



# Annual Report

2023 - 2024

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Message



As I reflect on the 2023-2024 school year at Hope Academy, I am filled with optimism for our future. Hope Academy's journey, now spanning 19 years, continues to be marked by growth, with a commitment to our mission of supporting teens impacted by substance use disorder (SUD) while they work towards earning their high school diplomas.

In last year's report, I shared about the evolving landscape of adolescent treatment programs and our promise to step up as a leader in this space. Hope Academy has made significant strides in addressing the critical gaps in treatment services for our students. This past year, we hired an in-house therapist, a move that has greatly enhanced our ability to provide immediate and continuous support for our students. This addition, alongside our occupational therapy (OT) program, has had a significant impact on not only our students, but also their families and our staff.

The in-house therapist at Hope Academy has provided essential therapeutic support during the school day, creating access to services and eliminating barriers like transportation. Parents can now rest assured that their children are receiving the support they need without having to miss school or for parents to take time off work. This seamless integration of therapy within the school day has created more stability within our school community.

Our enhanced occupational therapy program has also played a crucial role in our school. By focusing on self-regulation, concentration, and other essential skills, our OT program has helped students manage their emotions and behaviors more effectively, leading to better academic and personal outcomes. The training provided to our staff has ensured that these benefits are felt in classrooms as well.

One of our proudest achievements this year is the success of our graduates. Every single member of our graduating class has moved on to either college or trade school. At Hope Academy, we are preparing our students with the tools and resources to pursue future aspirations.

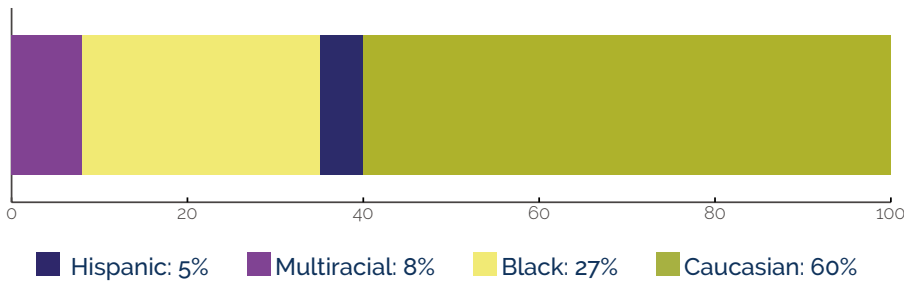
This work is not possible without you. Thank you for your support of Indiana's recovery high school. Because of you, we are able to help our students and build a stronger foundation for our community.

“  
**At Hope Academy, we are preparing our students with the tools and resources to pursue future aspirations.**  
”

**Rachelle Gardner**  
Hope Academy Executive Director

# Our Students

## Race & Ethnicity



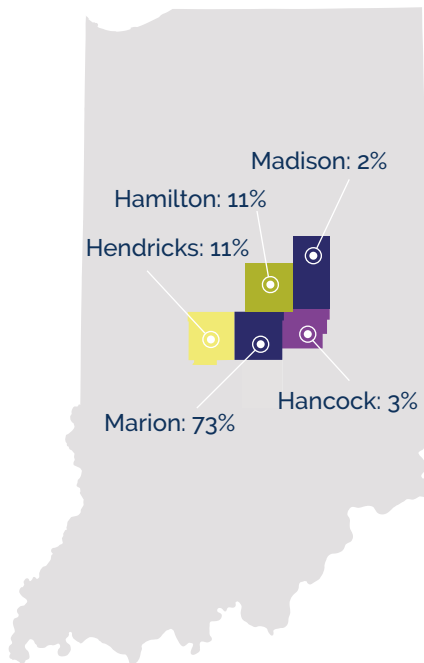
**92.2%**  
Attendance Rate

**71**  
Unique Students  
Enrolled Over  
Course '23-'24

## Gender



## Enrollment by County

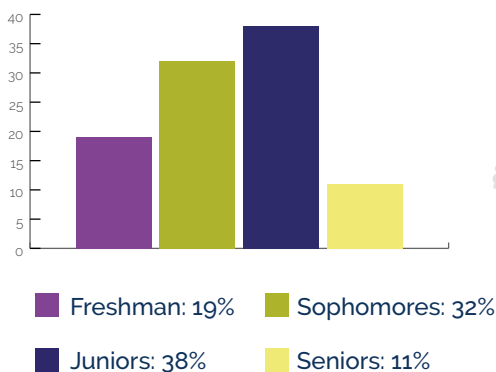


**40%**  
Free & Reduced  
Lunch

**23%**  
Special Education

**79%**  
Student Retention  
Rate

## Grades Represented



WHAT HOPE ACADEMY

# Students are Saying



**"Hope has helped  
me become a  
better person."**

LaReasha



**"Hope has helped  
me figure out  
who I am."**

Sheila



**"The teachers at  
Hope are super  
supportive."**

Matthew



**"Being sober is  
a really good  
experience."**

Taylor



**"Hope has helped  
me learn to  
better myself."**

Rome



# Celebrating Hope

## *The 2023 Rise & Shine for Hope Breakfast Raises Over \$95,000 and Inspires Community Support*

The 2023 Rise & Shine for Hope breakfast, presented by Strada Education Network, was a huge success and a testament to the power of community support.

Joining us as our incredible emcee for the second year in a row, Samantha Johnson with WTHR, filled the early morning event with the vibrant energy of the Sunrise News, captivating nearly 300 guests who gathered to celebrate and support Hope Academy. The event was more than a fundraiser—it was a powerful opportunity to raise awareness about the critical mission of Hope Academy—helping students in recovery from substance use disorder achieve academic and personal success.

Guests heard powerful stories from a Hope Academy student, alumni and parent and celebrated the Faces of Hope Award Honoree, Overdose Lifeline, for its commitment to prevention and advocacy for young people struggling with substance use disorder.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the 2023 Rise & Shine for Hope breakfast raised over \$95,000, which directly supports our students and programs.

Mark your calendars! **The 2024 Rise & Shine for Hope breakfast will be held at Ivy Tech on November 14th from 7:30-9 a.m.** We look forward to another inspiring morning together. Learn more at [hopeacademyrhs.org/riseandshine](https://hopeacademyrhs.org/riseandshine).

*Pictured: Samantha Johnson speaks to a full room; Faces of Hope Honoree, Justin Phillips of Overdoes Lifeline; Parent speaker Janie Kovatch and her husband Mike Kovatch*



“ Hope was the beginning of a long journey towards being a productive member of society for me. I view it as the starting line of a race I will never complete, but it was where I began to get better, and where I learned that I was capable of much more than I had previously imagined for myself.”

Teddy Forman

Alumni Speaker

Hope Academy Class of 2007



## Occupational Therapy at Hope Academy

Hope Academy's Occupational Therapy (OT) program not only benefits students but also empowers our teachers and staff to better connect and guide our students toward success! Here's how we're making a difference:

### SETTING GOALS

Within and outside the classroom, setting goals is crucial for building confidence and motivation. Our OT program provides a structured approach to goal setting, helping alleviate worries and anxieties.

### CIRCLE TIME

Mondays are all about setting the tone for the week ahead. During circle time, we encourage students to be purposeful with their goals. By remembering and following up on these goals throughout the week, we reinforce their significance, fostering a sense of accountability and progress.

### MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

When students face challenges in achieving their goals, our teachers and staff are equipped with motivational interviewing techniques to guide them through the process. From identifying barriers to brainstorming solutions, we empower students to take ownership of their progress.

It's our goal to nurture confident, resilient young people who are ready to tackle any challenge life throws their way and our OT program makes this possible.

## HOPE ACADEMY TEACHER

# Spotlight

### Mr. Jordan Mills

In 2008, Jordan Mills moved from Evansville to Indianapolis to work at Hope Academy as the social studies teacher, and he's been with us ever since.



By fostering an environment where students are motivated to express their thoughts and opinions, Mr. Mills helps them build confidence and develop the crucial life skills of communication and assertiveness.

Here's what some Hope Academy Alumni said about Mr. Mills...

**"Mr. Mills was the only teacher to ever get me interested in history."**

**"Mr. Mills really was the whole reason I stayed in school."**

**"Can't forget the encouragement to have fun in what you're doing...one of the best things I learned from him."**

We're proud to have an educator like Mr. Mills who ensures every student knows their voice matters.

### In-House Therapy Services at Hope Academy

This year, Hope Academy welcomed Erin Flick, LCSW, LCAC, as our new in-house therapist, significantly breaking down barriers for students and families. Erin's extensive experience and dedication have enhanced our support for adolescents struggling with substance use disorders.



With a background in social work and specialized training in Brainspotting therapy, Erin's addition to our team has enabled us to offer individual and family therapy sessions, as well as gender-based trauma groups. Her commitment to a client-centered and recovery-focused approach aligns perfectly with our mission.

Thanks to a grant from Mental Health America of Indiana, we were able to fill this critical role, ensuring our students receive the comprehensive care they need. Erin's integration into our team has been a pivotal step in strengthening our services and fostering a supportive community for our students and their families.





HOPE ACADEMY CELEBRATES 18TH  
COMMENCEMENT WITH ITS 2024

# Graduates

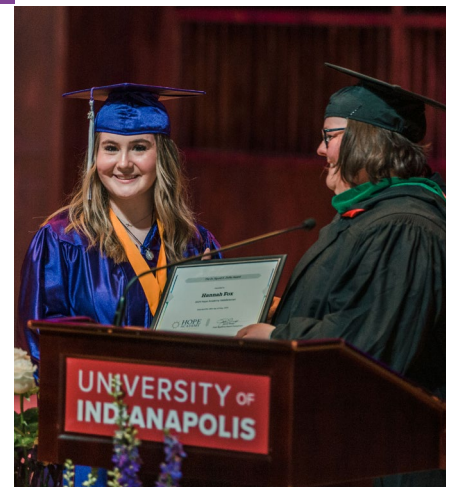
On Saturday, May 18, 2024, Hope Academy, Indiana's only recovery high school, celebrated its 18th Commencement at the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center on the campus of the University of Indianapolis. During the ceremony, three graduates were honored for their academic and recovery achievements.

Graduates of the Hope Academy Class of 2024 included: Hannah Fox (Indianapolis, IN), De'Shaune Howard (St. Louis, Missouri), Jacob "PJ" St. James (Fishers, IN). Hannah will attend Aveda Fredric's Institute to study cosmetology, De'Shaune will attend Ivy Tech to study business, and PJ will attend Ball State University to study meteorology.

Guest speakers at commencement included Caitlin Rhodes, serving as the alumni speaker, Will Forman, serving as the ceremony's voice of recovery, and Dr. Jim Meacham, serving as the keynote speaker.

Hannah Fox received the Dr. Sig Zielke Scholarship for \$500, Jacob "PJ" St. James received Simon Youth Foundation Scholarships valued at \$23,500, and De'Shaune Howard received a Simon Youth Foundation Scholarship valued at \$5,000 as well as The Jim Barnes Scholarship for \$1,000.

Watch the 2024 graduation highlight video [here](#).



“Throughout these couple of years, I loved, laughed, and grew. I learned what it means to live a life of recovery and enjoy it. It wasn't always rainbows and butterflies, but through the ups there was laughter, and through the downs there was love, and through the outcome there was growth.”

Hannah Fox

Hope Academy 2024 Valedictorian







## COMMUNITY

# Leadership

### *Hope Academy Board Members 2023-24*

**Janine Shopp**, Urology of Indiana, Chair

**Amy Levander**, Krieg DeVault LLP, Vice Chair

**Jennifer McVey**, Greenwalt CPA, Treasurer

**Darren Craig**, Frost Brown Todd LLC, Secretary

**Colleen M. Kenney**, community volunteer,  
Past Chair

**Marissa Manlove**, retired

**Phyllis Land Usher**, Usher Funeral Home

**Janice Gabe**, New Perspectives of Indiana

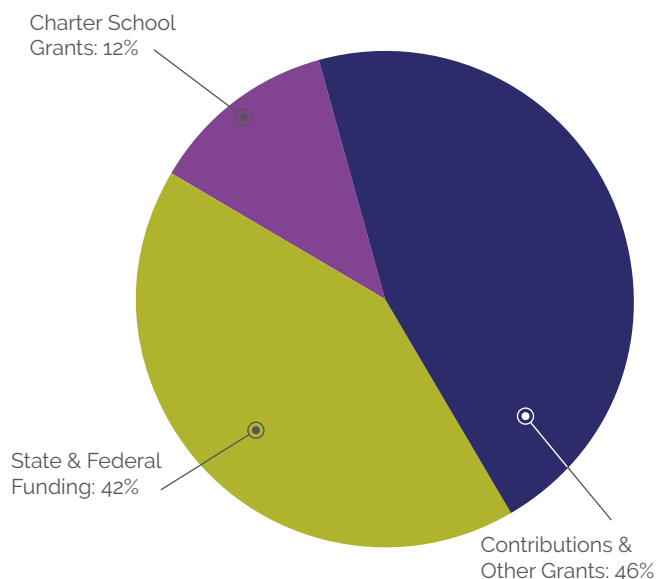
**Marlon Llewellyn**, Marian University

**Leah Mannweiler**, retired attorney

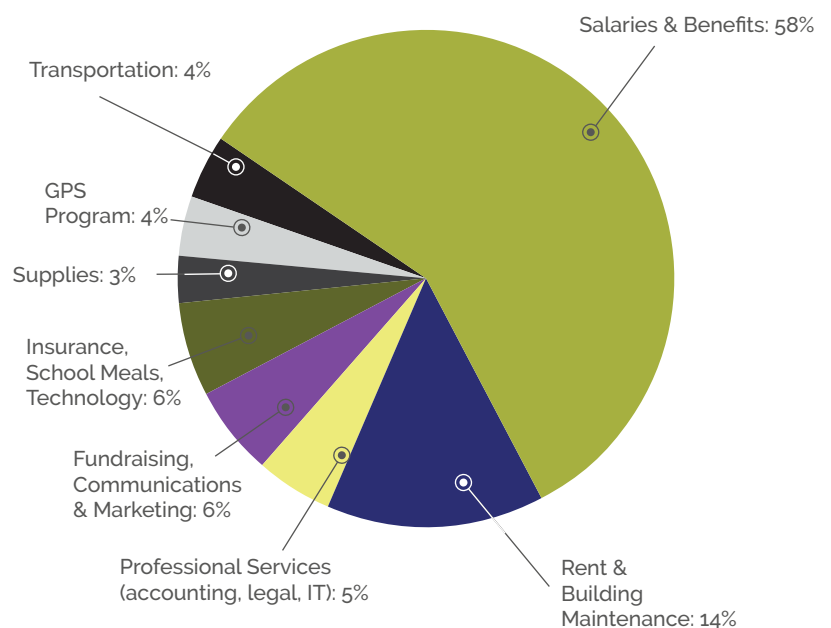
**Angela M. Tomlin, Ph.D., HSPP**, Riley Hospital for  
Children at IU Health

**Dr. Victoria Wilburn**, IUPUI School of Health and  
Human Sciences

### *Hope Academy Revenue 2023-24*



### *Hope Academy Expenses 2023-24*



# Our Supporters

## \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Mr. Jim Irsay and the Indianapolis Colts  
DMHA  
Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
Mental Health of America, Indiana  
Sarah and John Lechleiter

## \$50,000-\$99,000

The Kenney Family  
Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation  
Herbert Simon Family Foundation  
Marion County Coroner's Office

## \$25,001-\$49,999

Indiana Department of Education  
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.

## \$10,001-\$25,000

Christopher Stack M.D.  
Strada Education Foundation  
Thurston Foundation

## \$5,000-\$10,000

American United Life Insurance Company, a OneAmerica Company  
Hoover Family Foundation  
Lumina Foundation  
Jeffrey H. Hillis  
Healthcare Initiatives  
William L Elder Jr.  
Tony Lannan  
Derrick and Debbie Marris  
William and Patricia McKay  
Phyllis Land Usher

## \$2,501-\$5,000

Indianapolis Airport Authority  
Gerald and June Conner  
Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County  
Dan Evans  
The Brave Heart Foundation  
Simon Youth Foundation  
Joe Garcia  
The 24 Group  
Irving Materials, Inc.  
Leah S. Mannweiler  
Indiana Recovery Network

## \$1,000-\$2,500

James and Elizabeth Backe  
Dr. Virginia Caine  
Larry and Kelly Canterbury  
William and Angela Corley  
Steve Crider  
Samerian Foundation  
Sarah Fowler  
Stephen Fry  
Scott and Rachelle Gardner  
Adam Garvey  
Michael Hertel and Joelynn Gifford  
Impact Financial Group  
Lisa Hall  
Natalie Hill  
Donald and Rebecca Holderman  
Indiana Humanities  
F. A. Wilhelm Construction, Inc.  
Overdose Lifeline, Inc.  
Aspire Indiana  
Robert and Julie Kring  
Michael Leppert and Amy Levander  
Frost Brown Todd LLP

Krieg DeVault LLP  
James and Beth Mahin  
Kim and Marissa Manlove  
Joel Miller  
L. Paul and Kimberly Nasir  
Jane A. Panyard  
Justin K. Phillips  
Christopher and Margaret Platt  
Arni's Restaurant  
Janine and Brent Shopp  
Bryan and Ty Spisak  
Jennifer Sullivan  
John Jester and Angela Tomlin  
Andy and Angie Weas

## \$501-\$999

Robert and Helene Cross  
Michael and Jane Drascic  
United Way of Central Indiana  
Michael L Kubacki  
Kyle Morris  
William and Carolyn Neale  
ALEX CARES, INC.  
Rachel D. Stevens

## \$251-\$500

Linda Archer  
Dan Beaty  
Erin Bledsoe  
Judith Carnine  
Christine Cleveland  
Edward DeLaney  
Michael and Lori Desautels  
Dean and Rebecca Donnelson  
Curtis Fankhauser  
Amy and Bart Peterson Foundation, a fund of the Indianapolis Foundation



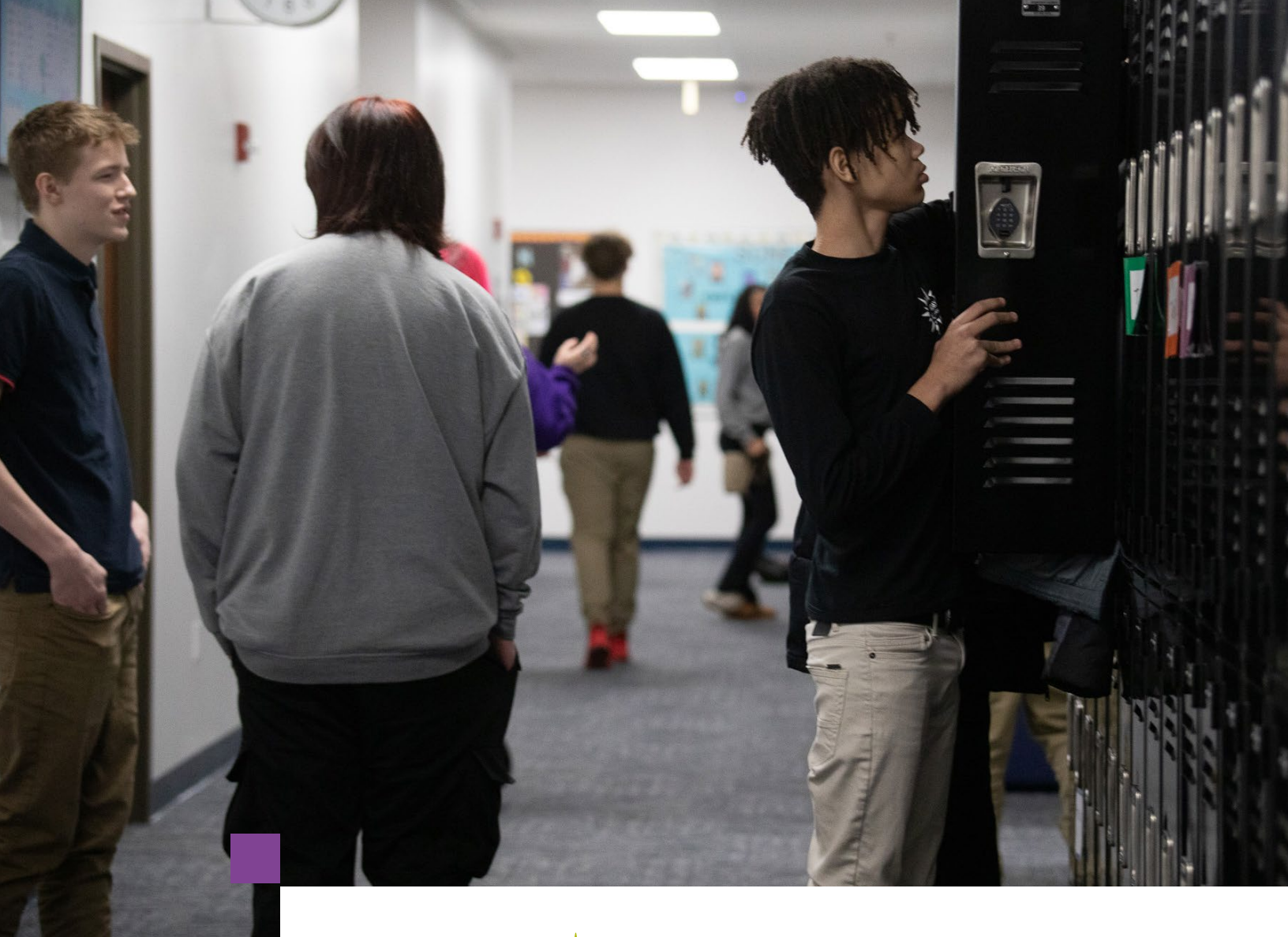
Janice and Steve Gabe  
Jacob Gilliatte  
Indiana University Health  
Richard and Kathy Henderson  
Eastside Optimists of Indianapolis  
Delta Lambda Chapter of Kappa,  
Kappa, Kappa  
Timothy and Rebecca Kelly  
Keith and Wendy Koch  
Michele Lannan  
Margaret E. Magee  
Scott Meacham  
James and Donna Meacham  
Donald Neel  
Jonathan Nii  
Kim and Phyllis Polizotto  
Jon & Katy Shapiro  
Frank and Cheryl Sullivan  
Chrissy Vasquez  
Sidney Weiss  
Bob W. and Tricia A. Zachidny

**UP TO \$250**

Monica Affolter  
Ann M. Alley  
Nancy H. Auld  
Caryl Auslander  
James and Deborah Baker  
Lara Beck  
Rhonda R. Beiswanger  
Lee Ann Van Benten  
Julie Bolejack  
Jamie and Holly Bolton  
Maureen Borto  
Lori Brame  
David Bratton  
Teri Buffum  
Mark Carson  
Blair and Melanie Carson  
Andrew and Donna Charnstrom  
Matt and Sherry Clemens  
Stacy S. Collins  
Laura J. Conner  
Jane E. Coulston  
Darren Craig

Stephen Crandall  
Lauren Crawford  
Clayton and Catherine Cummings  
Ward Daniels  
Ann Davis  
Ben DeCamp  
Peter and Leigh Ann Dykema  
Jeremy Eltz  
JEDKM Enterprises  
Jim and Martha Fairbanks  
Rosemary I. Fanning  
Gregory and Dianne Felts  
Brenda Fernandez  
Will Forman  
Richard Ginther  
Barbara Glass  
Anthony D. Gober  
Robert Greising  
Clint and Debbie Halcomb  
DeAnn Harmon  
Julie Hayden  
Stephanie Head  
Stacy and Jesse Helmuth  
Rob Henderson  
Diana Hendricks  
Alice Howe  
Julie St. James  
Brian Unwin and Julie M. Johnson-  
Unwin  
Robert M. Hittle Jr.  
Sophia Kardasi  
Erin Kelly  
Calvin Kingery  
Kenneth and Joy Klinker  
Kendee Kolp  
Nancy Kosegi  
Mike and Janie Kovatch  
Linda Kraatz  
Louisa LaGrotto  
Lawrence Lannan  
Melissa Lannan  
Bernard Lannan  
Deb L. Leser  
Gayle Lessmann  
Marlon Llewellyn

Gerald Mayer  
Danae McBride  
Julie McGuire  
Clinton McKay  
Jennifer and Dustin McVey  
Kate Miller  
Erin E. Mooney  
Rebecca Moore  
Millicent Moyer  
Tammie Nelson  
Stacey Oldham  
Jim Patton  
Mary Peats  
George Pillow  
Pam and Stephen Powell  
Keri Lyn Powers  
Annie J. Poynter  
Nana M. Quay-Smith  
Jillian Radford  
Robert Rath  
Julie Reed  
David Reed  
Donna S. Reed  
Maureen Scheller  
Nick Schellinger  
Donn and Christine Scotten  
Jen & Tom Searcy  
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Elise Shrock  
Katherine Slisz  
Kate Stephens  
Judith A. Steuer  
Allison Taylor  
Kate Tewanger  
Le-Angela Thompson-Burgess  
Clara Trusty  
Amanda Votaw  
Gary J. Ward  
Doug and Victoria Whaley  
Gracie Whitlock  
Chris Wilburn  
Mark and Mariann Williams  
David Wright  
Erica Young



# HOPE ACADEMY

H I G H S C H O O L

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