



Sending *hope* your way

FALL 2018



BLAZING A NEW
TRAIL

YOUR GIFTS ARE
TURNING ABIGAIL'S
DREAMS INTO REALITY



I SEE YOU

Your support tells our Scholars that they matter

NICOLE LYNN LEWIS
Founder & CEO

“There is power in stopping and taking a moment to let someone know that you recognize their hard work and sacrifice.”

In September, I received a call alerting me that I had been named the national grand prize winner of the 2018 Roslyn S. Jaffe Award — chosen among nearly 3,000 nominees of everyday heroes who are making a difference in the lives of women and children across the country.

The woman on the other end of the line was Mrs. Jaffe, who started dressbarn back in the 1960s, a retail venture which has now grown into a parent company operating multiple brands in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. The award came with a \$100,000 grant for Generation Hope.

The next few weeks were a whirlwind of press releases, travel arrangements, train rides — all leading to the awards luncheon in NYC attended by more than 700 people.

In my acceptance speech, I made

it clear that this award was not about me. It was about the young parents in our program — and all over the country — who are working tirelessly every day to make a better life for their children.

The award did something very special. It communicated “I see you” to individuals who are not often seen. There is power in stopping and taking a moment to let someone know that you recognize their hard work and sacrifice. I felt that as I stood on that stage — a mother who was struggling to put food on the table nearly 20 years ago. I hope each and every one of our Scholars felt that as well.

And I want you to know that this is what your support says to our Scholars each time you give. It tells them that they matter and that they are not alone. That is the most valuable gift of all. Thank you.

PEP RALLY UNDER THE STARS *Gala*

EMCEE
JAMES MACGREGOR
Market President and Publisher of the *Washington Business Journal*

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019
6:30 PM — 11:00 PM | THE WASHINGTON HILTON
www.supportgenerationhope.org/gala

SAVE THE DATE!

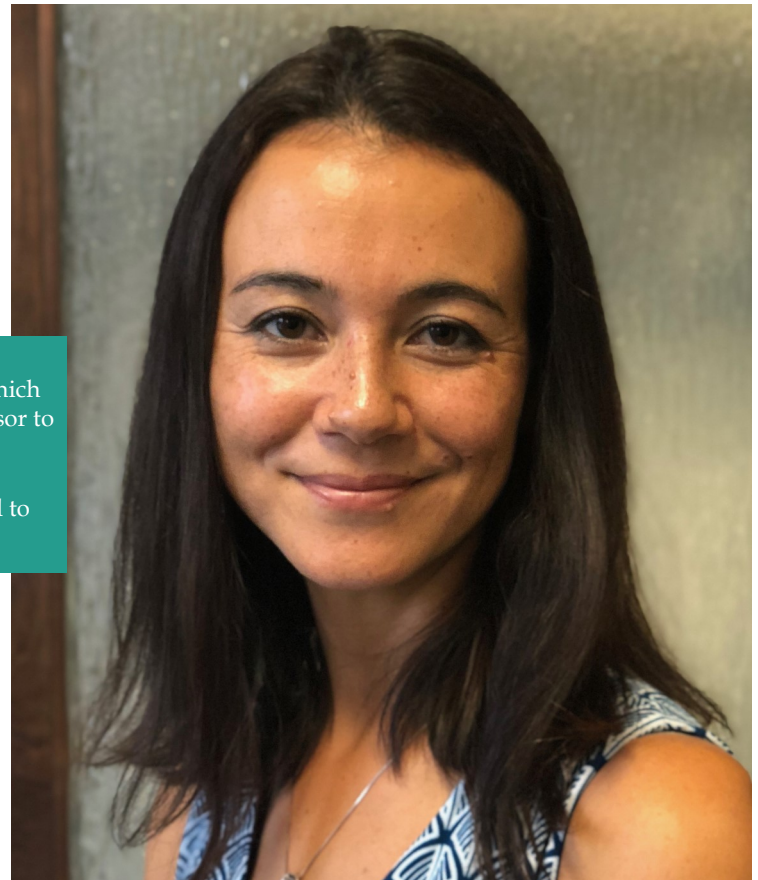
MIKI SCHEIDEL

WHY I GIVE

in my own words

ABOUT MIKI

Miki Scheidel is the President of the Scheidel Foundation, which has supported Generation Hope since 2016. She is also Sponsor to Generation Hope Scholar Sakeithia, who attends Trinity Washington University. Here, she shares why the Scheidel Foundation supports Generation Hope and why she decided to become more personally involved.



How did you find out about Generation Hope?

Our Senior Director of Foundation Programs, Caroline Wertz, regarded Generation Hope highly through her prior work with Fair Chance, which is a nonprofit that strengthens the organizational capacity of youth-focused organizations in the region. We were struck by Nicole's passion and vision to create this distinctive model, the clear need for an organization that focuses exclusively on supporting the unique and challenging circumstances of young parents to complete college, and the opportunity to support two generations to achieve their greatest potential with a single investment.

What is your foundation looking for in choosing organizations to support?

We look for organizations that provide great outcomes in graduating students from college as well as preparing them to enter into a career that will lead to at least middle-class earning potential. At the same time, we look to ensure these organizations have strong organizational capacity, such as strong leadership, a committed board, a clear mission and vision, solid programming with financials that align with it, an ability to track outcomes, and dedicated, professional staff.

Why is this work so significant?

As a mother of three young children, I understand how challenging it can be to raise kids in the best of circumstances: with a stable home environment, a loving, supportive husband, regular income, and at a time when I was personally ready for it. And it is still NOT easy! I also remember how challenging my college years were, when I only had to worry about myself and my own goals. These young mothers and fathers who choose to go to college while juggling work and family are my heroes. More than most, they need added

supports, encouragement, and positive support systems of mentors and peers who are in similar circumstances to reach their college and career goals. Generation Hope offers all of that.

“THESE YOUNG MOTHERS AND FATHERS WHO CHOOSE TO GO TO COLLEGE WHILE JUGGLING WORK AND FAMILY ARE MY HEROES.”

Why did you decide to also become a Generation Hope Sponsor?

I have always tried to develop one-on-one relationships through volunteering. Though we were providing supports to the Generation Hope Scholars at an organizational level through grants from the Foundation, I wanted to personally give. There are many organizations with which I could have volunteered, but through Generation Hope I knew I would relate to my Scholar not only as a student, but as a mom.

What has the experience been like for you so far?

My Scholar is amazing! She is vibrant, passionate, smart, well-spoken, driven, and is clearly devoted to her daughter. She has overcome many obstacles, and is facing many important decisions in her life. She has already brought so much to my life through sharing herself with me, and I hope that I can be a trusted resource to her as she navigates the next steps in her life. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us!

Written by CAROLINE GRISWOLD SHORT

BLAZING A NEW TRAIL

YOUR GIFTS ARE
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If you ask Abigail Kingston to choose a number that marks some of the most significant milestones in her life, there is a good chance she will pick the number three.

She was three years old when her mom moved the family from Guyana to the United States. Abigail is the youngest of three siblings. Her son, Daniel, is three years old. She and Daniel both have birthdays in March – the third month of the year. And, she is in her third year at Bowie State University in Maryland.

Abigail grew up in Riverdale, Md. She, Daniel, and one of her older brothers now live with her mom in Hyattsville, Md.

LIKE HER MOTHER, WHO HAD HER FIRST CHILD AT 17, ABIGAIL WAS 17 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE HAD DANIEL.

“She was disappointed when I told her I was pregnant, but she didn’t let it show,” Abigail recalls.

Knowing the challenges that Abigail faces, her mom is her biggest supporter. She often babysits and fills the financial gaps to provide for Daniel. Abigail’s job at a local Friday’s restaurant allows her to help her mother with the bills.

Abigail met Daniel’s father at Northwestern High School where they ran track together. She was a freshman. After Daniel was born, most of the financial burden fell on Abigail and her mom. The young parents broke up in Abigail’s first year of college.

“We just weren’t on the same page,” Abigail says. Daniel’s father is still in his life, and Daniel often spends time with his paternal family.

ABIGAIL IS THE FIRST OF HER SIBLINGS TO ATTEND COLLEGE, following her mother's example of seizing opportunity through education. Her mom attended Montgomery College and now works as a geriatric nursing assistant.

At Bowie State University, Abigail was originally planning to pursue nursing. "The care I received while at the hospital after I had Daniel really inspired me."

But after getting into the coursework, she discovered another discipline that intrigued her even more. She recently changed her major to child and adolescent studies and is exploring related career options.

"It's very smart and brave of her to say 'This isn't what I want to do' and find what she thinks is going to work for her," says Kimberly Knight, Abigail's Generation Hope Sponsor (i.e. mentor). "I really believe she can do anything. I have seen her work through a variety of things in that way. She course-corrects, readjusts, realigns, and makes it happen."

Abigail applied to Generation Hope in 2015 after learning about the organization through one of their college-readiness workshops at Northwestern High School. With financial support from Generation Hope, she started at Bowie State University in the fall of 2016 — the same year Kimberly became a Generation Hope mentor.

"She is very self sufficient and independent," Kimberly adds. "Abigail can be really reserved. I'm enjoying watching her take on what I view as leadership and helping roles. Being involved in planning events and participating in pilots for making the Generation Hope Scholar Program better for fellow Scholars, to see her step outside of her comfort zone for the benefit of others, I love it."

Parenting has changed Abigail's perspective on life, "You see there's a lot more to life than partying."

Abigail's top priority is providing the best possible life for Daniel, and her number one goal is to finish college. **"GETTING MY DEGREE AND WALKING ACROSS THAT STAGE, I WOULD COUNT THAT AS A BIG SUCCESS,"** she said. "The challenge is trying to balance everything and not get overwhelmed."

The support that she receives from her Generation Hope coach, Sophie, and the bond she shares with Kimberly has helped Abigail overcome obstacles and stay on course. "They always have solutions to any problems that we have. They'll get on the phone and talk you through any problem."

Kimberly wants nothing but the best for Abigail, "I believe she wants a good, comfortable life for her and for Daniel. I want her to be secure and happy. I want her to find a career she enjoys and for her to be able to have as many new and wonderful experiences as possible."

Abigail has someone special to inspire her to get there. **"I LOVE WATCHING DANIEL GROW, HOW SMART HE IS."**

With the help of her mom and Generation Hope, Abigail is on track to earn a bachelor's degree in child and adolescent studies from Bowie State University in 2021.

Written by VICTORIA VICKERS



ABIGAIL & KIMBERLY

"They always have solutions to any problems that we have. They'll get on the phone and talk you through any problem."

ABIGAIL & DANIEL





WHY I SERVE

HOW FAMILY IS AT THE HEART OF SERVING
FOR THIS VOLUNTEER

“Kids aren’t trying to butter you up and then ask you for your business card. Kids will ask you for your business cards and then make a house out of them and then probably trap you inside of that house.”

When looking for a volunteer opportunity, Alex Washington specifically searched for an organization that was supporting teen parents because her parents were teenagers when they had her. When she found Generation Hope, she called her mom and told her about it.

“My mom said, ‘I WISH THAT HAD BEEN AROUND WHEN ME AND DAD WERE RAISING YOU,’ ” says Alex.

If they had Generation Hope supporting them, Alex is confident that her mom would have been able to finish school. Instead, she had to sacrifice her education in order to take care of her and work to support her financially.

“Generation Hope would have helped her out so much.”

Alex has a history of service. In college, she volunteered with Food not Bombs. Now that

she was in the working world, she wanted to find an equally rewarding volunteer opportunity.

She first became involved with Generation Hope as a volunteer tutor through the tutoring program, which pairs individuals in the community with Scholars who might be having challenges in a particular subject. Alex first served as a biology tutor.

“MY SCHOLAR WAS A BIG INSPIRATION TO ME,” says Alex. “I admired how hard she works and her dedication to maintain really high grades at the same time as being a committed parent. She is just a sweet and considerate person. I know she is going to have really bright outcomes, and I am super happy to be a part of her support system.”

Alex found tutoring to be so rewarding that she also tutored Scholars in statistics and then signed on to be a childcare volunteer, helping to keep Scholars’ children busy while their parents participate in Generation Hope trainings and activities.

Spending time in childcare has allowed Alex to see a new side of Generation Hope’s programming — how it benefits the children of the Scholars.

“I’ve enjoyed watching children build friendships with other children and grow more comfortable the more they get to know

each other,” says Alex.

“I am touched by the love that the children show to each other,” says Alex. “At one event, one kid was having a hard time and getting upset so they had to sit out of the activities for a while. Their friend went over to them and refused to leave them while they were still feeling like that. Incredible friendship.”

Being a childcare volunteer is a refreshing break from her consulting job.

“KIDS HAVE STRONG ENOUGH IMAGINATIONS TO THRIVE ON EVEN THE SMALLEST THING YOU GIVE THEM. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE FUN AND TO BRING YOU ALONG FOR THE RIDE.”

As the children attended more and more childcare sessions, Alex noticed how walking into that room of crafts, books, toys, and volunteers could begin to feel like another home.

“Generation Hope events are like big family gatherings,” says Alex. “I have never been involved with an organization that actually embodies its mission statement so well. It isn’t just a mission statement.”

The family-like atmosphere makes serving as a childcare volunteer that much more rewarding.

“Everyone knows each other, and there is always



a lot of love and warmth.”

And that love and warmth is evident when Alex sees Scholars with their children.

“THEY’RE FIGURING THEMSELVES OUT AS PARENTS, AND THEY GIVE ALL THAT THEY HAVE TO THEIR CHILDREN.”

When Alex recalls one of her favorite moments serving as a childcare volunteer, it is easy to see why she is so popular with the children.

“Childcare makes you think on your toes. Once in the 7 to 10 year old room at the gala, I grabbed a bag of goodies and said that the winner of ‘red light, green light’ would get the prize. They lined up, there were 10

seconds of complete silence, and then they started running at me, and I heard one of them yell ‘get her in the stomach!’ I’ve never been ganged up on by so many people who were smaller than me.”

“I love the kids.”

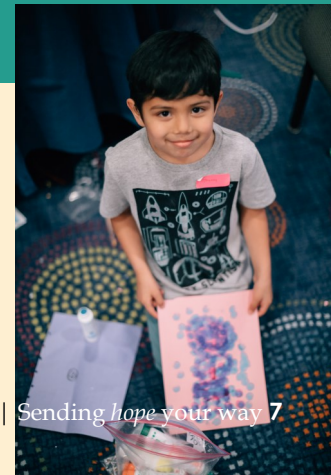
Your gift of time makes it possible for Generation Hope to do this life-changing work. Please visit supportgenerationhope.org/volunteer to learn more about ways that you can use your gifts to help young families thrive.

Written by **MARC CHARBONIER**

GIVE BACK AS A FAMILY

to help a child thrive

Looking for a way to give back as a family or a group? Become a Resource Family — a new volunteer opportunity for groups of people to invest in the educational success of a child of a teen parent with the goal of helping them get ready for kindergarten. As a Resource Family, you will join us for dinner with a Scholar and their child in your geographic area six times per year, connect that child with needed resources within your network, and invest in their early childhood education. Applications are being accepted now at supportgenerationhope.org/next-generation-academy. Questions? Please contact Michelle Avelino at michelle@supportgenerationhope.org.



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HOPE *for the holidays*



YOU CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

YOUNG PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN HERE AT GENERATION HOPE NEED YOUR HELP.

- Adopt a Scholar family for the holidays by providing five gifts total for a young parent and their child. To sign up, please email michelle@supportgenerationhope.org.
- Organize a gift drive at your office, church, or in your neighborhood.
- Volunteer at our holiday party on December 20th. To sign up, please email michelle@supportgenerationhope.org.
- Donate at supportgenerationhope.org — a gift of \$100 provides college-readiness workshops to three expecting or parenting high school students; \$500 provides three children with a brand new book each month for 1 year; and \$1,200 provides a one-year sponsorship for a Scholar attending community college.



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Thank you to everyone who supported our "Pancake Battle" on October 20th, which raised more than **\$27,000** for Generation Hope! A special thank you to our team sponsors **Venable and Clark Enterprises Inc.!**
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR NEXT BIG EVENT, OUR GALA, ON FRIDAY, MAY 31ST!

STAY CONNECTED



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