



Message from the Executive Director

Hello and Happy November! We have officially made it into the holiday season, and all of us at Hope's Path are excited to celebrate this time of joy! It is our pleasure to bring you stories of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of our dedicated young men.

Trey, one of our incredible interns, has made great strides towards a brighter future. We are thrilled to announce that Trey has secured a full-time job as an Amazon Driver. Not only is he embracing this new opportunity with enthusiasm, but he is also diligently saving money for the upcoming

holiday season. Trey's dedication and determination inspire us all, and we couldn't be prouder of his accomplishments.

In other exciting news, we are delighted to share that Vincent, one of the younger interns, is excelling in his senior year of high school. Vincent's dedication to his education has shone brightly, and he continues to demonstrate exceptional personal growth each month he has been with us at Hope's Path.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, I am reminded of and wanted to share the following scripture from Psalms 9:1:

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

We also want to share a prayer request with you as we thank The Lord for all the blessings given to us. We currently have a few empty rooms at Hope's Path, waiting to be filled by young men needing support, guidance, and a safe refuge. We humbly ask for your prayers in finding the right young men who will benefit most from our program. Together, let us lift up this need in prayer, trusting that God will bring forth those who need our love and assistance.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and for standing beside us in our mission to empower and transform the lives of young men. We invite you to join us in celebrating the upcoming festivities as we embrace the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and as always, we welcome your continued prayers.

May you and your loved ones be surrounded by love, joy, and gratitude throughout this season of giving.

God Bless,
Brandon Anderchuk

Volunteer Highlight: Melanie Labardini

Melanie Labardini is a Mental Health Counselor in the Spring/Woodlands area who has been connected with Hope's Path since 2017, but her journey began a couple of years earlier. In 2015, Melanie's youngest daughter, Karissa, died by suicide. Melanie was eventually diagnosed with PTSD as a result of her death, as were others within her family.



Shortly after Karissa's death, Melanie accepted a volunteer staff position at Northside Christian Church as their Local Missions Director. Also, she began to sit alongside others who were experiencing grief and anxiety, including leading GriefShare at the church. As Local Missions Director, she began to work with Hope's Path in various ways. She coordinated volunteers and supported in multiple capacities, organized Christmas gifts for the interns and staff, and arranged to have much-needed supplies delivered during the early days of COVID-19. Over time, Melanie became more and more aware of the impacts of trauma on the body, mind, and lives of herself and others, and decided to go back to school for her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

True to her passion for healing trauma, Melanie started her counseling career at Montgomery County Women's Center, a non-profit focused primarily on survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also sought specialized training in trauma and ways to treat it, including EMDR and Brainspotting. As of October of 2023, Melanie has moved to work at her private practice, Feather Wing Counseling, named after a verse that has buoyed her throughout her own grief and trauma journey, Psalm 91:4. Her greatest passions are working with individuals who have survived ongoing childhood abuse and neglect of all types, single incident traumas, traumatic grief, and anxiety.

Melanie no longer holds a volunteer staff position at Northside, as her volunteer work has moved more towards using her counseling skills. She now functions as an on-call consultant for Hope's Path, troubleshooting challenges and helping them better understand trauma and its impacts within the organization. Melanie also provides no-cost individual counseling to one of the interns, with plans to expand to others. Finally, she gives back to the community by delivering sliding-scale services to some of her clients.

To learn more about Melanie's practice for yourself or someone else, please visit <https://featherwingcounseling.com>.

Celebrating a Valued Partnership with the Local YMCA

The YMCA has graciously opened its doors to our interns, providing them free access to their state-of-the-art facilities. This partnership has been an incredible blessing, allowing



our guys to experience the many benefits and opportunities the YMCA offers.

With this generous gesture, our interns have already begun enjoying the membership perks, including access to well-equipped fitness centers, indoor swimming pools, basketball courts, and a wide range of wellness programs. This promotes physical health and wellness and creates opportunities for personal growth and camaraderie.

We are deeply grateful to the YMCA for recognizing the importance of providing these experiences to our interns. This partnership goes beyond providing facilities; it is a testament to the YMCA's commitment to fostering a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone can thrive.

Giving Tuesday: November 28th

This Giving Tuesday, we ask you to join us in making a sincere impact by investing in Hopes Path! When you invest in Hopes Path, you're investing in the future of young men who may have faced poor conditions and lack of resources in their younger years but now want to better their lives! These guys gain essential life skills, financial stability, job readiness, and personal and spiritual growth through our program. Imagine the impact your investment can have. *On this Giving Tuesday, November 28th*, let's come together and create change that lasts a lifetime.



If you want a specific way to support Hope's Path this Christmas, we have an exciting opportunity for you. We have created an Amazon wish list that features the much-needed items for our organization. By clicking on the link below, you will access a carefully curated list of items that will directly impact Hope's Path! [Hope's Path Wish List](#)

We express our deepest gratitude to everyone who chooses to give through this Amazon wish list. Your kindness and generosity will touch the lives of our interns in a meaningful and tangible way. So please take a moment to click on the link and explore the items on the list. Your support means the world to us.

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