

SENDING HOPE YOUR WAY



How your gifts are changing the lives of families forever

Fall 2020

A SCHOLAR PAYING IT FORWARD

YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING TWO FUTURES

GW

10 YEARS OF IMPACT

YOUR SUPPORT IS TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR STUDENT PARENTS



NICOLE LYNN LEWIS
Founder & CEO

Finding joy and opportunities to celebrate in these unprecedented times often provides healing and hope. In March, Generation Hope achieved a major milestone: our ten-year anniversary. This opportunity to reflect on all that we have accomplished together has filled us with gratitude for incredible supporters like you. As we continue to push through the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the racial reckoning happening across the country, I am thankful for every single person who has invested their time and treasure in our families and in our mission here at Generation Hope.

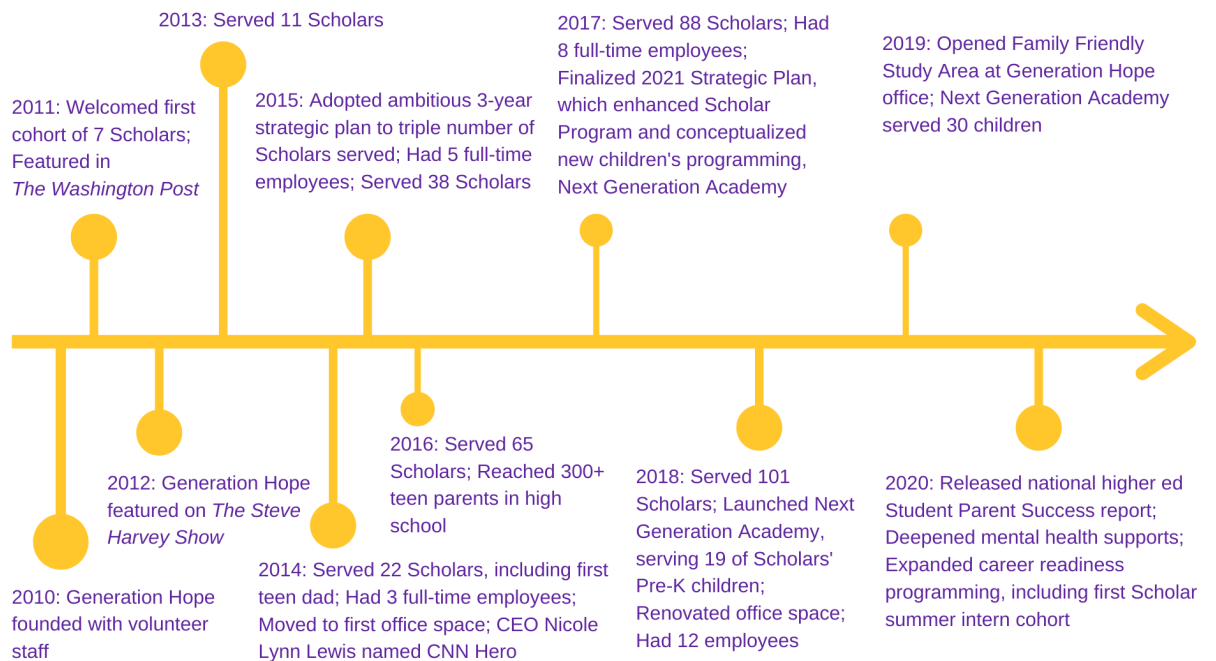
"The voices and experiences of our students have guided everything we have done."

From our humble beginnings with an all-volunteer staff and seven Scholars, we have grown to serve up to 100 young parents in college each year, provide early childhood programming to ensure our Scholars' little ones are ready to thrive in kindergarten, and advocate for

the nearly 4 million parenting college students across the country.

In this newsletter we will look back on our journey so far, share how we are rising to the challenges and opportunities of this moment, and explore what is next for Generation Hope. One of the things I am most proud of is that the voices and experiences of our students have guided everything we have done -- including making mental health supports a key component of our services to young families, building a family friendly study space in our office, digging into meaningful racial equity work that addresses the systemic barriers to student parent success, customizing career-readiness programming to the needs of parenting college students, and more. And you continue to make it all possible. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Founder & CEO, Generation Hope



MARISOL MURPHY-BALLANTYNE

WHY I GIVE

ABOUT

Marisol

Marisol is a native Texan and lives in Silver Spring with her husband John, children Stela and Franco, and dog Luna. She is the Marketing & Communications Director at CCI Health & Wellness Services, and she is a member of P.E.O., an organization that fundraises to increase educational opportunities for women.



How have you been involved with Generation Hope?

In 2012, I was working for Reingold, a marketing and communications firm, and Generation Hope was a pro-bono client. It was an exciting time to be supporting communications work, in particular when Nicole was on the Steve Harvey Show! We loved seeing Generation Hope's story being told on a national stage.

I got hooked! After that, I became a Mentor. At first, I wondered if I had enough to offer because I didn't have children at the time. But Caroline (Director of Programming) was so encouraging and I was thrilled to be part of a Scholar's journey.

I am also part of a group that raises money for women's education. I invited Nicole and a Scholar to come to one of our events to talk about Generation Hope. A few of my friends ended up getting involved, and now when I go to Generation Hope events I bump into friends who are also supporters. My husband is one of my favorite Generation Hope converts! I brought him to the gala last year. He was so moved by the experience and it was nice to see it become a worthwhile experience for him too.

Why do you think Generation Hope's work is important?

I was a first-generation college student and am a first-generation American. I know that there can be a heavy burden on people who have not had the opportunities that others have. It is so important that our Scholars have the opportunity to create the life they want for themselves and their children. Everyone I meet through Generation Hope is so genuine and wonderful. The community is filled with big-hearted people.

Generation Hope holistically supports young families. When you have so much on your plate, and you have to make tough choices, you need support.

"Generation Hope is a true leader in the field and is elevating Scholars' voices in amazing ways."

Generation Hope helps build Scholars' self esteem so they can say "I can do that!" That's the definition of hope, and I wish the rest of the world empowered young people like that.

How has Generation Hope evolved over the years?

They just keep getting better and learning from their experience. And I love how the Scholars are so involved in charting the growth. Generation Hope has always been way ahead of the curve. For example, they have paved the way for addressing the stigmatization of teen parents, leading with empathy and encouraging others to do the same. They show how teen parents have so much to offer. It's amazing to see Scholars testifying on Capitol Hill and more. Generation Hope is a true leader in the field and is elevating Scholars' voices.

What are your hopes for the future of Generation Hope? Where do you see us in 10 years?

I would love to see Generation Hope have other locations in other parts of the country! There is so much need. And, since so many people in college are parents, I hope Generation Hope is always at the table for discussions about policy that impacts student parents. I see them as the "go-to" about what works for student parents. I also can't wait to see how they continue to expand their early childhood programming. And I'm excited to see the partnerships Generation Hope is building to help Scholars find good internships and jobs after graduation. It's clear that Generation Hope is already doing much of this, and I can't wait to see more! There is so much potential.



AN ALUMNA OPENS DOORS FOR OTHERS

YOUR SUPPORT CREATED
NEW POSSIBILITIES

“It means everything to me.” That’s how former Generation Hope Scholar Briana describes the feeling of being able to open doors for current Scholars.

In February, Briana and her colleagues at Optum, a health services innovation company, hosted Generation Hope Scholars for a career shadow day. Career readiness is just one of the new layers of support that Generation Hope has built into our program, and we are thrilled to partner with local companies across different industries to introduce Scholars to promising career opportunities and potential future employers.

Briana and her teammates each shared their journeys to working in the healthcare industry, and answered Scholars’ questions. Next, Scholars partnered with

Optum employees to review their resumes and talk about their career goals. The day wrapped up with the Optum photographer taking professional headshots for each Scholar to use on their LinkedIn profiles.

It was an incredibly valuable experience for this group of Scholars hoping to work in the healthcare sector, but their interactions with Briana, who shared her experience transitioning from being a Generation Hope Scholar and college student to a professional in the workforce, made it even more special.

“It’s a big deal to me because young parents are my community. I take personal responsibility to help them out because I know how necessary it is to have a good paying job, with great benefits,” Briana said.

**“IT’S A BIG DEAL TO ME BECAUSE
YOUNG PARENTS ARE MY
COMMUNITY.”**

Not long ago, Briana walked in the same shoes as our Scholars.

When she became pregnant her senior year of high school, Briana recalls, "I never felt like pregnancy would deter me from going to college. When I told people I was pregnant everyone else would say 'are you still going to college?' and I would say 'yeah, of course.'" With a baby on the way, she applied to college and for scholarships.

The memory of becoming a Generation Hope Scholar makes Briana smile, "Every time I think about Generation Hope, it just gives me so much happiness."

But college was not easy for Briana, who attended George Washington University. The pressures of maintaining the academic excellence she demanded of herself while being a good mom to her son Mikey and navigating a challenging and unstable living arrangement put her in a deep depression for much of her freshman and sophomore years. The only things that kept her going were her son and Generation Hope.

After Briana uncharacteristically missed several check-in meetings, her Mentor and Hope Coach realized that Briana needed to change her precarious living situation. Briana wanted to leave, but she was a full-time student without any housing alternatives. Generation Hope connected Briana to a transitional house for single mothers, which was close by campus, and she was accepted into the program. After the move, Generation Hope helped Briana navigate gaining sole custody of her son and establish safe and healthy boundaries that enabled her son to have his father and his family in his life.

In May 2018, Briana graduated from George Washington University with an exercise science major and a minor in public health. In June 2018 she was honored as Scholar of the Year at the Generation Hope Gala, which she describes as "a really big moment." That same month, she started her job at Optum. Briana continues to have big goals -- after being promoted following just six months on the job, she is now looking forward to continued professional growth. Her long-term goal is to pursue roles at Optum that enable her to do more content creation and public health

research.

In addition to opening doors for current Scholars to explore careers in healthcare, Briana is also an active supporter of Generation Hope's national impact work and participated in the February focus group in which advocates and higher ed leadership discussed ways college can better support student parents. "I really want to see expansion for Generation Hope," she explains, because "poverty affects so many aspects of your life -- finances, health, education, and more. And I want to stop as many people from having to go through that as I can."

"POVERTY AFFECTS SO MANY ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE — FINANCES, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND MORE. AND I WANT TO STOP AS MANY PEOPLE FROM HAVING TO GO THROUGH THAT AS I CAN."



Briana & son Mikey with her 2018 Scholar of the Year Award



OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE POWERED BY YOUR SUPPORT

NOW

THEN

- First Scholar cohort:** 7
- First office:** Founder & CEO Nicole Lynn Lewis' home
- Generation Hope staff:** 0
- Number of programs:** 1 (Scholar Program)
- Colleges represented:** 6
- Budget:** \$150,000

- Scholar cohort:** 90
- Office:** Two floors & a Family Friendly study area in office space in Washington, DC
- Generation Hope staff:** 15
- Number of Programs:** 3 (Scholar Program, Next Generation Academy, National Impact)
- Colleges represented:** 20
- Children in Next Generation Academy:** 30
- Budget:** \$2.4 million

Our Future

"Just like the other mothers and fathers in Generation Hope, I am pushing myself through college to create a better life for myself and family. My son is the driving reason behind my motivation. Looking past the stigma and what others think, Generation Hope has given teen parents hope and resources that I did not know existed."

- Scholar Abigail, Bowie State University

Abigail's words capture the essence of why our efforts over the next ten years will be so important. Teen parents pursuing their degrees are up against incredible odds--so few graduate despite their academic ability, impressive time management, and powerful motivation to provide for their families. At Generation Hope, we know that with support, young parents can thrive. Read on to learn what the future looks like for Generation Hope.

National Impact

One in five college students today is a parent, but this population remains largely invisible on college campuses and has unique needs that often go unsupported. Generation

Hope is launching new work to address systemic barriers facing student parents and their children. This will include:

- 1) Expanding our student parent-driven policy and advocacy work
- 2) Providing technical assistance to colleges and universities to increase their capacity to serve this population
- 3) Scaling our direct services.

To develop this work, we are conducting virtual focus groups to convene student parents, higher ed leaders and administrators, policymakers, and funders to discuss the transformation needed to support student parent success in postsecondary education.

Our national student parent report kicks off this new work, providing national data on student parents' experiences in college as well as recommendations for how to help student parents thrive and persist. Learn more at <http://supportgenerationhope.org/student-parents-report>.

Racial Equity

"As the leader of Generation Hope, I feel -- and have felt -- a very deep sense of responsibility to address the racial oppression that is baked into the DNA of this country." - Nicole Lynn Lewis

Generation Hope is committed to creating equitable outcomes for families of color through our work every day. Over a year ago, we began taking organization-wide action on racial equity that is more than a letter or a tweet or a moment: it is strategic and enduring.



Scholar Nekaiya (University of the District of Columbia Class of 2020) and her daughters

This action includes identifying the impact that systemic racism has on the postsecondary and career success of student parents of color. We also use a racial equity lens and proven best practices to assess and enhance our leadership, management, board, community, data, culture, and human resources. And in this moment of racial reckoning, we are

holding community conversations with our mentors, Scholars, board, and staff to discuss, identify, and uproot the ways that systemic racism impacts our work.

Looking ahead, we are committed to influencing change internally and externally, weaving the impacts of race into all of our communications, strategies, and programming, and having diverse representation and decision-making power among our staff, board, and Scholars. We invite you to join us and hold us accountable in this journey.

COVID-19 Impacts & Response

Scholar Emily describes watching her son's school close, losing hours at her hospitality job, reading the email that her classes were going remote, all within a matter of days "like a glass shattering." Emily is a dental hygiene student at Northern Virginia Community College and the first in her family to go to college. Like so many Generation Hope Scholars, she worries about how the pandemic will impact her long-term plans.

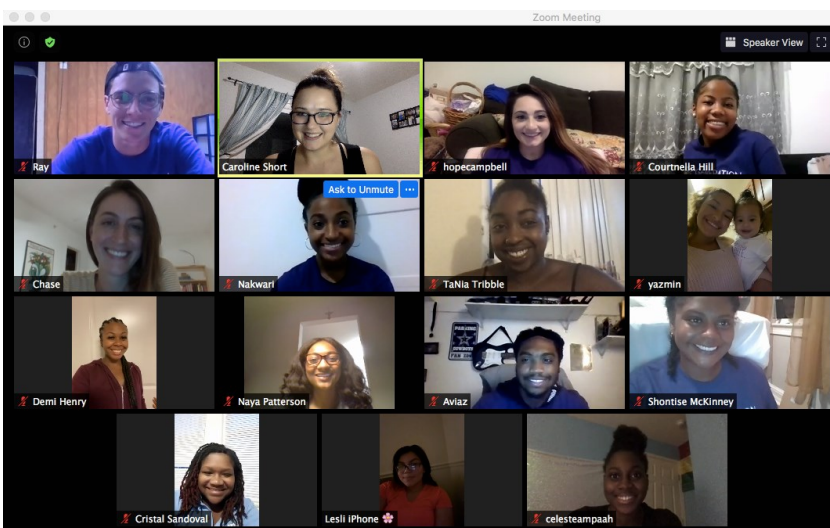
Our Scholars have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we have rapidly responded to meet their needs. Scholars have faced loss of work, food insecurity, lack of technology to access remote coursework, mental health challenges, and more. Like Emily, they are navigating these crises while parenting and staying on course to their college degrees.

During COVID-19, our Scholars have shown how incredibly tenacious and resilient they are: 93% of our Scholars completed all of their classes for the spring semester, and 95% earned a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Thanks to supporters like you, Generation Hope has:

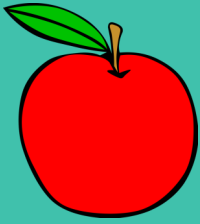
- Continued nearly all of our programming virtually - case management, home visits, workshops, and more - and adapted to meet new needs as they arise.
- Provided over 120 one-on-one mental health counseling sessions for Scholars and their children, and nine group sessions about mental health and self care.
- Provided over 45 individual career coaching sessions and two career readiness webinars.
- Distributed over \$24,000 in emergency funding to our Scholars.
- Raised awareness about the unique needs facing student parents and their children, and the ways that racial inequities impact the families we support. Media coverage has included NBC Think, Washington Business Journal, NBC4 Washington, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, Inside Higher Ed, Education Leaders of Color, and more.
- Kept our Scholars' families and broader community encouraged and connected through weekly #GHBedtimeStories virtual story hours on Facebook Live! We've been excited to have U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Soledad O'Brien, and other amazing friends of Generation Hope join us as guest readers!
- Welcomed a new cohort of 28 Scholars to the Generation Hope family.

We are grateful for your support, and knowing that the impacts of the pandemic will be lasting, we look forward to partnering with you in the coming months as we continue to ensure that our families weather this storm.



Welcoming our new cohort of Scholars & their Mentors during our virtual summer training!

Back to School Needs



YOU CAN IMPACT A YOUNG FAMILY
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

donate



- Make a donation to power Generation Hope's two-generation solution to poverty. Your support makes a difference now more than ever as we help our Scholars navigate challenges associated with COVID-19:

<https://bit.ly/ghdonate>

- Donate to our Scholars' wish list, which provides essential tangible items for our Scholars and their little ones:

<http://bit.ly/gh-wishlist>

TO DONATE ITEMS OR GET INVOLVED:

Please contact
Caroline Griswold Short
caroline@
supportgenerationhope.org
202-642-5649

mentor

- Mentor as a group by becoming a Resource Family! Build a supportive, lasting relationship with a young parent pursuing their college degree and their pre-k little one. Learn more and apply:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8tta7fu>



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