

Celebrations and Opportunities! What's your next move?

Sparc Hope <no_reply@donorsnap.com>

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To: Laura Wingfield <laura@sparc-hope.org>;



eNewsletter Summer/Fall 2020

Summer came and went in a flash, with a lot of challenges that felt confining and restricting that were feared would do harm to non profits, such as Sparc Hope. But thankfully, given the news you are about to read, Sparc Hope is alive and well due to the hard work of our staff, volunteers and the generosity of our donors. Thank you all for the good news we are able to report in our summer quarter.

"Give For Good Louisville" was a BIG (and much needed) Success!!

On September 17th, Sparc Hope joined many other non-profit organizations in the Louisville area in a fund raising campaign that included many sponsors that stood ready to match single donor contributions during this year's "Give For Good Louisville" campaign. Fundraising, throughout COVID-19, has been difficult for most non-profits. We, like so many other organizations, had to cancel our two biggest fundraising events (our annual "Breakfast of Champions" and our premier event, the annual Gala). Sparc Hope's donors rose to the occasion on GFGL day to result in our most successful year yet for the event. We managed to modestly exceed our goal and ended the biggest day of our online giving with a grand total of \$21,090 with 138 donors!! Thanks to you, we are now able to add new families to our programming and offer more resources to single moms and dads in our community, while maintaining our current life plan families at desired levels.



DONATE NOW

To become a monthly donor please use the following link: www.sparc-hope.org/general-donation/ today.

Matching Gifts - Give For Good 2020

One more big opportunity remains this year. In a couple of months, we will host our end of year giving campaign for 2020. We hope you will continue to *invest* in Sparc Hope. We do not know what 2021 will bring, but with your continued help we can move into the new year hopeful that we are able to continue to serve single parents by providing higher education resources, increased food pantry visits and improve our programming, as we did in this difficult year of 2020. Your investment makes a huge difference in the lives of single parents and their children!

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Wonderful Testimony From a SPARC HOPE Life Plan Client

Just after Labor Day weekend, my oldest son texted me stating that his car would not start. He is four hours away at college. Just as I was about to reply to my son, I saw a group email written from the Program Director, Staci, to the Sparc Hope parents. The email stated that there was a donor who was offering a car to any Sparc Hope parent who needed it.

God could not have timed this blessing any better. I was that parent in that moment! I responded to Staci with a screenshot showing that my son's car wasn't working and to my surprise, I was the first one to respond. (Or was I?) Maybe God cleared that path just for me.

In the coming days, Staci connected me to the donors (Rob and Kathra Swift) and we began working out the details to transfer the car to me. In about a week we were able to schedule a meeting at the DMV nearest me. (another blessing bestowed upon me by this gracious donor). As of Wednesday, September 16th, I was in possession of the car! I was so overjoyed and had to hold back tears in front of the donors.

Soon after, my blessing took an opportune turn. In the week that passed, my son and his dad were able to get his car running. He said mom, why don't you just hold that car for (name withheld). He is the younger brother who is a senior in high school. That was it! My youngest son is preparing to take his driver's permit this month. This blessing takes a big load off of me. I won't have to buy a used car before he leaves for college next fall!!

If you are a person that does not believe in divine blessings or miracles, come sit with me so I can share a few stories with you. Only GOD could have orchestrated the on-time blessings that I have received in my life ... a few of those bestowed upon me from SPARC-Hope! I am forever thankful for the generous donors and the loving staff; you are all angels on earth.

(Special thanks to Rob and Kathra Swift for this life enhancing donation for the whole family)

Client Updates

This quarter, we welcome our new Life Plan Client, JaTeziah and her (almost) 2- year- old daughter, Brielle. JaTeziah is working on her Rank 1 principal certification at Spalding College. Sparc Hope is dedicated to helping her be successful in this endeavor.

Another single parent, Coco, is at the end of her 6-month "walk" (The walk is additional support offered to graduates of our Life Program, as they transition into further schooling, new jobs, new home, etc before they completely break free independently). She has been with us since October 2018. Once her kids are back in school on-site, she plans to work as a medical assistant, having completed additional training in the field as a phlebotomist. She is also continuing to build an ETSY business making jewelry, among other hand-made items. We are quite proud of Coco and her representation as another success story for our mission. She has been selling at farmer's markets in the area as well. Check out her website: www.etsy.com/shop/QoqobuJewelryDesigns

Current & Upcoming Programs

BACK TO SCHOOL looked very different this year due to COVID-19. We gave a bag of school supplies from our pantry as well as any additional items that were requested. We also had recent GFGL donors who specifically earmarked their donations to provide for school supplies, shoes and a uniform for a child.

HALLOWEEN: We went forward with our usual Halloween costume drive for our Life Plan kids. So many things have changed for them. We wanted them to have costumes, as usual, to wear at home, a family event or a small gathering of friends. Sometimes it is the small familiar things that bring joy and hope!

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS: We are gearing up for Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas preparation. If you are interested in being a part of either of these programs, please contact Staci today at 502-245-9899 or staci@sparc-hope.org

QUARTERLY RESTAURANT NIGHT: On tap for the 4th Quarter will be one of our favorite spots, The Village Anchor. Please make holiday dining plans for December 21st. The Village Anchor donates a portion of their proceeds for the night to our cause.

Volunteer Spotlight on Kristan White

Today we highlight Kristan White, who has been volunteering for Sparc Hope for the last decade. Here is her story (edited for



space but mostly in her own words):

I'm originally from the northern suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. and have lived in Louisville since 1992. My husband, Dick, and I are a blended family with five adult children. I am a retired RN and I also worked in the admissions and business office at an independent school for many years. For the better part of the past 10 years, I worked with high school students at Northeast Christian Church (NECC). Now, I am trying to sort out what the next part of life holds and looks like.

I first heard about SPARC Hope, through NECC about 10 years ago. It was Christmas time and volunteers were needed to buy gifts for the kids at Sparc Hope to help the parents make the holidays a little happier for their families. The gifts went quickly and it made me think about the needs that single parents and their kids have all year long, not just in December. Celebrating birthdays was the first thing that came to mind. I knew how hard it was being a working mom and trying to plan celebrations for kids with all of the craziness of daily life. I was tossing the idea around with my husband and he suggested putting party supplies in a backpack/bag for each child. I contacted S-H and told them of my idea. Each backpack contained a cake mix and frosting, a pan, candles, age appropriate plates and napkins plus a gift card. Over the years, I have continued to put together these birthday bags and now include the parents, as well.

When the pandemic hit, I saw the pantry needs list and thought it was something I could help with. I tried to fill some of the specific needs on the list and then added some of the things I like having at home, like chocolate chips or vanilla.

I also help S-H with things behind the scenes. I enjoy volunteering in different ways knowing that it helps make life a little easier for these parents while they are working, going to school, and raising a family. They are all working to get to a different place in life, to be independent, while teaching their kids to do the same.

I think it is important to give back to help others in our community. SPARC Hope works to give a hand up to these parents and ultimately their families. Helping families can trickle down help others in their lives. Everyone wins when families are healthier and stronger. Please consider SPARC Hope as part of your charitable giving.

Spotlight on Our Newest Staff Member

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself to our *favorite supporters*. I am excited to join the Sparc team and work alongside all the wonderful staff, volunteers and single parents in this extraordinary

ministry. I will be the main contact for Fundraising, Event Planning, and Donor Cultivation programs with Sparc Hope. I look forward to meeting you and learning more about why you choose to support this growing organization. I'd love to hear from you, give me a call at 502-387-8969 or email me at Kara@sparc-hope.org



TOGETHER we can change the future of Kentuckiana's kids, one single parent at a time!
Blessings,
Kara Sanders

Sparc Hope

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