



PHA Board Member, Josh Friend (left) and PHA CEO, Jennifer Friend (right), wrapping gifts for our families.

Note from a Friend

If you've had the joy to meet any one of the Project Hope Alliance team members this past year, you've seen how they embody our values of: For the Kids, Stronger Together, Becoming, Catalysts for Change, and For Each Other. In who they are and everything they do to fill in gaps, eliminate barriers, serve as catalysts for change, they do it with integrity, passion, collaboration, and deep dedication to showing up for the children and youth experiencing homelessness that we have the privilege to walk alongside. Because of that - because of them - youth like Anthony (who you'll read about) are able to build

and realize hope filled futures for themselves, disrupting the generational cycle of homelessness. But we can't do this work alone, we are unquestionably better together. Corporate partners like Beek, systems partners like the Orange County Continuum of Care, individual donors, and volunteers, all make this work for the kids possible. When we show up for our kids, transformational impact happens. Let's continue to show up for the kids and for each other in 2026. Our kids depend on it.

Jennifer Friend

Holiday Hope, Powered by Our Community

Because of you, this holiday season was filled with joy, dignity, and meaningful moments for the kids and families we serve. Through our annual Santa's Workshop, parents were able to select gifts for their children and create special holiday memories of their own.

Every toy on our shelves and gift card given to a teen was donated by our generous supporters like you. Your compassion and belief in our mission made this season brighter than ever. Thank you for making the holidays special for hundreds of kids and families experiencing homelessness.



Strengthening Our Voice at the County Level



Project Hope Alliance is proud to announce that Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, Chief Partnership Officer, has been appointed to the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board.

The Orange County CoC is a federally recognized planning body that coordinates the county's response to homelessness, aligning housing, services, and funding across nonprofit organizations, public agencies, local governments, and community partners.

In her role at Project Hope Alliance, Shelby leads programming, partnerships, and data-driven strategy to ensure children and youth experiencing homelessness have the resources and support they need to thrive. With nearly 20 years of experience as a social worker, former AmeriCorps member, and systems leader, she

brings a strong commitment to equity, collaboration, and sustainable systems change.

“I am honored to serve on the Orange County Continuum of Care Board and to help ensure youth experiencing homelessness are supported with dignity, respect, and agency,” shared Dr. Feliciano-Sabala.

Her appointment strengthens the connection between education-focused homelessness prevention efforts and the broader countywide response, reinforcing the power of cross-sector collaboration to drive lasting change.

Community in Action beek..

We're incredibly grateful for beek, a company that truly shows up for our community. For over three years, beek has rallied their neighbors through an annual food drive that continues to grow bigger and brighter each year, bringing people together with one shared purpose: supporting youth experiencing homelessness.

What makes beek truly special is how they turn giving into a joyful, engaging experience. By creating opportunities for kids and teens to get involved, they're not just collecting food; they're helping raise the next generation of compassionate changemakers.

“With our passion for helping feed children in our community, supporting PHA was a natural fit. We are so grateful for PHA’s impact on the youth right here in Orange County. It gives us great joy to rally our friends, family, and loyal customers to help restock their shelves with food for their youth program.”

- Kenna Florie, Co-Founder of beek



Co-founders Birgit (left) and Kenna (right)

Thank you, beek, for believing in the power of community and for your continued commitment to changing young lives for the better. We couldn't do this without you.



A Path Forward: Anthony's Story

When Anthony first joined Project Hope Alliance, he was experiencing homelessness during a time of major change in his life. His parents' divorce and unstable housing made it difficult to focus on school, and his attendance began to decline. Before long, his grades started slipping, too.

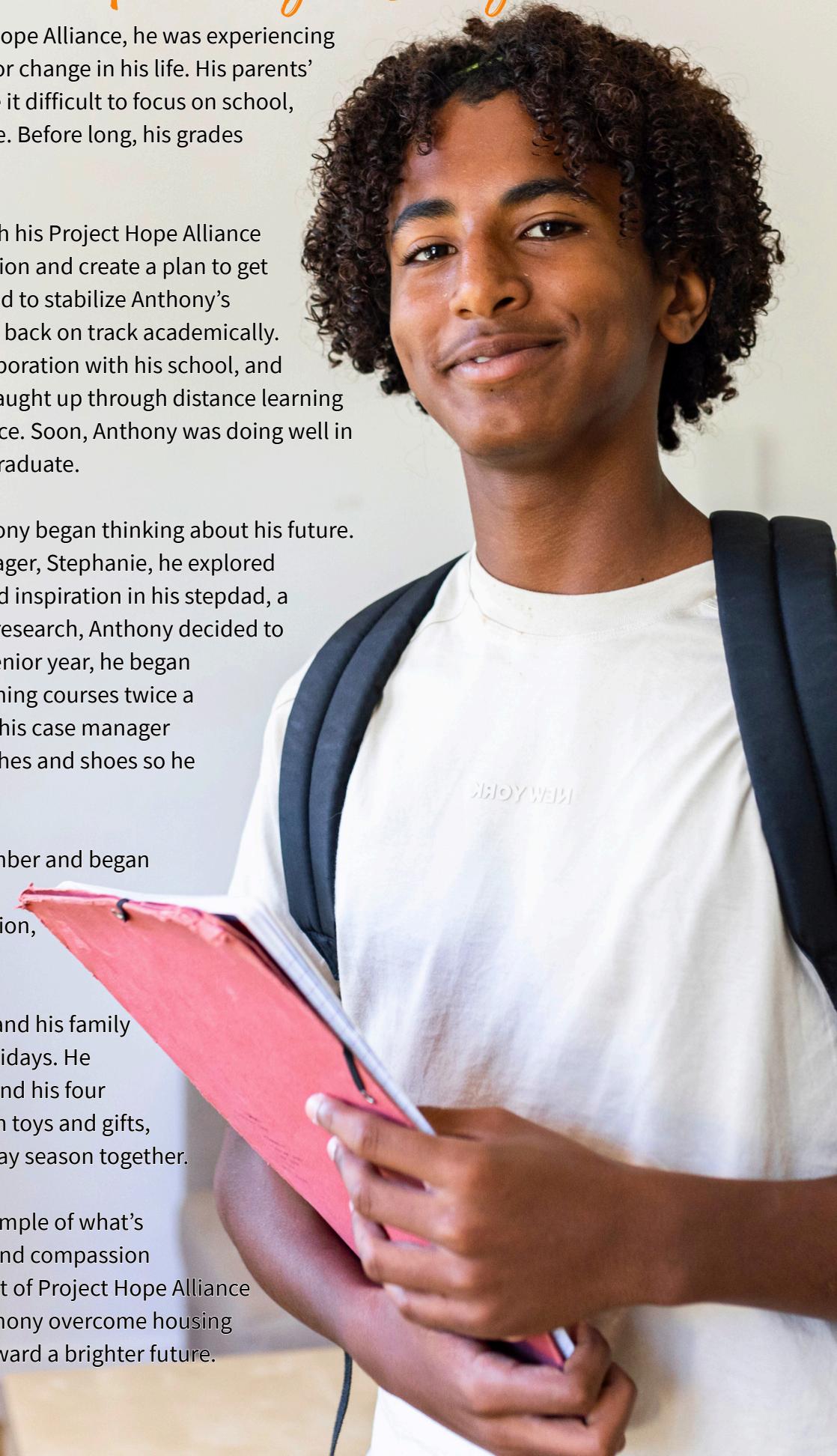
That's when Anthony partnered with his Project Hope Alliance case manager to improve his situation and create a plan to get back on track. Together, they worked to stabilize Anthony's housing and create goals to get him back on track academically. With regular check-ins, strong collaboration with his school, and Anthony's own determination, he caught up through distance learning and steadily improved his attendance. Soon, Anthony was doing well in school again and back on track to graduate.

As his senior year progressed, Anthony began thinking about his future. In conversations with his Case Manager, Stephanie, he explored different vocational paths and found inspiration in his stepdad, a military veteran. With support and research, Anthony decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. During his senior year, he began attending boot camp and basic training courses twice a week. To support his commitment, his case manager provided gift cards for workout clothes and shoes so he could continue training.

Anthony graduated early last December and began full-time Army training in January. Today, he has found stability, direction, and a renewed sense of purpose.

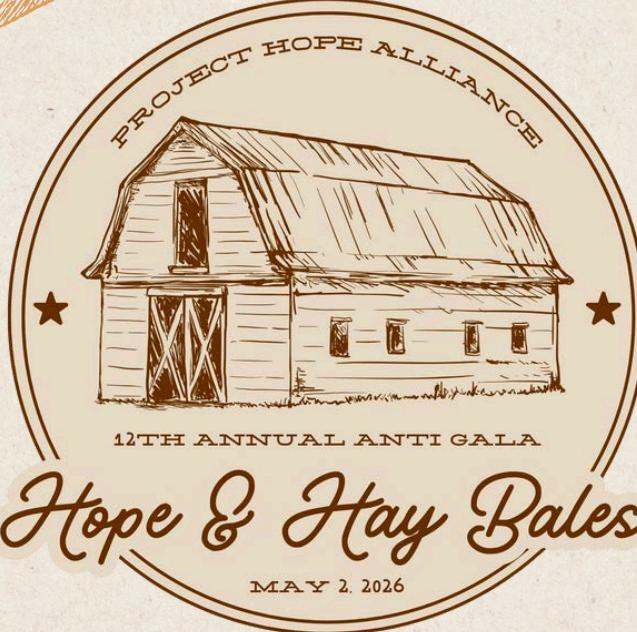
Before this big transition, Anthony and his family were also supported during the holidays. He received a stocking and gift cards, and his four younger siblings were provided with toys and gifts, helping ensure a warm, joyful holiday season together.

Anthony's journey is a powerful example of what's possible when stability, guidance, and compassion come together. Through the support of Project Hope Alliance and a dedicated case manager, Anthony overcame housing instability and move confidently toward a brighter future.





Save the Date



Project Hope Alliance's 12th Annual Anti Gala: Hope & Hay Bales

Join us on **May 2, 2026** at **The Red Horse Barn in Huntington Beach** for a laid-back night of western charm, good company, and big-hearted giving!

Questions about tickets and sponsorship opportunities?
Email Annie.S@ProjectHopeAlliance.org



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