



Voices of hope

One child. One hour. One church. One school.

Fall 2011
Vol. 10, No. 1



Every Child Matters

Message from Dr. Roger, KHUSA Child Psychologist

Our Christian faith tells us that every human being is an unrepeatable miracle of God worthy of respect and honor. Our world doesn't seem to agree. Children are the most vulnerable among us and often live in grinding poverty; they experience things like sexual exploitation and child labor abuses. We recoil when we read stories of such treatment. The statistic that one billion people go to bed hungry every night prompts us to say, "What can one person do about that?" KIDS HOPE USA continues to believe that the world indeed can be changed, one child at a time.

The Bible tells us that God knows each of us intimately and we are created in the image of God. This means God intended us to relate to others on a very personal and intimate level. KHUSA came into being precisely because not all children are being cared for on the level God intended. It is humbling to discover that kids are frequently amazed when they realize a KHUSA mentor comes to be only with them.

I have mentored two boys who come from families with many children. When I have talked to my student about a KHUSA outing, his siblings would often say, "Can we come along too?" While my heart will say, "why not," my mind tells me that for a child to feel really special, the time must be for him alone. God created each of us with our own unique ego and self-esteem; this can only be built effectively between a mentor and a mentee when they have each other's undivided attention. So let's celebrate the reality that as we mentor one child, God is able to bless both of us as we carry out His design for human relationships.



"I hope for Kids Hope!"

Message from David Staal, KHUSA President

Late on a Friday afternoon a teacher sent Becky, a KIDS HOPE USA church director, a simple email message: "I have a student who needs a mentor, can you find one?" Excitement gripped Becky because this teacher had not recommended any students for mentors in the two previous years that KIDS HOPE USA operated in her school. With steadfast resolve to find someone willing to share hope and love, a high priority search began. After a flurry of prayers, emails, texts, and short conversations at church, a potential new mentor emerged Sunday evening.

Soon, this adult will take time to complete paperwork. Then schedule an interview. A background check will take place. Recruiting for a prayer partner will happen. Date and time options will need coordination. Updates will flow to the principal, secretary, and teacher. A permission slip will go home and quickly return (please, Lord). The mentor will arrange for time away from work. Then a first meeting will happen, an introduction will take place, and life change will begin. ***One child sure causes a lot of fuss.***

That's KIDS HOPE USA! This fall, over 12,000 kids caused a tremendous amount of activity from adults across the country—as we continue to grow. The reason we willingly engage in all this? Lives change, one at a time.

This year, you'll hear and see a new phrase: *I hope for Kids Hope* ("USA" is not forgotten, just merely implied). Those five words summarize the sentiments of many people encouraged by what they see—a lot of fuss for children, a lot of adults working hard, a lot of kids receiving hope and love, one by one.

Yes, *every* child matters. When people see this truth at the core of our organization, they enthusiastically say, "I hope for Kids Hope!"

What about you?

Four Keys to Successful Mentoring

1
Children

2
Relationships

3
Faithfulness

4
Prayer

Seeing is Believing!

“It didn’t really make sense to me until later. I saw my student for one hour each week and though he struggled with reading, he would so willingly read to me and we enjoyed some really funny books together. I found out about halfway through the year that he was dyslexic, but he didn’t tell me because he wanted to enjoy all the books we could together. I am so humbled by his courage!” A Mentor

Sometimes because we don’t know huge amounts about the children we mentor, we can start the relationship with fresh eyes and an empty palate of expectation. We have a distinct advantage because what we see, as opposed to what we have read or heard, is our primary source of information. Where others may have put up walls which contain this child based on the past, we have the opportunity to build bridges to the new. What matters most is that we see and experience a unique person who has the potential to become something amazing. Anything is possible. What do you see in your child? What do you believe?

Prayer Corner



This Child Needed Two Prayer Partners!

Their final mentoring ended abruptly. Darrin, an unruly, angry and spiteful third grader, spat at Mr. Tom and screamed, “I hate you. I don’t ever want to see you again!” Then he ran away.

Mr. Tom thought of giving up on this troubled boy. But he didn’t. Instead, he enlisted the support of not one, but two prayer partners. “Please join me,” he asked them, “in praying that God will change Darrin’s heart.”

By the end of the first semester the next year, Mr. Tom saw a change in the boy. Darrin was losing his anger while his attitude and behavior showed significant improvement. As his heart changed, Darrin and Mr. Tom became friends.

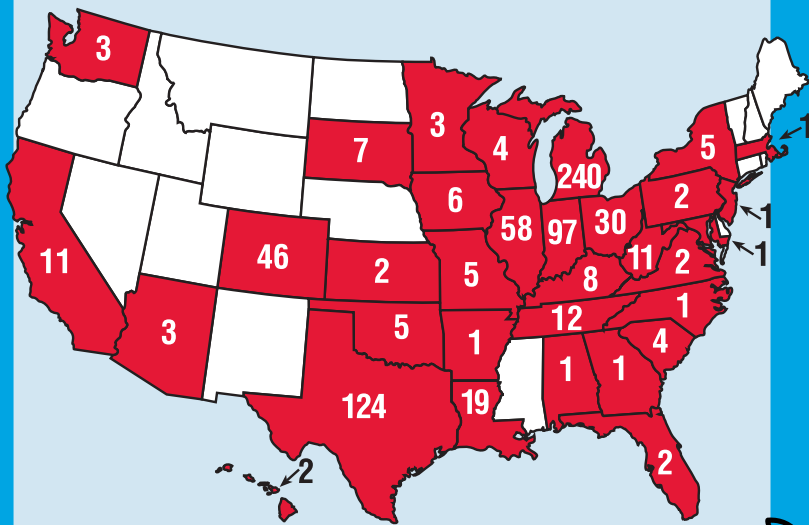
His mom was amazed by the change in her son. “Mr. Tom is the best example of Jesus I have ever seen,” she said to the KHUSA Director. “Even though Darrin is not very nice to him sometimes, Mr. Tom comes back every week. He has never given up on my son. He keeps loving him even when it is not deserved.”

The prayers of two people fueled this life-changing relationship between Darrin and Tom, one neither of them could have imagined!



Hope Grows

718 KIDS HOPE USA Partnerships
in 33 States



Expert Advice

Because Every Child Matters

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2011 Kids Count Data Book, eight million children had an unemployed parent in 2010. Unemployment can often lead to poverty, which creates a host of risk factors for children. Access to quality health care, transportation challenges and the urgency for a parent to take a low wage job working long hours are just some of the circumstances that may face our KIDS HOPE USA students in poverty.

The children mentored through KHUSA, however, are more than nameless and faceless statistics. Each one of them represents an entirely unique life with at least one thing in common; they are cared for by a KHUSA mentor.

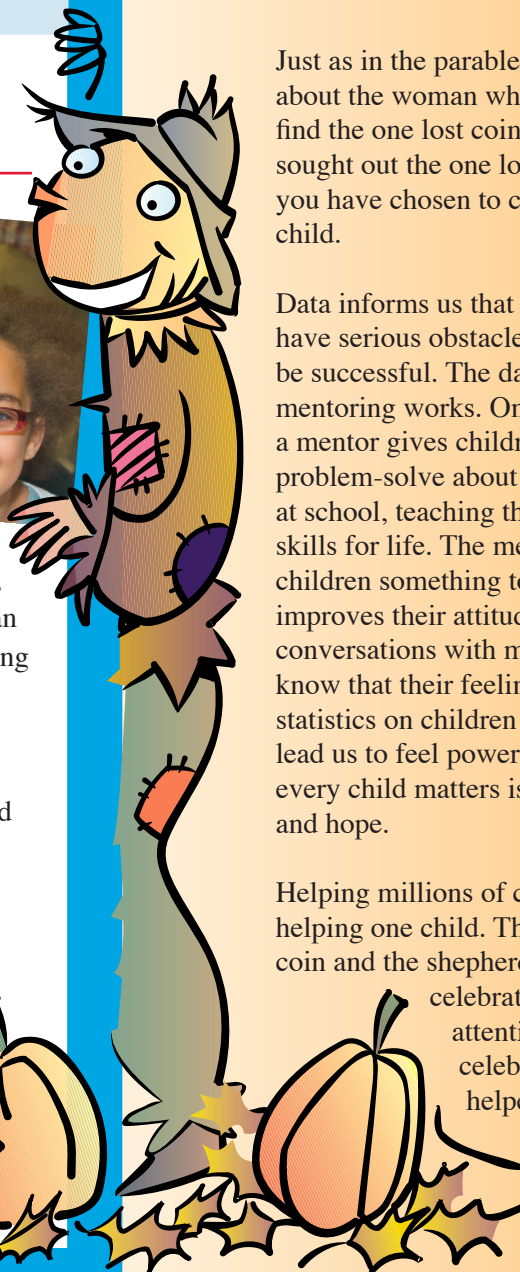
Faces of Hope

Miss Helen and Shannon (prayed for by Linda)
*First Evangelical Covenant Church
Grand Rapids, MI*



Miss Helen and Shannon have been together for one year. They enjoy reading and playing games together, making crafts and having fun. Shannon is not a big fan of math, so Miss Helen has learned to sneak it in during the hour by way of games and fun activities.

Shannon is learning and growing and looks forward to spending time with her mentor. Miss Helen realized how much Shannon was enjoying their time together when she asked her what she would do if she had \$1,000. While most fourth grade girls might have answered that they would spend that money on clothes or toys, Shannon answered without hesitation, "I'd give it to Kids Hope!" There's no question that Miss Helen and her prayer partner, Linda, are making a difference in Shannon's life!



Just as in the parables in the book of Luke about the woman who searched diligently to find the one lost coin and the shepherd who sought out the one lost sheep, as a mentor you have chosen to commit yourself to one child.

Data informs us that children in poverty have serious obstacles to overcome to be successful. The data also shows that mentoring works. One-on-one attention from a mentor gives children the opportunity to problem-solve about everyday problems at school, teaching them important coping skills for life. The mentoring hour gives children something to look forward to which improves their attitude about school. Caring conversations with mentors help children know that their feelings matter. Though the statistics on children and the economy may lead us to feel powerless, our belief that every child matters is giving children power and hope.

Helping millions of children begins with helping one child. The woman who found the coin and the shepherd who found the sheep celebrated. Be diligent, give attention to your child, and celebrate that you have helped give one child hope.



The KHUSA Hour

Press Here

By: Herve Tullet
Grades K-2



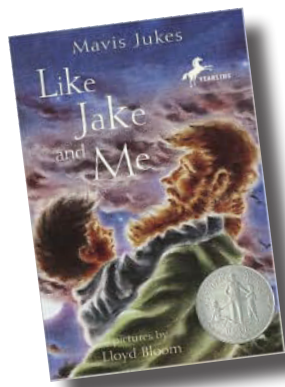
Are you looking for a fun, interactive book that your child will love to read over and over? If so, try reading *Press Here* by Herve Tullet. At first glance, I thought this simple book was meant for preschool children only, but after reading just a few pages I soon learned that this creative picture book was engaging for older children, too. For a sneak peek at this fun book go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj81KC-Gm64&feature=related>

after you read

- **Create your own PRESS HERE book.**
- **Make your own dots by using a hole-puncher, and then use these dots to design a picture.**

Like Jake and Me

By: Mavis Jukes
Grades 3-5



In this Newbery Honor Award-winning story, a young, timid boy named Alex strives to be like his rugged new stepfather. While it seems like they have nothing in common, they finally bond when Alex ‘rescues’ his stepdad from a wolf spider. This is an uplifting story that includes humor and pictures to share one family’s journey to become united.

after you read

- **Make a Venn Diagram to show how your child is alike/ different from his mom or dad.**
- **Spend time talking about fears that both of you have.**
- **Research wolf spiders.**

You can change a life..and that's no small change.



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Become a Kids Hope USA Fan and “like” us today!

Voices of Hope is published quarterly by KIDS HOPE USA for its volunteers and other friends. Your feedback, ideas and articles are encouraged. Please e-mail voh@kidshopeusa.org

