

# Stories of the Hope

MISSION OF HOPE NEWSLETTER

## Dear Mission of Hope Friends,

As spring unfolds, bringing renewal and fresh beginnings, we are reminded of the HOPE that flourishes in the hearts of those we serve. This season of growth parallels the work we're doing through our flood relief efforts and the Mission of HOPE Scholarship Program.

Spring is a time of rebuilding, and that's exactly what's happening in the communities affected by recent flooding. Thanks to your generous support, we've been able to provide critical resources—new furniture, building materials, and compassionate care—to families still recovering. As new life blooms around us, we're witnessing the resilience of these communities as they rebuild their homes and lives. It's a testament to the power of faith and HOPE in action.

Spring also marks a time of new beginnings for our Mission of HOPE Scholarship recipients. As high school seniors prepare to graduate and embark on their next chapter, we're proud to stand alongside them. Through your faithful giving, we've been able to invest in the future of these bright, hardworking students who are eager to make a difference. Many of them will be the first in their families to attend college—a powerful reminder that HOPE can break generational cycles and create lasting change.

Whether it's restoring homes or nurturing young minds, your support is making an eternal impact. As we embrace the promise of spring, we're inspired by the words of Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" God is indeed doing something new in the lives of those we serve, and we are blessed to be part of that work. Thank you for continuing to sow seeds of HOPE. Together, we are making a difference—one life, one family, and one community at a time.

With gratitude,

David Heatherly

Executive Director Mission of Hope

## 3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSION OF HOPE



### College Scholarship Students

Pray for the students in our Scholarship Program as they pursue their education. Many are the first in their families to attend college, facing financial and personal challenges along the way. This spring, we are celebrating seven scholars who will be graduating. Ask for guidance, perseverance, and success in their studies as they step into their futures.



### Flood Relief Efforts

Many families in Eastern Kentucky are still recovering from the devastating floods. Mission of Hope continues to assist through partnerships with mountain ministry centers, including the Hazard Perry County Salvation Army. Pray for those who have lost homes and are struggling to rebuild. Ask for provision, strength, and hope as they work toward recovery.



### Volunteers

Our ministry would not be possible without the faithful volunteers who give their time and energy. Whether packing food, organizing donations, or traveling the roads to deliver much-needed supplies, they are the hands and feet of Christ in this mission. Pray for strength, encouragement, and a renewed spirit as they serve.

# FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE



## Hazard Perry Salvation Army: Bringing Hope To Eastern KY



In mid-February, relentless rains brought 5-8 inches of rainfall to Eastern Kentucky, triggering widespread flooding across several counties. The mountainous region, already vulnerable to severe weather, faced significant devastation. The Salvation Army, which had also responded to the catastrophic flooding in 2022, quickly mobilized relief efforts. Beginning February 18, their team deployed four mobile kitchen units, each capable of serving up to 1,500 meals daily. In partnership with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, they established a field kitchen in Hazard, KY, providing over 3,400 meals, distributing hygiene and cleanup kits, and offering emotional and spiritual support to hundreds of flood survivors.

Mission of Hope has been honored to partner with the Hazard Perry County Salvation Army to assist in these ongoing relief efforts. One of the most challenging situations occurred in the Dryhill community of Leslie County, where back-flooding from the Buckhorn Lake dam left residents stranded with no way in or out except by boat. The Salvation Army, working alongside Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife officers, delivered hot meals, hygiene kits, and even pet food to those isolated by the floodwaters. Local Salvation Army units in Perry and Pike counties continue to distribute supplies, ensuring that families receive the help they need. As recovery continues, Mission of Hope remains committed to supporting these vital efforts, standing alongside partners like the Salvation Army to bring hope and assistance to those facing hardship.

## Rebuilding Hope: Helping Families Recover from the Helene Floods

When the Helene Floods devastated communities last fall, families were left with little more than hope. In the months since, Mission of Hope has worked alongside dedicated organizations and local ministries to turn that hope into a reality. Together, we have helped rebuild homes, furnish living spaces, and supply essential items to families striving to start over.

One of those families now has a place to call home again. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and partners, they have moved into a newly built house, complete with furniture and necessities to begin their next chapter. The joy and gratitude in their smiles remind us why we do this work.

This mission is far from over. Many families are still in need, and we remain committed to helping them rebuild their lives. We are in the process of placing more families in new or repaired homes.

Thank you for being part of this journey of restoration and hope.



### Mission of Hope

## Year to Date Impact Numbers



DONATED GOODS

\$120,000



VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,900



MILES TRAVELED

6,512



FOOD BOXES

200



COUNTIES SERVED

13



# Mission of Hope COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## A LEGACY OF HOPE: FROM COLLEGE SCHOLAR TO MENTOR



*I am very happy to hear that "Mission of Hope" is celebrating their 100th graduate from the scholarship program. I am lucky and blessed enough to be a Mission of Hope scholarship recipient and graduate. I can't say enough great things about Mission of Hope. They believed in me and encouraged me throughout my whole college education. I graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I then was able to teach 3rd Grade in Campbell County for two years. During that time, I saw Mission of Hope every year as they brought School Supplies and also Christmas Presents to my school for the kids because it is a poverty-stricken area. Mission of Hope helped me to be able to chase my dreams of being a teacher, and then I watched as they helped the very students in the very school I ended up teaching in! The way God has used Mission of Hope to help me and so many people I care about is so amazing.*

*I now teach "English as a Second Language" in an Elementary school in Anderson County and I absolutely love it. It has been so rewarding and amazing. In December of 2023, my school enrolled a new 4th grade student from Guatemala that had only been in the United States for a couple days. He spoke no English and he spoke very little Spanish. His native language is called "Akatek" which I learned is an ancient Mayan language spoken in rural Guatemala. He did not know any English letters or sounds. There is no google translate or really any resources for this ancient language and most people who speak it do not know how to read or write in this language; it is mainly a spoken language. I can proudly say, after only a little over a year... this student can READ!!! He can read, write, and speak in basic English! He still has a long way to go, but he has made so much progress. This is only one of the stories made possible because Mission of Hope believed in me. Because they believed in me, I now am able to help children every year and show them the love of Christ that they may not have ever seen before. I get to be the person that believes in them.*

*Not only am I able to pursue my dream of teaching children, I am now also going full circle by being a Mission of Hope mentor to a wonderful college student from Kentucky. I enjoy talking to her and encouraging her so much. I think she encourages me just as much as I encourage her! I am amazed at all the things she has already accomplished in her nursing school and I know she will be the best nurse. She loves the Lord and her future patients will be so lucky to have her. My own Mission of Hope Mentor was the best and still reaches out and encourages me so much. She still pours into my life even though I have been out of college now for five years. Mission of Hope is a family that I am so proud to be a part of. I am thankful for the difference that Mission of Hope has made in my life and the lives of so many others. Congratulations on 100 Graduates!! May God continue to Bless Mission of Hope!*

## MENTORING: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT

At Mission of Hope, we believe in more than scholarships—we believe in relationships that foster success. Our Mentoring Program pairs college scholars with caring adults who provide encouragement and support.

### Why Mentoring Matters

Students with a mentor are 55% more likely to complete college. A mentor is a trusted guide, offering encouragement and advice when challenges arise.

### What Mentors Do

- Communicate at least twice a month
- Encourage scholars to submit grades and reapply for FAFSA
- Keep Mission of Hope informed of any concerns
- Attend the annual Scholars Dinner

### How to Support Your Scholar

- Send encouraging messages before exams
- Mail cards or small care packages
- Meet for coffee or lunch if possible



### Get Involved

To become a mentor, contact us at (865) 584-7571 or [info@missionofhope.org](mailto:info@missionofhope.org).

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MISSION OF HOPE



## UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

<b>MAY</b>	<b>New Scholarship Awards</b> 12 High schools across Appalachia
<b>15</b> MAY	<b>2nd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament</b> Iron Mountain Sporting Clays
<b>31</b> MAY	<b>Outreach Event - Food Giveaway</b> Claiborne County
<b>JULY</b> <b>AUGUST</b>	<b>28th Annual Back to School Program</b>
<b>19</b> JULY	<b>Outreach Event - Food Giveaway</b> Scott County
<b>11</b> SEPTEMBER	<b>22nd Annual Golf Classic</b> Willow Creek Golf Classic
<b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>30th Annual Christmas Program and Cyber Barrel Drive</b> Knoxville and Lexington



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OUR NEWSLETTER**  
[info@missionofhope.org](mailto:info@missionofhope.org)

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ONE SHOT AT A TIME!

Our 2nd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament is set for Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Iron Mountain Sporting Clays in Kodak, TN!

This exciting event offers a day of fun, friendly competition, and breathtaking views in the Smoky Mountains—all while supporting ALL Mission of Hope programs, including Back to School, Christmas, Scholarships, and Disaster Relief.

Participants will take on 15 diverse shooting stations, testing their skills in a team-based format. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or new to the sport, this tournament is a great way to connect, compete, and give back.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Whitetail Properties!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
Iron Mountain Sporting Clays  
PRESENTED BY:  
WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE  
WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

**REGISTER NOW**  
[missionofhope.org](https://missionofhope.org)

**ABOUT OUR EVENT**

Join Mission of Hope for an exciting day of clay shooting in the beautiful Smoky Mountains!

- Up to 30 teams of 4 per flight
- Participants will take on 15 shooting stations featuring diverse target challenges

### Ways to Give:

- Online at [missionofhope.org/donate](https://missionofhope.org/donate)
- Mail to PO Box 51824, Knoxville, TN 37950  
(Donation Envelope Enclosed)
- Phone us at 865-584-7571



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