

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**VOLUNTEERS:** Pray that our programs can recruit quality and faithful volunteers that would love to work with our children, youth and families. If you can be available one to three hours per week The Hope Center would love to talk with you. Contact Angie Daniels at [angied@hopecenterkc.org](mailto:angied@hopecenterkc.org)

**FAMILIES:** Pray that our families can have reliable transportation; economic advancement; stable housing; sufficient food supply; and the needed encouragement and support.

**STUDENTS:** As our students return to school we are asking you to pray for an increased desire to read; teachers who believe they can learn; a learning environment that is not chaotic; emotional support in the classroom, and a desire to dream.

**COMMUNITY:** Please pray that Hope Family Care Center will continue to provide families with preventative care; need to recruit great staff; and can secure the space next door to them to expand services. Pray that our school Hope Leadership Academy can hire faithful teachers that will remain all school year. Pray for Peace from gun violence.

**THE HOPE CENTER:** Pray for our staff needs as we recruit a Youth Director and Event Manager; pray for our current staff; pray that we raise an additional \$2M for the increase costs of our Church remodel. Also, pray that we secure all the necessary permits from the City to avoid delays. Pray for a great start to the new school year!

Amen!

## PAGE TURNERS



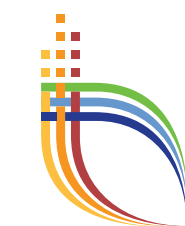
Summer 2023 was filled with fun and excitement, but we still made some time to pick up a book! Our Page Turners group was a new addition to our summer programming this year. Students gathered every Monday to dive into a book over a good meal and discuss how they related to what they were reading.

The girls read *Black Girl: Unbossed*, which spotlighted young girls facing relevant issues and finding ways to make changes in their communities. The fellas got into *We Beat the Streets*, which journeyed through the story of young men navigating life in the inner city and finding ways to beat the odds.

Page Turners book club was a great way to engage our students in relatable learning and spark new conversations. We hope to carry this program throughout the school year and continue to find reads that both interest and encourage our students.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept 25	6:30-8:30	Family Skate Night
Oct 31	4:30-7:30	Hope Fall Fest
Nov 14-15	6:00-8:00	ThanksLiving Celebration
Dec 14	6:00-8:30	Hope Center Christmas Party



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Kansas City, MO 64128  
[hopecenterkc.org](http://hopecenterkc.org)  
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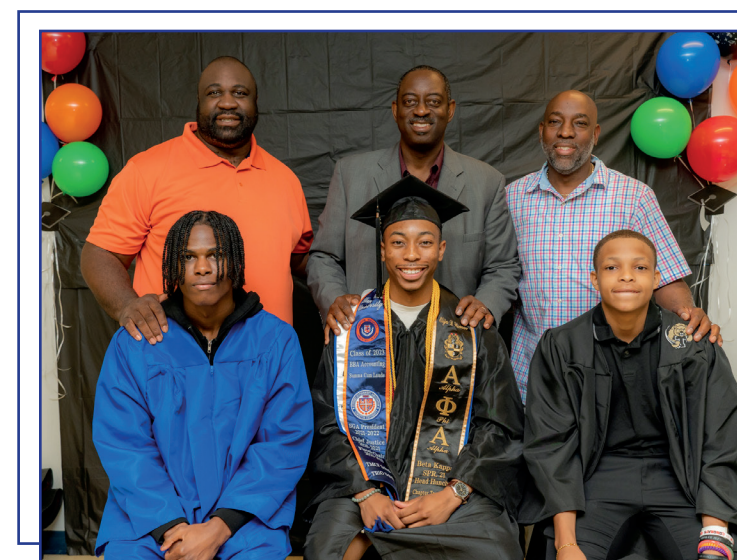


SUMMER 2023

THE HOPE CENTER KC

# SKYLINES

## GRAD PARTY CELEBRATES OUR HOPE CENTER SCHOLARS



A jubilant evening was the perfect midweek pick-me-up as graduates from high school, undergraduate and master's programs filled The Hope Center ready to celebrate at our graduation party. Families and friends came together to play games, honor the graduates and enjoy fellowship.

Each graduate shared their accomplishments and discussed their goals and plans for the future. This joyous occasion brought together Hope Center alumni and their families to share in the achievement of a milestone that sets a great example for current Hope Center students.

Families played "So You Think You Know the Graduate" and graduates received a benevolence gift along with a book to inspire them on their journey. Along with diplomas, degrees and regalia, students and families left with gratitude and joy in their hearts for the community that has helped them reach their academic goals.

# THE HOPE CENTER | KC



**FROM MARVIN**  
Executive Director

### The Beauty of Pressing Pause!

Pressing pause is useful when we watch our favorite shows or when the weather interrupts an outdoor game. However, it is even more important – and often

a necessity – to *press the pause button in life.*

The Hope Center Board Members granted me a two-month sabbatical to rest, read, and research. During this time my wife and I renewed our relationship and reconnected with friends and family members. I got some good rest and recreation, and toured other non-profit organizations similar to The Hope Center KC.

Pressing pause gave me space to appreciate:

- *The city of Kansas City is worth exploring, cherishing and building*
- *People are truly God's greatest creation and worth valuing no matter their culture, color, or creeds*

- *Assumptions should always be tested*
- *We all have blind spots that can lead to self-deception*
- *You cannot know the future or prepare for every potential path, but strategic priorities can fine-tune your goals and help define your path*
- *Generosity (prompted by love) is the most empowering gift humanity can give to one another*

I hope you get the opportunity to “press pause” and reflect upon the blessings in your life. Even a moment of stillness and gratitude can renew your perspective and give you the reset you need. ■

*Marvin*

## AWARD CEREMONY RECOGNIZES CHARACTER, LEADERSHIP AND SERVANTHOOD

This summer, we took time to recognize students across our children and youth programs. Our energetic **S.A.Y. Yes!** students pulled from their repertoire of worship songs and dances to set the tone for the evening.

Throughout the school year, **S.A.Y. Yes!** students memorized 11 verses from the Bible and shared two of them with the audience. As the evening progressed, all **S.A.Y. Yes!** and youth program students were presented with awards of participation and T-shirts.

Following the littles, the older students presented dances to friends and families. Weather sent us indoors, but it didn't slow down the evening. Hope Awards were given to students for exceptional development in areas of character, leadership, personal growth and servanthood. With 120 people in attendance, students and families left feeling loved, appreciated, and eager for the summer to begin. ■



## REAL TALK THURSDAYS

Real Talk Thursdays is a new summer program for our Leaders-in-Training (LIT) students (9th-12th grade).

“Real Talk” is about what life has in store beyond high school. Spearheaded by Jalyn Tinker, youth team intern over the LIT students, topics of discussion include:



- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- RELATIONSHIPS
- COMMUNITY
- CAREERS
- COLLEGE
- DEVELOPING VISION PLANS

Students went off campus to explore new places in Kansas City and enjoy fellowship and rich discussions about each topic over dinner. This is the first time Real Talk was established for the LIT students and their feedback was positive and encouraging!

Students agreed that the conversations helped them “develop a realistic understanding of adult responsibilities” and “prepared [them] for the realities of their goals (in terms of budgeting)”.

They also were “glad to have open conversations about their inner circle/community” and appreciated the “candid nature of the conversations.” Students – especially the seniors – are looking forward to the program continuing as the school year begins. ■

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT FILLED WITH FUN



To cap a joyous season of celebration, volunteers gathered at SERV for an evening of fun. The pickleball competition was fierce as staff and volunteers partnered up and left everything on the court. As the games were being played indoors, an impromptu dance party (on-brand for The Hope Center) took place outside. Bystanders jumped in to join the fun!

The rest of the night was filled with laughs and good conversation amongst staff and volunteers. All volunteers were sent home with certificates and gift bags to commemorate their year of service. It was so exciting to celebrate the people who help us pour into the lives of our students and families. The Hope Center volunteers stand above the rest as they serve the students, families, and staff with joy and genuine hearts. ■