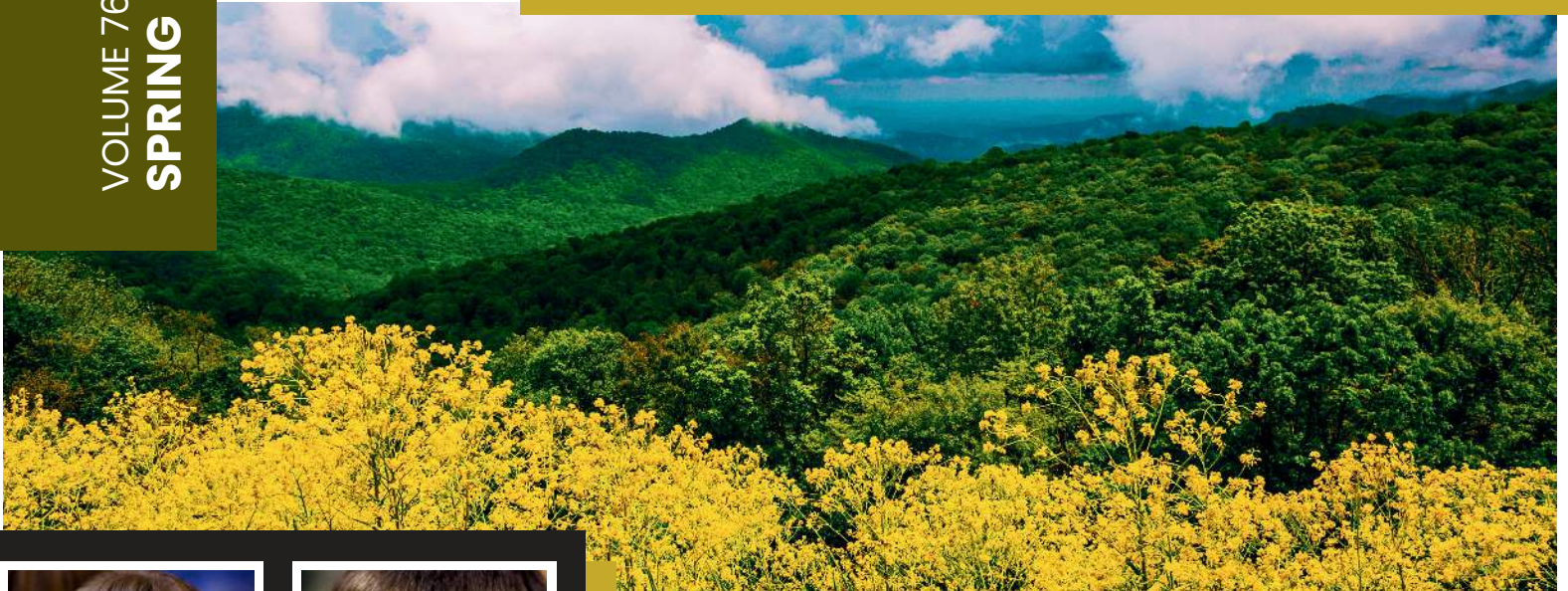


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MISSION OF HOPE NEWSLETTER

STORIES OF THE HOPE



Helping Kids.
SHARING HOPE.

Dear Mission of Hope Friends,

As spring unfolds, bringing renewal and fresh beginnings, we are reminded of the HOPE growing in the hearts of those we serve. This season reflects the momentum we're seeing through our scholarship program, nonprofit partnerships, and growth in our food program.

Spring is a time of building, and that's exactly what's happening across Appalachia. Through your support, we are strengthening relationships with partners rooted in their communities—equipping them to meet real needs and build a stronger future.

This season also marks new beginnings for our scholarship recipients. As seniors prepare to graduate, we are proud to walk alongside them. Because of your faithful giving, more students than ever are pursuing higher education—many as the first in their families. HOPE is breaking generational cycles and creating lasting change.

We are also preparing for growth in our food program. Food insecurity remains a major challenge, and we are expanding our reach through stronger distribution, partnerships, and systems—working toward long-term stability for families.

Whether investing in students, strengthening partners, or expanding access to food, your support is making an eternal impact. As we embrace the promise of spring, we're inspired by Isaiah 43:19:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

God is doing something new in the lives of those we serve, and we are grateful 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

UPCOMING EVENTS



3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament

Friday, May 15

Our 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament will take place on Friday, May 15, 2026, at Iron Mountain Sporting Clays!

This exciting event offers a day of fun, friendly competition and beautiful Smoky Mountain views—all while supporting the programs of Mission of Hope, including Back to School, Christmas, Scholarships, and Outreach.

Participants will take on 15 unique shooting stations in a team-based format designed to challenge shooters of all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or new to sporting clays, this tournament is a great way to connect, compete, and give back.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors, Whitetail Properties and Home Federal Bank, for helping make this event possible.

Register to participate today!

23rd Annual Chick-fil-A Knoxville & Mission of Hope Golf Classic

Thursday, September 17

Join us for the Mission of Hope Golf Classic, presented by Chick-fil-A Knoxville—a meaningful day on the course supporting children and families across rural Appalachia.

This annual tournament brings together community partners, supporters, and friends for a day of great golf with an even greater purpose. Proceeds help Mission of Hope continue sharing help, hope, and joy through programs that serve families in need.

The tournament will be held on September 17, 2026, at Willow Creek Golf Club, with registration opening in June. More details, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, will be shared soon.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and lasting impact. Visit missionofhope.org/golf-classic for updates.



Back to School Program and Back the Bus

Our Back-to-School Program is one of the most meaningful outreach efforts of the year at Mission of Hope. Each year, we provide more than 10,000 students in 29 rural Appalachian schools with brand-new backpacks, school supplies, and hygiene items to help them start the year prepared and confident.

Join us for Mission: Pack the Bus, July 24–26, during Tennessee Tax-Free Weekend. It's a great opportunity to shop for school supplies while sharing hope with children who need it most. More details coming soon!

Your support helps students begin the school year feeling seen, valued, and ready to learn. Thank you for helping us make a difference—one backpack at a time.



Community Outreach Events

Our outreach events are a powerful reminder that hope often comes in the form of a box of food, a warm smile, and a kind word. This year, Mission of Hope will return to the counties of Grainger, Claiborne, Scott, and Campbell to serve families in our region.

With the help of faithful volunteers and generous supporters, we will provide food, hygiene items, and encouragement to hundreds of families. These events give us the opportunity to meet immediate needs while reminding our neighbors that they are not alone and never forgotten.

Together, we are extending hope right where it is needed most.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Scholar Spotlight:

ARIEL ISON

I am very blessed to be a Mission of Hope scholarship recipient, and I will be graduating in May 2026. I am so thankful that I was given this opportunity. I truly can't say enough good things about this program and all that they have done for me.

When I heard about this program in 2023 while I was in high school, I was encouraged by my guidance counselor to apply. I knew in my heart that I wanted to become a nurse, but I also knew that college is expensive and it would be hard for me to achieve those dreams. I am so thankful for this scholarship and this program, as they have helped me through my two years of the nursing program.

When I started two years ago, I knew that I wanted to be a light for Jesus. I wanted to be able to share Him with my patients who are at their sickest, hardest moments in life. Recently I was able to share the gospel with a patient, and he accepted Jesus into his heart before he passed. I am able to share the love of Christ that these patients may have never heard before. I wouldn't be able to do those things if it wasn't for Mission of Hope and all their support and encouragement throughout my college experience. They have always been praying for me, and I am also very thankful for my mentor, Kennedy. She is always checking on me, sending encouraging words, and praying for me through exams.

I thank God for placing this program in my life, and I want to thank everyone for all their love, kindness, and support. It truly means the world to me.



MENTORING: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT

At Mission of Hope, we believe in more than scholarships—we believe in relationships. Our Mentoring Program connects college scholars with caring adults who provide encouragement, guidance, and support throughout their college journey.

Why Mentoring Matters

Students with a mentor are 55% more likely to complete college. Mentors offer support and encouragement when challenges arise.

What Mentors Do

- Connect with their scholar at least twice a month
- Encourage grade submission and FAFSA renewal
- Inform Mission of Hope of any concerns
- Attend the annual Scholars Dinner

Ways to Support Your Scholar

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

Get Involved

To find out more about how to become a mentor, contact us at (865) 584-7571 or info@missionofhope.org.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MISSION OF HOPE



As you've read the stories in this newsletter, from the children we serve to the students in our Scholarship and Mentoring Program, we are reminded that none of this is possible without God's guidance. Your prayers make a difference in every life touched through Mission of Hope.

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSION OF HOPE



GOD'S PROVISION AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Matthew 19:14

Lift up the children and families we serve. Pray that they experience God's love, guidance, and strength each day. Ask that they find hope and encouragement in every circumstance.



GUIDANCE AND OPEN HEARTS AT OUR OUTREACH EVENTS

Proverbs 16:3

Pray for every ministry event, program, and outreach effort. Ask God to guide every detail, bring the right people, and prepare hearts to receive hope, help, and encouragement.



WISDOM, GROWTH, AND FAITH IN STUDENTS AND MENTORS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Pray for the students we support and the mentors who walk alongside them. Ask God to give them wisdom, perseverance, and encouragement, and that these relationships reflect His love.



Serving Rural Appalachia

CALENDAR

New Scholarship Awards
May, 2026

3rd Annual Sporting Clay Tournament
May 15, 2026

Outreach Event - Claiborne County
May 30, 2026

29th Annual Back to School Program
July - August, 2026

Outreach Event - Scott County
July 18, 2026

Mission Pack the Bus at Turkey Creek
July 24 - 26, 2026

23rd Annual Golf Classic
September 17, 2026

Outreach Event - Cambell County
October 10, 2026

**Thank you for being a part of the Mission of Hope family...
through your prayers, giving, and support, lives are being changed every day.**

Scan to Donate



WAYS TO GIVE:

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

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