

HOPE ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT

a LOOK at 2021

Working together to strengthen our school & support our students





The mission of Hope Academy is to provide a safe, sober and challenging academic experience.



Just when we thought we were out of the woods with the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 showed us the virus was far from conquered. Our entire society continued to feel the impact—particularly schools. Educators and students at Hope Academy showed their resilience despite the challenges of teaching and learning in this very different way of mask-wearing, social distancing and sometimes virtual education. They persisted even when it was difficult!

Last year at Hope Academy, students' grades improved, attendance soared and sobriety flourished. Together, as a community, we supported each other and came out on the other side stronger because of it. While many other schools were unable to continue learning inside the classroom, Hope Academy maintained little disruption to in-person instruction while keeping the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff our top priority.

While we are proud of the year we had and grateful for the health and safety of the Hope Academy community, we recognize that the devastating impact of this pandemic will last for years to come. Of the most vulnerable are our youth. In fact, at the end of 2021, the Surgeon General issued an advisory on the youth mental health crisis and declared our country's commitment to addressing this crisis while simultaneously tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are ways Hope Academy is helping our teens and the community cope:

In 2021, Hope Academy hosted six virtual speaker series presentations featuring mental health and addiction experts who covered a variety of topics related to youth issues. Visit our website or YouTube channel to watch these presentations and learn more.

Recognizing the barrier for students to access appointments with their mental health counselor, Hope Academy created a new partnership with Aspire Indiana Health, which allows remote access for students to meet with their therapist during the school day.

Today's students grew up with technology at their fingertips. A research project with IU Health not only examines relapse triggers but gives students access to a newly developed app to help them with coping strategies when they feel the urge to use.

While these strategies are just the beginning, we know it is the little things that can make a big difference. In this report, you will learn more about the people, projects, events and accomplishments that allowed Hope Academy to make a lasting impact on the lives of more than 40 students. Thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to another year of helping our students thrive!

Gratefully,

Rachelle Gardner

Rachelle Gardner | Executive Director

programs



GPS (Guiding Paths to Success)

The late afternoon hours can be tricky for teens with unstructured and often unsupervised time on their hands. Guiding Paths to Success (GPS) offers fun, sober activities as well as mentoring, homework help and 12-step meetings.





Family Support Group

This group meets weekly with Aleesha Bullock, a licensed social worker, to share their experience, strength and hope with other parents and family members who are dealing with teens in recovery. Every other week, a parent who has a grown child in recovery shares their story. On alternate weeks, basic education about addiction is discussed.

Here's what Hope Academy parent Tricia Maddox said about participating in the Family Support Group meeting:

"It's really nice because all of the people in the group are going through the same thing. You don't feel like you're out in this world trying to do it all alone. For a while we just felt like we were the only ones going through this." – TRICIA MADDOX

Tricia Maddox spoke at the 2021 Hawk Walk about how the Family Support Group helped her understand her son's recovery journey.

Recovery Coaches

We have three recovery coaches on staff to assist students throughout the school day. All are in long term recovery and can relate well to students in early recovery. Recovery coaches meet with each student once a week to review goals, celebrate successes and guide them through life's challenges.

Sarah Platt, a Hope Academy graduate and one of our recovery coaches, explained her role this way: "As a recovery coach, I get to meet with the students and talk to them about a variety of things going on in their lives. It's kind of like wrapping them up in support. It's an incredible experience to play a small role in helping the students at Hope in their recovery."



Occupational Therapy Program

Hope Academy is pleased to offer occupational therapy to our students, thanks to a partnership with IU School of Health and Human Services. Recently, Abby McGill joined the Hope Academy occupational therapy team to support our students. Abby works with the students individually and in group settings to build skills to increase their quality of life. Topics include coping skills, sleep, hygiene, mindfulness, organizational skills, college and career exploration, hobby and leisure activities and independent living skills. One of her favorite programs is the girls' group, which meets weekly.

We look forward to continuing the occupational therapy program to enhance our students' social, emotional and physical well-being. "The girls' group was started to create a space for the female students to connect and engage in therapeutic activities. My goal for the girls' group is to introduce the students to new activities which may spark an interest for a future career, leisure activity and/or hobby, or merely provide practice of trying new things and "healthy risk-taking." – **ABBY MCGILL**

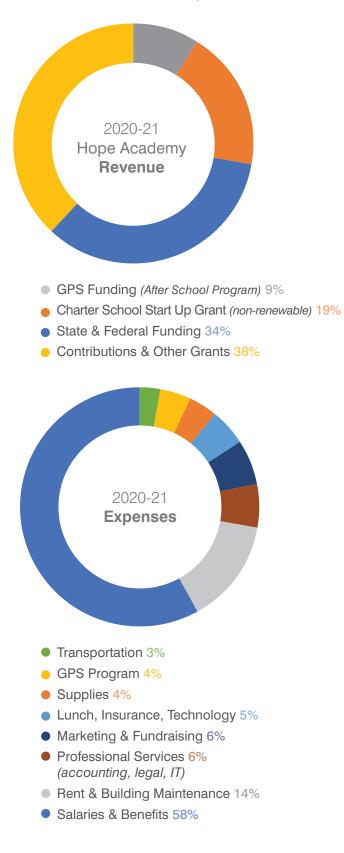


Serenity Room

Tucked in the corner of the administrative area is a calm and quiet room reserved for students to take a break from the stresses of their day. The room is decorated courtesy of **Windrose Health** with a wall-sized chalk board begging for doodling and leaving affirmations. The lighting is low and the comfy couch lends itself to talking privately to a recovery coach to re-center and regroup.

finance

Based on audited financials for fiscal year 2020-21





Aspire

Aspire Therapists and Care Coordinator Life Skills Instructors (CCLSI) provide virtual counseling services to several Hope Academy students through a partnership established in the spring of 2021. Aspire also offers support services for students and their families to address their overall health and wellbeing.

"Aspire is a fully integrated healthcare provider, which means we offer primary care, rehabilitation, social services and recovery services," said Aspire President and CEO Barbara Scott. "As our clinicians meet with students and their families, they are able to help them address immediate issues as well as access other health services. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

In addition to one-on-one and family counseling services, Aspire provides education-based programming and training opportunities for Hope Academy teachers.



partnerships



Simon Youth Hope Academy

Simon Youth Foundation

A new partnership between Hope Academy and the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) offers Indianapolis area teens who are in jeopardy of dropping out of high school the tools and resources they need to graduate and prepare for their post-graduation career path. Additionally, SYF provides professional development opportunities to Hope Academy teachers and scholarship opportunities to its students.

Teens who struggle with substance use disorders are at a much higher risk of dropping out of high school and have different educational needs than students who are not impacted by substance abuse and addiction. Partnering with SYF brings an opportunity for more innovation and resources to the classroom and addresses the unique challenges of Hope Academy students.

In January of 2022, four students and a teacher will travel to Washington, DC as guests of SYF to learn in person how Congress works. This opportunity and future trips are only possible because of this unique partnership.



IPS Innovation

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, the Indianapolis Public School (IPS) Board voted to add Hope Academy to its portfolio of innovation partner schools.

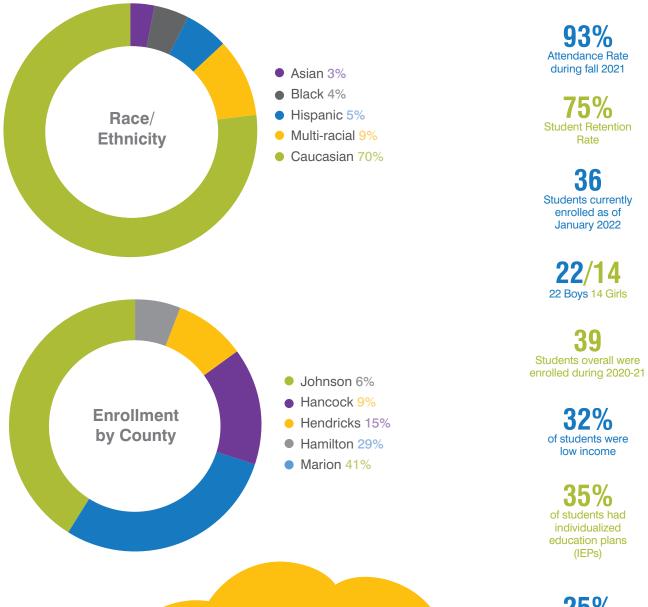
As an innovation school, Hope Academy may participate in IPS student suspension and expulsion meetings to determine if a student may have more success and an opportunity to graduate by transferring to Hope Academy.

Despite being referred to as an IPS Innovation School, Hope Academy remains an independent charter school with its own school board and does not receive transportation or special education services from IPS. Additionally, Hope Academy continues to accept students from other school districts.

Following the announcement of the partnership, an article was published in the Indianapolis Star, which includes more information about this exciting five-year collaboration between Hope Academy and IPS.



statistics



Did you know?

Hope Academy students attend a Recovery and Wellness Class as well as a College and Career Readiness Class. Both classes are one credit. Some of the most significant life lessons are learned in these classes. 25% Recovery and wellness grades improved by 25% in Fall 2021

29 Hope Academy students transferred in from 29 high schools



Grants to Hope Academy in 2021

Healthcare Initiatives

Crosser Family Foundation, a fund of Hamilton County Community Foundation

Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Arthur Dean Family Foundation

Strada Education Network

D. J. McManus Foundation

Thurston Foundation

Hoover Family Foundation

Lilly Endowment, Inc.

The Brave Heart Foundation

The 24 Group

Pacers Foundation

The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate

Simon Youth Foundation

William C. Meier Foundation

The Teri Lambert Legacy Fund of the Indianapolis Foundation **Purpose of Grant**

Recovery Coaches and Marketing Hamilton County Students transportation & support General Operating STARR program & Summer programming After School Programming **General Operating** General Operating After School Programming After School Programming **Occupational Therapy Program** Parent Education Program Summer Programming Summer Programming Classroom enhancements **Event Sponsorship** General Operating

Full Donor Report





Sounds of Hope

Last spring, we pivoted our most popular fundraising event, Taste of Hope, to a virtual event held in May. Professional musicians entertained us with their original songs related to recovery and students shared their reactions to the songs. We were thrilled to have Jennie DeVoe, Two Eight Ministeries, Matt Butler and WorkHorse add to the event with some amazing music and personal insights on Hope Academy. You can view the 45 minute event here.







Dr. Z scholarship

New this year is a scholarship program established to honor **Dr. Sig Zielke** a member of the Hope Academy staff for many years. His work with "unpacking" relapses with students was the first of its kind and his approach continues to be used daily at Hope Academy. Dr. Z will be remembered through this scholarship in his name that is awarded to the class valedictorian at graduation. Contribute to the Dr. Z scholarship fund <u>here.</u>

Sam Billingsley, Class of 2021, received the first scholarship named for Dr. Sig Zielke and met with Dr. Z's family at graduation.





The 2021 Faces of Hope award was given to Drs. Tim and Becky Kelly for their service to the recovery community and Hope Academy.

Rise & Shine for Hope

Our annual breakfast fundraiser was a day-brightener with nearly 200 people in attendance to show their support for Indiana's Recovery High School on November 9, 2021.

Master of Ceremonies, **Rafael Sanchez** of WRTV-6 lent a hand in kicking off a power-packed morning of stories of Hope.

Guests heard powerful stories from a parent, Rob Wynne, and a student, **Hayden B.** We honored Dr. Tim and Dr. Becky Kelly with the Faces of Hope Award, and we listened to a heartfelt keynote speech from Indy Chamber President & CEO **Michael Huber.** Best of all, we came together as a community to support the students at Hope Academy, exceeding the fundraising goal of \$60,000 by more than 10%. Big thanks to all who helped make it a success.

Presenting Sponsor:





Hope Academy student Hayden B. shared his personal story of recovery and how Hope Academy has put him on the path to graduation after years of struggling in a traditional school setting.



Michael Huber, President & CEO of the Indy Chamber of Commerce



Rise & Shine guests enjoyed the breakfast event at the Ivy Tech Culinary Center.



1 look forward

0.00

to my future

Cocones

Before attending Hope Academy, Ryan felt like he had no **future**.

Because of Hope Academy, Ryan has **goals and aspirations!**

Before coming to Hope Academy, Angelina felt helpless.

Because of Hope Academy, Angelina is **confident.**

Before coming to Hope Academy, Riley felt hopeless.

Today, because of Hope Academy, Riley looks forward to her **future.**

Before attending Hope Academy, Emily felt **numb.**

Because of Hope Academy, Emily feels **hopeful!**

Our Donors Speak Out

Planned Giving refers to leaving a gift to Hope Academy in your will or estate plans. Making a planned gift to Hope Academy will ensure students have a safe and sober education for decades

to come. Many supporters have created a legacy by donating 5% or 10% of their estate to Hope Academy in their wills.

You can also name Hope Academy as a **beneficiary of your life insurance or IRA**, like Rusty McKay did.

Rusty recently added Hope Academy as a beneficiary to his IRA. He has served on the Hope Academy board and has been a strong supporter for many years. He and his wife, Patricia, enjoy attending Hope Academy events and making sure others know about the school.



Patricia and Rusty McKay celebrated their grandson's graduation from Hope Academy in 2019.

When Rusty and Patricia think about the future of the school,

they feel optimistic about the innovative new partnerships, Hope's move to a more central location and the increase in brand awareness, knowing all these factors are making a positive impact. **"Hope is a treasure for this city,"** said Rusty. **"Our future is bright."**



Tricia and Bob Zachidny

"One of the best ways to support Hope Academy is to start by visiting the school, meeting the staff and students and beginning to understand the mission of Hope. Be a spokesperson in your sphere of influence. Tell people about Hope Academy."

Be a Champion for Hope Academy

Helping more people know that Hope Academy exists motivates volunteer **Tricia Zachidny** to stay involved. She's been volunteering with Hope Academy since 2008 when her son, Nick, was a student here. She feels it is important that she gives back and plays a part in providing hope and support to other families who worry their high school students may not graduate.

She also believes that knowing about this valuable resource could be a life-saving experience for someone they love.

What she loves the most about this recovery high school is the understanding the staff and teachers have for the unique needs of students in recovery from substance use disorders—and knowing it often stems from other issues in their lives.

"It is a safe place for them to show they aren't 'bad kids," Tricia says. "The teachers and staff listen to them and have the skills to help, not punish."

alumna spotlight



One of the most asked questions about Hope Academy is what happens after students graduate. We reached out to a 2011 graduate, **Caitlin**, to find out.

While graduating from high school was a major feat for her, Caitlin notes that academics were just one component of the many ways Hope helped her.

"Hope gave me stability, a safe place to call home, and made me feel comfortable," said Caitlin. "I never felt judged for my shortcomings or my past mistakes."

According to Caitlin, the staff at Hope Academy helped her in every way they could, getting her through difficult times in her life and never giving up on her.

"It really did feel like a family, and I still think about it and appreciate it to this day. They helped save my life and at that point in time, I was 18 years old with a year and a half of sobriety." – CAITLIN, CLASS OF 2018

Her advice for current students is to not take the time at Hope for granted. She encourages them to work hard and says don't be afraid to ask for help if you are struggling.

"Hope Academy really does a great job with trying to set students up for success in their future and it is such a personal school and tight-knit community. That's something that most high schools don't have, and it really is such a special place," said Caitlin.

Today, Caitlin has more than three years of sobriety. She is a mom of two little boys and recently earned a degree in human services. She is excited to pursue her dream of helping others who struggle with addiction and enjoys working with the homeless population, mental health patients, and substance abuse clients.

2021 Calendar what a year!

January – Snow days seemed to be a thing of the past now that we have e-learning.

February – Speaker Series launched with **Janice Gabe** presenting current information on marijuana use by adolescents.

March – Spring Break offered another opportunity to get out in the community and have fun with our GPS program. Activities included a trip tothe zoo, Top Golf and go karting.

April – Hope Academy partners with Indianapolis Public Schools to become an Innovation School.



May – Graduation – four students graduated from Hope Academy in 2021. The ceremony was held at the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center with Dr. Rob Manual, president of Ulndy as the keynote speaker.



In his graduation address, Valedictorian **Sam Billingsley** reminded us that HOPE is an acronym which stands for Hang On, Pain Ends. T-shirts were made with this phrase for the start of school in August. Sam is currently studying at Ivy Tech preparing for a career in nursing.

June – Summer School offered an opportunity to catch up on credits or earn extra credits, stay connected and enjoy in person instruction.

July – The Summer GPS Program included a day with the Kenneys at Sweetwater Lake, visits to college campuses, a trip to SkyZone and the State Fair, creek stomping, wall climbing and other fun daily activities.

August – Back to School! We welcomed new staff in August: Marsha Wilson (science), Felicia Moore (nurse), Kailey Nickels (administrative assistant).

Our Open House in August included a special presentation of a grant check from The 24 Group to support the Parent Education Group.

September – Speaker Series included Janice Gabe's presentation on High Potency Cannabis

September is Recovery Month which means the annual Hawk Walk at Ft. Ben. The students and staff enjoyed a beautiful fall day to participate in the 5K organized by The 24 Group. Some of the



proceeds of the walk support Hope Academy's Family Support Group.



October – Jennie DeVoe shared her recovery story and gave each student a copy of her favorite CD.



Also in October, **Yeimi graduated!** Yeimi's family immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico when she was a baby. She is an excellent student and overcame her substance use disorder with the help of peers and the staff at Hope Academy. She looks forward to pursuing a degree in social work to lead her to her ultimate ambition of help-



ing children in the foster care system. Best of all, Yeimi is sober and enjoying the newfound freedom of life in recovery. Read more about Yeimi at here.

October's Speaker Series featured **Dr. Angela Tomlin** of Riley Children's Hospital talking about Trauma and Toxic Relationships.

The cold rain didn't keep Hope Academy students from participating in **Solndy's Trunk or Treat** Halloween extravaganza at UIndy.



November – The Speaker Series in November featured **Dr. Ben Wilson** of Aspire Indiana Health who spoke about using language to reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder.

December – students enjoyed special treats from the staff after their finals.



board of directors

Colleen Kenney, Chair, Community Volunteer
Marissa Manlove, Past Chair, retired
Amy Levander, Vice-Chair, Krieg DeVault
Phyllis Land Usher, Secretary, Usher Funeral Home
Janine Shopp, Treasurer, Urology of Indiana
Dr. Eric Afuseh, IU School of Nursing
John Finke, Marian University
Janice Gabe, New Perspectives of Indiana
Marlon Llewellyn, Marian University
Leah Mannweiler, Esq., retired
Dr. Angela Tomlin, Riley Children's Hospital
Dr. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, IUPUI School of Health & Human Sciences

Spotlight on Colleen Kenney

In 2012, our board chair, **Colleen Kenney**, answered the call to help Hope Academy as a volunteer on the Taste of Hope event committee. She served on the events committee for several years and eventually elevated her responsibilities as the co-chair before joining the board of directors in 2016. Over the last several years, Colleen has served as the chair of the development committee and is excited to embark on her new journey as chair of the board.

"Substance abuse and addiction issues have impacted our families, and I was at a point where I was ready to get involved in some manner in addressing the issue. I have always had a passion for education, so Hope Academy Recovery High School was, for me, a perfect match to get involved in a new community effort."



Colleen recognizes that our community has many teens struggling with substance use disorder and is eager to help more young people and their families find all that Hope Academy has to offer.

vision for the future

As we look towards 2022, we are grateful for the growing support of you and others. Without your generous gifts, we would not be able to offer recovery coaching, after school programs, free bus transportation or the small class sizes that allow Hope Academy students to thrive and succeed.

The ongoing pandemic has impacted all of us, but particularly adolescents who need the interaction with teachers and peers to grow and learn. We need your help in letting others know that Hope Academy is available to all high school students in recovery from substance use disorder. As a public charter school, we do not have tuition. Free transportation is available. Our afterschool program (Guiding Paths to Success or GPS), gives students time to socialize, be introduced to new hobbies and attend 12-step meetings, which are all funded through contributions and grants.

HOW TO HELP AND GET INVOLVED:

- 1. Champion Recovery. Be a champion for Hope Academy by letting the people in your sphere of influence know about Hope Academy. Many families are unaware of Hope as an option for their student and we need your help to spread the word.
- **2. Invite others to get involved.** We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our committees and to share their experience, strength and hope with our students.
- 3. Invest Make a donation that reflects your commitment to supporting teens in recovery.

Examples of how your gift can be used:

- \$35 Sponsor a sobriety celebration
- \$50 Art and Photography Class Supplies
- \$100 GPS (after school) activities
- \$200 Google ads to reach families who don't know about Hope Academy
- \$375 Parent Education Group facilitator
- \$500 Provides lunch assistance to students on free and reduced lunch
- \$1,000 Recovery Support
- \$1,500 Weekly Transportation costs
- \$2,000 IT support for a month



You can scan this QR code to make a donation to Hope Academy click **here**



You're Invited!

Graduation will be held on **Saturday**, **May 21** at noon the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center on the University of Indianapolis campus.

Please join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our seniors. Save the date and watch for your invitation coming later this spring.



HopeAcademyRHS.org | 317-572-9440 | 3919 Madison Avenue | Indianapolis, IN 46227

Donors to Hope Academy

January 1 - December 31, 2021

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