000 to ensure our kids and their families receive the support to stay in school. We are grateful to Tyler's family and friends for entrusting Project Hope Alliance with these funds and the flexibility to support our kids through any circumstance that would prevent them from thriving in school and in life.

On May 18, 2024, the world lost a beautiful, kind, and hard-working soul – our son, Tyler. Tyler dedicated his life to Tikkun Olam, repairing the world through social justice and fairness. To honor his dedication to serving others, we established **The Tyler** Parker Cares Fund at Project Hope Alliance to help kids experiencing homelessness. The

fund ensures Project Hope Alliance's kids can stay in school, find safe housing, and receive needed food and other emergency resources. We are grateful to our family and Tyler's friends for carrying on Tyler's work of improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our community."





## **Hope in Her Hands**

Through art, ambition, and resilience

Monica is a bright, well-rounded eighth grader whose determination and creativity shine through in everything she does. This year, she was on her school's honor roll. She balances academic excellence with impressive leadership, serving as President of both the Art Club and Fashion Club. Her passion and talent are already laying the foundation for her dream of becoming a graphic designer.

A few months ago, she faced significant challenges. Her parents separated, and they had to live doubled-up with additional family members in an apartment room meant for one family. This instability and stress caused Monica's grades to fall. She eventually turned to her Project Hope Alliance case manager to help her get her grades up so she could promote to high school. She worked hard every day, visiting her case manager's office for a quiet space to complete her work. She eventually brought her grades back up and

is now headed to high school.

Monica carries maturity beyond her years, navigating her new reality while holding on to her ambitions. Her resilience, leadership, and talent make it clear that Monica is not only prepared to rise above her circumstances, but also to create a vibrant future.



**Kimberly Garrido** *Monica's Case Manage* 



# Rising Above: Class of 2025

### Behind every cap and gown is a story of strength

For our kids, the lack of a high school diploma is the greatest risk factor for experiencing homelessness as an adult. We are so proud of our kids for achieving a 95% high school graduation rate this year – 24% higher than the State of California's average for students experiencing homelessness – believing in their own potential, and looking forward, optimistically, toward their futures.

Every year, for the past three years, our high school graduation rate has increased, reflecting the strength and resilience of our kids and the impact of our work made possible by our supporters.

# 95%

### Project Hope Alliance High School Graduation Rate

compared to CA State average rate of 77% for students experiencing homelessness.

### THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR CLASS OF 2025









The motivation to finish and graduate from high school is notable because of Vanessa's (Case Manager) support. The students who have graduated have already been connected to either college or trade school. It's remarkable!! I also see value in the mentorship, and Vanessa does a fabulous job connecting with our students.

-Valley Vista High School Partner



## **Dreams in Motion**

### **Defining his future on his own terms**

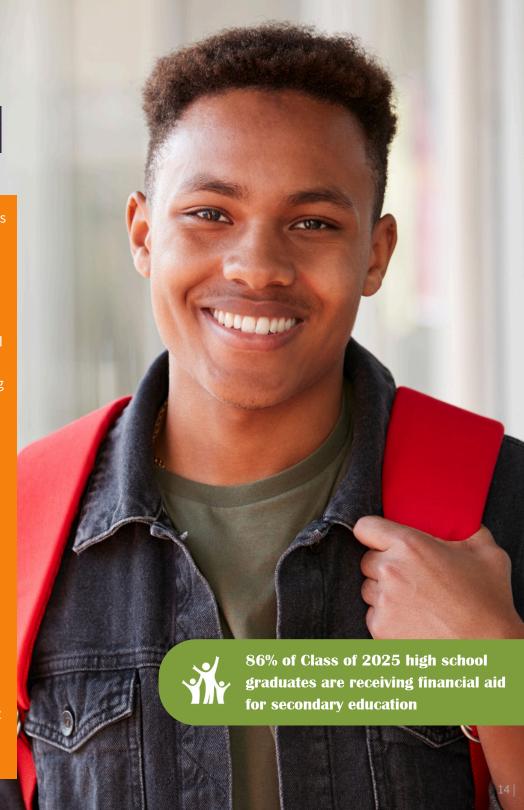
Julian first learned about Project Hope Alliance three years ago when he was a sophomore in high school. Julian and his family were experiencing homelessness, and he was curious about the support he could receive. Along the way, Julian learned to trust his case manager and speak up for himself, ensuring his needs and goals were heard—whether in the classroom, on the field, or in life. An avid high school athlete, he has always channeled his energy and discipline into sports, using them as an outlet and a source of strength during difficult times. Through a partnership with the Los Angeles Chargers and Project Hope Alliance, Julian received a duffle bag filled with gear he needed for soccer as well as financial assistance for registration fees. This year Julian also joined Project Hope Alliance's Youth Advisory Council, growing his leadership and voice, helping improve our programming, and sharing his career goals with our Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team.



Katherine Montiel

Julian's Case Manaa

Julian graduated high school this past June and his next chapter begins this fall at Cal State Fullerton. Julian is eager to build a future he's always dreamed about. For Julian, this moment represents more than academic success—it's the culmination of resilience, self-advocacy, and unwavering determination. Julian is looking forward to continuing his journey with Project Hope Alliance as he navigates college and young adulthood. Julian is not just excited about his future; he's building it with intention, proving that anything is possible for kids experiencing homelessness



# For the Kids

This year, with grant funding from CalOptima, we deepened our partnership with the Orange County Department of Education to better understand and support the needs of Orange County's 30,000 youth experiencing homelessness.

The first year of our formal partnership consisted of conducting a year-long needs assessment through surveys and focus groups with youth, educators, parents, and nonprofit organizations to better understand the issue, current challenges faced by youth as well as educators, and possible solutions. We also actively engaged in convenings and conversations at the local, state, and national level to shine a light on youth homelessness and advocate for our kids.

Our learnings, coupled with our decade-long work disrupting the cycle of homelessness, led to six distinct recommendations that will drive our strategy over the next two years (on next page) to ensure kids experiencing homelessness across Orange County are seen and supported.



- 1. Chief Partnership Officer, Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala presenting at National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth annual conference
- 2.Partnership Manager, Celso Fuentes, and Manager of Program Impact, Jennifer Matsuda at our Open House
- **3.** CalOptima Team visiting Project Hope Alliance



CalOptima Health is thrilled to partner with Project Hope Alliance through grant funding that supports their important work to better identify and address student homelessness in Orange County. Project Hope Alliance is leading the charge to develop an improved identification tool that uncovers the all-too-often hidden experience of homelessness among our student population. But beyond that, they are seeking to codify support systems for these students and their families and identify opportunities for school districts to build up their resources to continue serving those in need."



Kelly Bruno Nelson, DSW Executive Director, MediCal/CalAIM CalOptima Health



- **4.** Celso Fuentes and Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala at the Family and Community Engagement Liaison Networking Meeting
- **5.** Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Friend (center) Jessica Smith, Kansas City Public Schools McKinney Vento Liaison (left), and Executive Director of Schoolhouse Connection, Barbara Duffield (right) at the National Network for Youth Hill Day and Summit
- **6.** Jennifer Friend and Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala with educational leaders at the Orange County Department of Education





### **Recommendations from Needs Assesment**



1. Merge Definitions of Homelessness



2. Standardized Year-Round Identification Process



3. Increase On-Site Capacity



4. Expand Community Partnership



5. Target Funding for Homelessness



6. Youth Voice Integration



Our partnership with Project Hope Alliance is an example of how collaboration can strengthen our collective response to student homelessness in Orange County. Through a shared agreement supported with funding from CalOptima, we've worked together to expand training and outreach in alignment with OCDE's countywide leadership through the HOPES (Homeless Outreach Promoting Educational Success) Collaborative. At its core, this work reflects a moral imperative: to ensure that every student, regardless of housing status, is seen, supported and given the opportunity to thrive.



**Dr. Stefan Bean**Superintendent
Orange County Department of
Education

## A Partnership Rooted in Purpose:

Sheppard Mullin's commitment goes beyond support. It transforms lives.

### **SheppardMullin**

Sheppard Mullin has been a valued corporate partner since 2022, but in the past year, they have significantly deepened their commitment—both financially and through in-kind support—to help us meet the rising needs of our youth and families. We are proud to be a partner in Sheppard Mullin's **Impact Initiative** to end the cycle of homelessness.



My colleagues do this funny thing when they stop by my desk to make a donation to Project Hope Alliance, they say "thank you". They are thankful for the opportunity to give, thankful that the firm spends hours organizing donation drives and building our relationship with Project Hope Alliance, thankful to hear the stories from Project Hope Alliance's team, and grateful that Sheppard Mullin makes it so easy to make a difference in our community. Our team's response is a resounding "get to" rather than a "have to," and it reminds me every time how lucky I am to be surrounded by people who care deeply about each other and the communities in which we live and work. We feel really privileged for our partnership."

**Seana Pierce**Practice Specialist II

## A Future Reimagined

With strength and sacrifice, she is building her future

When Linda was just a little girl, she and her family faced the hardship of homelessness. Although she loved school, her living situation caused challenges, and she eventually had to enroll in a continuation school. It was there she first connected with Project Hope Alliance. She received encouragement, guidance, and vital resources from her case manager, which helped her catch up on credits and graduate high school on time.

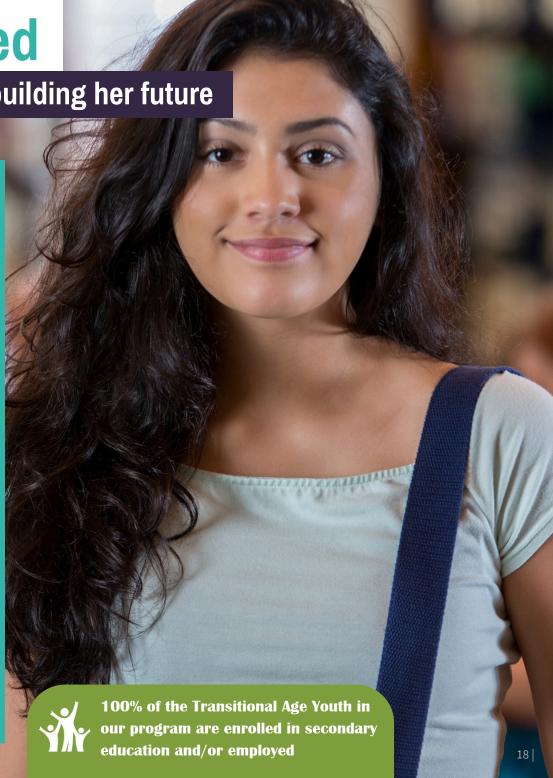
After graduating from high school last year, Linda found her first job at a local retail store. She knew she had to earn money to contribute to the household bills and therefore took a gap year before college. Despite her demanding schedule and responsibilities beyond her years, her heart remains with her family. In addition to helping her mom keep food on the table, Linda is a loving role model for her younger siblings. She encourages them to stay focused in school, reminding them that every step forward matters.



Michael Yanez
Linda's Case Manage

Linda is a hard worker and loves her job, one she has kept for over 8 months. Her eyes are set on a promotion, an opportunity she sees as a stepping stone toward her bigger dream of enrolling in college and building a brighter, more stable future.

Linda's journey hasn't been easy, but it has shaped her into a young woman with a strong work ethic, a deep sense of care for others, and a determination to end the cycle of homelessness.



### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

\$500,000+



\$100,000 - \$499,999















DAVID R. CLARE & MARGARET C.
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\$50,000 - \$99,999







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JOHN AND CYNDI GANAHL



LAURA KHOURI

# Her Path to Possibility

The power of support and hope

Kimberly was in seventh grade when she first met her Project Hope Alliance case manager. She and her family of 8 were doubled up in a small apartment and she needed support. Project Hope Alliance first provided basic needs resources like food, clothing, and gift cards to help stretch the family's budget. When Kimberly couldn't get to school, she looked to PHA to support with transportation.

As the years went on, her stability grew, and so did her hope for a better life. When she got to high school, Kimberly became interested in college. Taking care of her younger siblings, she grew to love being around children and wanted to help kids become who they were meant to be. She turned to PHA for guidance to help make her dreams a reality. Once she graduated from high school, she enrolled at a local community college and found a job as a teacher's assistant. This past June, Kimberly graduated with her associate's degree. Now, with her associate's degree in hand and a dorm room waiting,

Kimberly is eagerly preparing for her first semester at university.

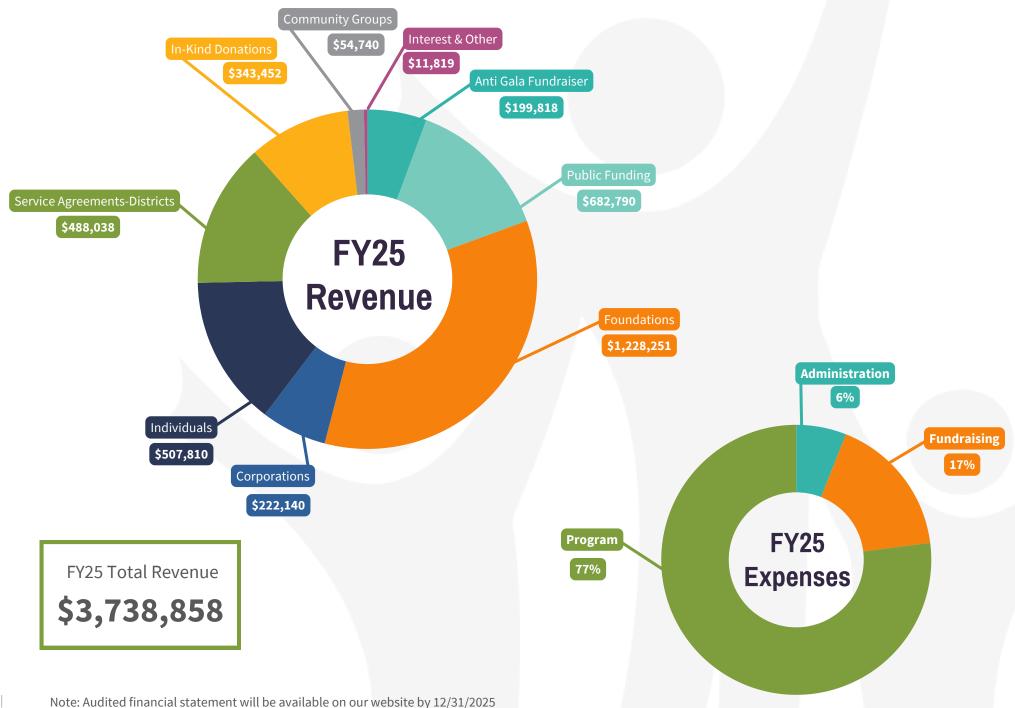
Eight years ago, Kimberly gave PHA the privilege of journeying alongside her, removing barriers caused by homelessness so she could focus on her goals and her well-being. Kimberly is resilient, compassionate, and hardworking – never letting her circumstances define her. We are so proud of Kimberly and know she will accomplish all her goals.



**Chrissie Lee** *Manager of Community Based Services* 



### **FINANCIALS**





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