

Persisting Through Unprecedented Times



GENERATION
HOPE *Celebrating*
10 YEARS

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

OUR MISSION To ensure all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility, Generation Hope engages education and policy partners to drive systemic change and provides direct support to teen parents in college as well as their children through holistic, two-generation programming.



Nicole with Generation Hope Alumna Carla Rocha (who is now a Generation Hope Board Member) and her son, Louis (L), and Generation Hope Scholar Christina Tran (R) at the opening of our Family-Friendly Study Area in Fall 2019.

To the Generation Hope community,

In an unprecedented year, you stepped up like never before. COVID-19 and its impacts created so much uncertainty for so many, especially for our families, but your generosity created assurance in the storm. You powered our emergency grants to our Scholars and their children, helped us pivot to virtual programming, funded an increase in critical mental health supports, strengthened our career-readiness programming, and deepened our racial equity work.

In addition to directly supporting our families, you fueled our new efforts to address the systemic challenges facing student parents nationwide. We executed our first-ever national survey of student parents and released a report of findings and recommendations for higher education institutions to better meet their needs. We also conducted a listening tour across the country to inform our new work to support colleges and universities in these efforts.

Through it all, I have been inspired by our Scholars' strength and determination, their commitment to supporting their children and each other – and by each of you.

We know that it takes a village to help a family thrive, and in 2020 we were incredibly grateful to have you as part of our village. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and hope you will enjoy reading more about our accomplishments from the past year. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lynn Lewis

Founder and CEO



COVID-19 IMPACTS

MORE THAN 25% of Scholars lost work due to COVID-19.

MORE THAN 10% of Scholars were essential workers, struggling to balance parenting, going to school, finding childcare, and working on the front lines during the pandemic.

Scholars experienced food insecurity, housing instability, domestic violence, isolation, COVID diagnoses, mental health challenges, and other new and magnified crises.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Beginning in March 2020, Generation Hope shifted all programming to virtual delivery. Programming included:
 - Ongoing case management to address the unique needs and goals of each Scholar.
 - Our first Career Week with 15 sessions including panels, resume reviews, and mock interviews.
 - Career exploration days and internships with local employers, as well as ongoing, one-on-one career coaching.
 - More than 220 one-on-one home visits and 29 group family dinners for families in Next Generation Academy.
 - 15 storyhours on Facebook Live with guest readers for our families and the broader community.
- We increased our one-on-one mental health counseling sessions by 30% to meet the higher demand during the pandemic, and provided mental health workshops and therapeutic groups for Scholars and their children.
- We collected and distributed tangible items like diapers and school supplies for Scholars, and gifts to help make the holidays bright.
- We provided our first round of COVID-19 emergency funding to our families, totaling nearly \$30,000, helping them meet their urgent, short-term needs.
- Our Scholars participated in virtual social events and even organized their own pen pal program to help cope with the isolation and stress caused by the pandemic.



“When 2020 began, it was the year of possibilities. Circumstances changed due to the pandemic, and I lost my job. Because of COVID, pursuing a degree is laborious, parenting is challenging, and juggling other responsibilities is burdensome. I have wanted to give up, but I remember that if I don't create a future for myself and my children, we won't have one.

Before working with Generation Hope, I didn't have much of a support system. I had high hopes and dreams without a vision to achieve them. Generation Hope has helped my family by providing support to get through the tough times. I have mentors and a Hope Coach that I can count on for advice or a listening ear. **Generation Hope has created a sense of community for me, allowing for better mental health because I don't constantly feel alone.**”

Scholar Shontise
University of the District of Columbia

OUR 2020 IMPACT



- 51%** HISPANIC/LATINX
- 34%** AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 74%** FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
- 81%** STUDENTS WITH AN EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION OF ZERO ON THEIR FAFSA



175 expecting or parenting high school students reached through College-Readiness Workshops



300 age-appropriate and culturally-relevant new books distributed to Scholars' children enrolled in Next Generation Academy



30 preschool-aged children supported through Next Generation Academy



\$129,000 provided in tuition assistance



17 graduates earned their degrees



“Generation Hope doesn't identify my parenthood as a setback. They use my parenthood as encouragement and motivation to create my own path and to be successful in it. Generation Hope doesn't view us as a group of teen parents but as individual Scholars with wonderful kiddos that shape our individuality.”

Alumna Andre'a
University of Maryland
Global Campus '21

85% OF OUR SCHOLARS either graduated or continued in both college and Generation Hope from 2019 to 2020

91% OF 2020 GRADUATES are working full time and/or pursuing graduate degrees

95% OF SCHOLARS successfully completed their spring semester, even while navigating the devastating impacts of COVID-19

OUR SCHOLARS graduate at a rate that is nearly 8 times the graduation rate of single mothers nationwide, and exceeds the rate for all college students*

100% OF SCHOLARS say they feel the Generation Hope community accepts them for who they are and that their family is celebrated at Generation Hope

91% OF CHILDREN in Next Generation Academy were on track with age-appropriate motor skills after one year in the program

100% OF CHILDREN in Next Generation Academy were on track with age-appropriate social-emotional development after one year in the program

100% OF PARENTS with children in Next Generation Academy would recommend the program to a friend

*Nationwide, fewer than 2% of teen mothers will earn their college degree before they're 30



“Generation Hope feels like having a huge boulder removed from your shoulders and being embraced by a group hug. It feels like home. Generation Hope Scholars are one-of-a-kind. I admire their work ethic, hunger for success, and ability to adapt to any situation. They remind me of a phoenix. Before the program we faced unimaginable hardships, but with Generation Hope we rise.”

Alumna Jenifer
George Mason University '19

FY20 FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2019-
JUNE 30, 2020



EXPENSES
\$1,617,266



REVENUE
\$1,654,779

Racial equity is woven into the fabric of Generation Hope.

Our racial equity work is more than a tweet or a moment, it is strategic and enduring. Here are some actions we took in 2020:

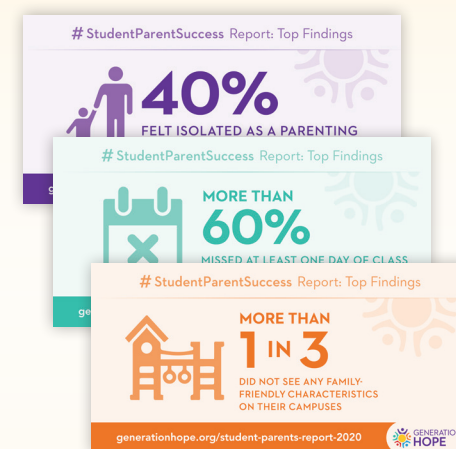
- Hosted board and staff retreats to assess our existing racial equity work and build a path forward for formalizing our future work.
- Formed a staff Racial Equity working group in January 2020 to carry out a seven phase racial equity strategy and ensure we apply a racial equity lens to all that we do.
- Hosted community conversations with staff, Scholars, and funders in the wake of the killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and too many other Black men, women, and children.
- Raised awareness about how systemic racism impacts our families and our work through media coverage with the *Washington Business Journal*, *The Hechinger Report*, Education Leaders of Color, and Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

CHANGING LIVES BY CHANGING SYSTEMS

In May, with the support of Imaginable Futures, Chegg.org, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, and the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Generation Hope released our report: *Uncovering the Student Parent Experience and its Impact on College Success*. This was among the first steps in Generation Hope's new national impact work, which is addressing the systemic barriers facing student parents.

Top Report Findings:

- **High numbers of student parents feel disconnected from their college community:** Nearly half of respondents said they felt somewhat disconnected or very disconnected from their college community as a parenting student.
- **Overall, 20% of respondents indicated they felt either somewhat unwelcome or very unwelcome on their campuses:** 30% of parenting Black students and 25% of parenting Hispanic and Latino students felt either somewhat unwelcome or very unwelcome, compared to 16% of parenting White students.
- **Policies that embrace parenting matter:** More than 60% of respondents missed at least one day of class in their last semester due to lack of childcare, with 7% missing five or more days. Most student parents, nearly 60%, did not know if there is a campus policy on whether they can bring their children to class. **Even with significant childcare challenges, the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that student parents have higher GPAs than their non-parenting peers.**
- **Student parents take note when their campuses lack family-friendly characteristics:** More than a third of respondents did not see any family-friendly characteristics on their campuses.
- **Student services aren't designed for student parents:** Securing childcare was one of the most difficult challenges student parents reported facing. And yet, three-quarters of respondents said that their financial aid office did not inform them that child care expenses could be taken into account in the determination of their financial aid award. That number increases to 79% for Black students.
- **Learn more here:** www.generationhope.org/research



OUR DONORS

We are so grateful to the generous donors who supported Generation Hope from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020!

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Visit www.generationhope.org/our-supporters for a full list of our supporters.

“A key feature of Generation Hope is the one-on-one support provided to young Scholars. Financial support alone cannot break generational poverty. Supporting scholars on a personal and holistic level is vital, and it is what sets Generation Hope apart in its efforts to help Scholars – and their children – succeed for the long term.” **Lori Anderson, Donor**

“PNC is dedicated to strengthening and enriching the lives of our neighbors in communities where we live and work. We are proud to support Generation Hope, whose groundbreaking two-generation approach recognizes the educational needs of both parent and child, further cementing the chance that economic advances accrue to the next generation. Through mentoring, counseling and other critical support, this transformational organization is creating a future of positive outcomes for its motivated Scholars and their families.” **D. Jermaine Johnson, Regional President • PNC Bank, Greater Washington & Virginia**

“Imaginable Futures is honored to support Generation Hope, which consistently demonstrates what is possible for student parents. Generation Hope parent scholars have higher graduation rates and employment rates than the national average and their children are shown to be on track for future success. Student parents are courageous and dually motivated, and investing in their success has ripple effects on their children and society, more broadly. When student parents rise, we all rise.” **Vinice Davis, Venture Partner • Imaginable Futures**