



Highlighting Hope

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN

FALL 2022



It is with tremendous excitement that I introduce Hope Village's first newsletter! We will be reaching out with all the latest news and updates from our campus as well as introducing and highlighting all the people who work so hard to make Hope Village a loving, safe place for our kids to grow and thrive.

The cottage renovation project that I began in 2020 (see article) provided such heartwarming examples of the dedication and love our community has for our kids. So many people are willing to give their time, resources, talents, and dollars to create a happy, joyous, and nurturing space that these kids deserve and can call home. We want to acknowledge everyone who has contributed while also sending out a call to action.

There are so many ways to help our kids! Because we serve children from all over Mississippi, it is critical we make more connections throughout the state. We're all in this together to create healthier, safer communities.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation go out to our generous donors, the Hope Village Executive Board, the amazing women of the Guild, our wonderful staff and volunteers! Here's to our continued commitment to Leading a child to the place where Hope is born.

Warmly,

Sela Ward

Kaileigh's STORY

Kaileigh and her younger siblings came into CPS custody when she was 14 years old after witnessing the tragic drowning of their father at her younger brother and sister's birthday party. Even before this terribly sad and traumatic event, her parents struggled with addiction issues and were verbally and physically abusive to one another. Often times Kaileigh had to step in and be the adult in the house. Of that time in her life, she says, "I had to grow up quick and didn't have much of a childhood at all or a lot of friends. I was sick

"I was able to just be me and grow and let me become who I am today."

from being hungry all the time, felt unsafe, was emotionally damaged, and had no hope." After being placed in a couple of different unsuccessful foster homes, Kaileigh came to Hope Village. While there, she recalls it being a lot of fun and feeling loved; she built loving relationships with staff and could just be a kid again. She was relieved she didn't have to worry about having enough food to eat, keeping the electricity and water from being disconnected, or taking care of her siblings. "I was able to just be me and grow and let me become who I am today. The therapy I had there helped me heal and the tutoring at the Education Center helped me focus on my academics and I had never been able to do that. I was so broken, and they rebuilt me and made me whole. So being at Hope Village really prepared me for a foster home with a family."

When Kaileigh was 16, MDCPS tried to reunify their family and placed her and her siblings back in the home with their mom. Sadly, Kaileigh once again found herself being the adult for everyone. She continued to go to high school, but now also worked a full time job in order to put food on the table. Thankfully, Hope Village staff remained

in Kaileigh's life. They brought the family food, paid to have utilities reinstated and transported Kaileigh to and from work and school. Eventually, MDCPS was made aware of the situation and took the children back into custody. After another failed foster home stay, she eventually came back to live at Hope Village. It was then that she began her journey into our Foster Care program. Kaileigh's Assistant Principal at her high school and his wife were interested in becoming foster parents and making her a part of their family.

Today, Kaileigh is thriving and through a lot of hard work, healing, hope and faith she has been adopted. Everything in her life has changed drastically and as she says, "I have been able to truly blossom. The main thing is I came from such a brokenness and I just see the redemption. Hope Village played such a huge part of all of it and it is my heart's desire that there would be more people who would be willing to mentor and do foster care through them, because it is needed. So that's my story of how I was once broken with no hope...came to Hope Village, got rebuilt, and now I am one of their success stories and they can help a lot more children, just like me."



Coming soon: Check our website soon for a video with Kaileigh's full story @ www.hopevillagers.org

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT OR MENTOR THROUGH HOPE VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN PLEASE CONTACT OUR FOSTER CARE AND MENTORING SPECIALIST MONICA WESS @ 601-553-8660.



2022 RUN FOR HOPE HOSTED BY THE HOPE VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN GUILD

Please join us for the 22nd annual Run for Hope on Saturday, November 12th @ 8am at Bonita Lakes in Meridian, Mississippi. The run includes a 10k Trail Run, a 5k Road Race, a 2 Mile Walk and a 1 Mile Fun Run. We invite you to come with a friend, or gather your running group, school friends, teams, or office co-workers and participate in our group challenge. Bonita Lakes is beautiful this time of year so please come out and enjoy the day!! All proceeds from the run directly benefit the children who are residents at Hope Village and makes a positive impact on their lives

The Run for Hope is hosted by the Hope Village for Children's Guild, which raises money for the run through sponsorships from many businesses and individuals who generously donate. The Guild was organized in September 2001 to be a support system for our Board of Directors and staff. It is made up of volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring our children have the opportunity to experience a well-balanced, normal and happy childhood while residing at



**10k TRAIL RUN • 5k ROAD RACE
2-MILE WALK • 1-MILE FUN RUN**

**Bonita Lakes
Meridian, Mississippi**

THANKS TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS

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Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation
A&B Electric
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DIAMOND SPONSORS

Van Zyverden, Inc.
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Meridian Dental Associates
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Bo Haarala Autoplex
Dee's Automotive
Little Caesars
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Davidson Hauling Inc.
Waters International
All Around Pool & Spa
Servpro of Meridian
Insurance Solutions of MS
Woodall Electric
Total Rehab of MS
Cater's Market
McArthur Chiropractic, LLC

Hope Village. All of the children in our care have suffered some form of trauma such as: neglect, abuse, and abandonment. Therefore, many of them have never experienced the many “extras” in life that most of us take for granted. Through the Run for Hope fundraiser the Guild provides: birthday and holiday parties; summer field trips and a beach vacation; athletic uniforms and accessories; exercise equipment; game nights and movie nights; prom dresses and tuxedos; dance, gym, cheer, art, music lessons and so much more. We currently house about 32 children, daily, some who will remain with us through high school and beyond. We are so proud of their accomplishments and success in overcoming great odds. We simply could not transform these children and help them heal from their traumatic pasts and transform into happy young adults if it weren't for the support from our Hope Village Guild. Your participation in the Run for Hope whether as a runner or a sponsor ensures they can continue their mission and ours—leading each child to a place where HOPE is born.



TEAM PEARSON



The Run for Hope (RFH) is my favorite running event of the year.

I have run in many races, from 5Ks all the way up to multiple marathons, and there are none that compare to the Run for Hope. Rebecca and I have participated in it almost every year for the past 16 plus years. During that time period Total Pain Care has also sponsored the run because we see it as such an important community event. Our office loves to participate as a team and support this cause. We get staff members and their families who do the walk as well as both the 5K and 10K runs. Terry Sims is our motivational employee when it comes to this race, ensuring that we sign up, train, and show up for this event.

To me, the RFH is so special because it transcends a running race and is a true gathering of community. The cause, benefiting the children at Hope Village, is so worth the effort, and brings us all together. It is amazing to see the gathering of volunteers who give their Saturday morning to support the runners and Hope Village. It is always one of the best attended running events of the year, with hundreds turning out. I know that one day it may rain on the race, but I cannot think of a single year in which it has not been sunny and fall like. Perfect running weather and a great cause as an added bonus. I cannot wait!

Dr. Eric Pearson
Total Pain Care

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

to become a Run for Hope sponsor today or gather a group for the Team Challenge!
PLEASE CONTACT US @ 601-553-8660 FOR MORE INFO.

PROCEEDS PROVIDE

- Christmas Presents
- Easter Baskets
- Birthday Gifts & Parties
- Halloween Parties
- Valentines Day Parties
- Spring Break Day Trips
- Recreational Activities
- Piano Lessons
- Gymnastics Classes
- Graduation Celebrations
- Sports Equipment
- and SO MUCH MORE!

2022-23 HOPE VILLAGE GUILD MEMBERS

Stacy Allen
Lynne Arrington
Linda Bruister
Cindy Burt
Charlotte Chaney
Shelby Chaney
Nancy Chisolm
Laurie Cobb
Leigh Cross
Zaineb Daud

Cassie Davis
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Liza Hannington
Mallory Hardy
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Jan Hitt
Clair Huff
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Tammy Matthews
Kim Mosley

Rebecca Pearson
Rhonda Poole
Fareha Rahat
Jeanie Sanders
Lee Schulte
April Sellers
Hayley Shirley
Helen Sims
Tanya Thompson
Jeanna White

RUN FOR HOPE RAFFLE

Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket for a chance to **win a week's stay at the Beach and Yacht Club @ Perdido Key.**
Beachfront, ground level, 3 bedroom/3bath. You don't have to be present to win. All proceeds benefit the children at Hope Village.
Call 601-553-8660 for more information.



Cottage Contributors

Lamar & Lynne Arrington
 Braden Jr. Ball (IOLTA Trust Account)
 Oscar Bur
 Mary Anne Catlett
 Katie Coleman
 Community Foundation of East MS, Inc
 Marty & Linda Davidson
 Janice Deweese

Julie Everett
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 Shaun Gray
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 Clair Huff
 Thomas Kendall
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Village of Hope



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE... RECREATION CENTER!

Creating Hope Village in 2020 was a dream come true for founder Sela Ward. She had envisioned a place where children would receive the long-term therapeutic treatment they needed while also being cared for in a loving, safe, and nurturing environment. Being able to keep siblings together in an often emotionally disruptive and chaotic foster system was also one of the foundational goals of Hope Village. Twenty years later, however, Sela set her sights on a new challenge; to renovate and revitalize the 50+ year old cottages. She was determined that the spaces in which the children lived reflect the love and support Hope Village provides for their kids. "I really believe that everybody needs to be honored and respected. Every child deserves a happy, beautiful space."

Sela began the process of fundraising for the cottage renovation project five years ago. Speaking at conferences and gatherings, she was able to inform new groups of the work that Hope Village was doing for the children throughout the state of Mississippi. She began reaching out to local and national companies for donations, discounts, or services and found that people were thrilled to help. "Building relationships with these companies was the key," she explains. "Once they knew what we were doing and WHO we were doing it for, everyone was so generous."

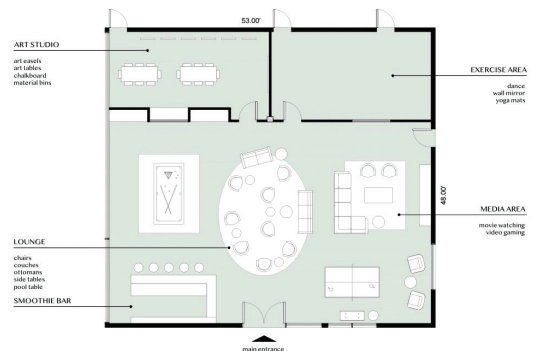
Sela's sister-in-law, Hallie Ward, an interior designer in Meridian, has been the designer on the project, and the two have enjoyed the challenge of making the 4000 sq ft cottages into spaces that felt like home with cozy features such as reading niches, comfy furniture, and inviting bedrooms. Hallie wanted to infuse light and joy into the cottages with colorful wallpaper, original artwork by local artists (including Sela herself), bright carpet designs, graffiti murals, and fun pillows. The end result is, simply, happy.

To date the girl's cottage and one of the boy's cottages have been completed, and Sela believes this has truly changed the atmosphere and energy of the campus. She is inspired to tackle the remaining living spaces (2nd boys cottage, emergency shelter and transition homes) and discussions have started about how to renovate the unused cafeteria to create a community center where all the kids and staff can not only be together but can also take art classes, exercise, dance, and play games. "Our renewed focus is that we all need a healthy and engaging environment where community is celebrated and new opportunities and experiences are encouraged," says Sela. "Having a place where kids and staff can interact, learn, play and enjoy each other's company is critical to our thriving as a family."

Sela is extremely grateful for the generosity of the long list of vendors who donated products and services for the renovation and is optimistic that as each space is transformed and as the community sees how these spaces affect the lives of the children, the donations and support will not only continue but increase. She says, "People are extraordinary when their hearts are full."



RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**BE PART
OF THIS
DREAM!**
Scan the code!

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RENOVATION EFFORTS FOR THE REMAINING RESIDENTIAL COTTAGES AT HOPE VILLAGE, VISIT [HOPEVILLAGES.ORG](https://hopevillages.org).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Greetings,

What an awesome opportunity I have been given to impact the lives of children from all over Mississippi. I am honored to serve as the Hope Village for Children Executive Board Chair this year! As we work towards specific goals for the children in our care, we always remain mindful of our Hope Village Mission and Vision statements and ensure our efforts are focused on those with every decision we make. Our children are our future and our greatest assets and we must do our best to lead them to a path of success.

I have always valued the importance of giving back to my community, and even more so when it involves children who deserve healing, hope and love. I am proud to work alongside other members of the Board, the Guild, staff and volunteers to continue the great work Hope Village is doing in our local community and beyond. We strive to embody the foster children who come to us from all over Mississippi with the tools they need to be successful; the fortitude to not give up despite their difficult situation; and the HOPE to remain positive and know they are worthy of love and a bright future!

Let's Continue to Serve,

Annie McMillan
Board President



FOUNDER/LIFETIME BOARD MEMBERS

Sela Ward



Howard Sherman



BOARD VICE-CHAIR
Tra Alford



BOARD TREASURER
Danna Napp



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GUILD PRESIDENT
Tanya Thompson

LEVELS OF FUNDING FY2021-2022

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Structural Steel Services, Inc.

Dr. Roland Boyd
Manny & Melanie Mitchell
Don & Holley Noblitt

Trustmark National Bank
Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation
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LEADERS OF HOPE \$5,000-\$9,999

WR Baird Charitable Trust

PILLARS OF HOPE \$2,500-\$4,999

Heat Stroke/Queen City Paddle
Wanda Cooper
Community Foundation of East MS, Inc
Mugshots
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Citizens National Bank

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Kathryn McNair
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Brian Price
Patrick or Stacy Allen
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Leslie Matteson
Ruthie Davis-Jones
Trinity Presbyterian Church
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Class of 2022 Ole Miss students
Bank Plus
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First Christian Church
Sherry Stewart

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Edgar or Robbie Morrison
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Barbara Tessier
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Jacob Tindol
Linda Yanchuck
Robert Dreyfus, LLC
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Charles Wilkerson
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Target

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North Pak-A-Pok
Pigford & Corey, LLC.
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Duffee Williams
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Hope Village for Children

P.O. Box 26

Meridian, MS 39302

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S PROMISE TAX CREDIT

RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT WHILE TRANSFORMING A CHILD'S LIFE

Through the Children's Promise Act, individuals and businesses can receive a Mississippi tax credit for donations made to Hope Village for Children.



Make a Donation to
Hope Village for Children



Your gift allows us to provide a safe
and stable environment 365 days a
year



You receive a DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR
Mississippi state tax credit.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

<https://www.dor.ms.gov/individual/qualifying-charitable-organizations>

Step 1

Complete the MSDOR
application
for tax credit allocation.

Within 30 days of
receipt, MSDOR will
send notification of
allocation.

Step 2

Make a donation
to Hope Village for
Children
to receive tax credit
up to \$500 individuals
(\$1,000 for couples)
and help make a
difference in the life of
Mississippi's foster
youth.

Step 3 -

Send verification
of the contribution to
MSDOR. Verification
must be received
within 60 days of
receipt of notification
of allocation.

FOR BUSINESSES

<https://www.dor.ms.gov/business/eligible-charitable-organizations-childrens-promise-act>

Step 1

Complete the MSDOR
application
for tax credit allocation.

Within 30 days of
receipt, MSDOR will
send notification of
allocation.

Step 2

Make a donation
to Hope Village for
Children
to receive up to 50%
of your MS state tax
liability to help make
a difference in the life
of Mississippi's foster
youth.

Step 3

Send verification
of the contribution to
MSDOR. Verification
must be received
within 60 days of
receipt of notification
of allocation.

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Please consider adding us as your selected charity on **Amazon Smile**. When you shop we receive credits for each and every purchase you make without any added expense to you! Learn how to sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3nroBP2>