



2024 - 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR:

Meeting the Moment, One Student at a Time.

As we approach our 20th year, we're not just looking back—we're leaning into what's next. The world our students are growing up in has changed. Mental health concerns are rising, substance use is starting earlier, and resources for young people and their families are harder to access than ever.

At Hope Academy, we meet the moment—one student at a time. That means providing individualized support, building trust, and staying ahead of the curve when it comes to youth recovery and education. It's not just about responding to challenges—it's about leading with creativity, and a deep belief in what's possible.

This year, that looked like launching a prevention program to reach students earlier, welcoming an alum back to campus as a teacher, and continuing to create a school community where students can show up as their full selves and find the support they need to move forward.

Inside this year's report, you'll find stories and data that bring our mission to life, including:

- A look at our 19th commencement ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates
- Details about our new early intervention program made possible by support from Mental Health America of Indiana
- A recap of our record-breaking Rise & Shine for Hope event
- Student demographic and geographic data, and a snapshot of the donor support that powers our mission
- Words of encouragement and insight from students, parents, and supporters

Every story in these pages reflects your impact. Because of your generosity, students at Hope Academy aren't just getting through high school—they're finding healing, building confidence, and preparing for what's next.

Thank you for your continued support.

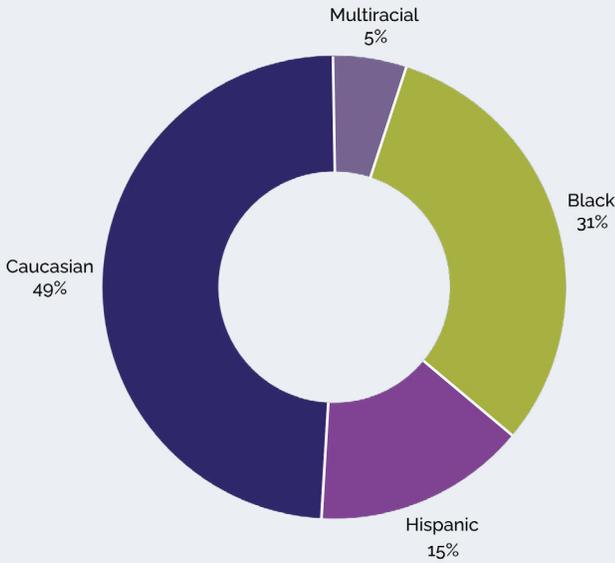
With gratitude,

Rachelle Gardner

Rachelle Gardner
Executive Director, Hope Academy

Our Students

Race & Ethnicity



91% Attendance Rate



55 Unique Students Enrolled Over Course of '24-'25



57% Free and Reduced Lunch



33% Special Education



80% Student Retention Rate



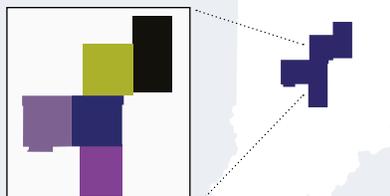
Grades Represented

● Freshmen: 10% ● Sophomores: 28% ● Juniors: 34% ● Seniors: 28%



Enrollment by County

- Marion: 72%
- Hamilton: 10%
- Johnson: 5%
- Madison: 3%
- Hendricks: 10%



"Hope Academy is an opportunity. The teachers here lean in towards you. They actually care. My mom saw the vision for me before I did, and coming here sparked a light in me."

~ Derrick, Hope Academy Junior



Rise & Shine for Hope



Pictured: Guest speaker Jacinta Lane talks about the impact of Hope Academy on her family; Guests answer the prompt: "What does hope mean to you?"; Senator Michael Crider is presented with the 2024 Faces of Hope Award by Hope Academy Board Vice Chair Amy Levander and Executive Director Rachelle Gardner.

Hope Academy Raises Over \$100,000 at 2024 Rise & Shine for Hope Breakfast

On November 14, nearly 300 guests filled the Ivy Tech Culinary and Conference Center to support teens in recovery—and raised more than \$101,900 to help fund Hope Academy's mission. These dollars directly support Hope Academy's comprehensive curriculum and programs, filling critical gaps so students can stay on track academically and in their sobriety.

The morning featured powerful stories, including a student video that offered an unfiltered look at the challenges teens face today and the impact of a school built just for them.

Guest speaker Jacinta Lane shared what Hope has meant to her family saying:

"The parent network at Hope Academy has provided a place of safety to connect with others who truly understand the challenges of parenting a child with substance use disorder."

WTHR's Samantha Johnson emceed the event, which also honored Senator Michael Crider as the 2024 Faces of Hope recipient for his longtime leadership and commitment to youth mental health and recovery.

Guests were invited to reflect on the question **"What does hope mean to you?"** Responses lined the tables, reminding everyone of what's at stake:

- "Someone giving me a chance"
- "A future of success"
- "An open door to change"
- "A place of possibility"
- "Being open to new ideas and activities as they come along"

Interested in sponsoring the 2025 Rise & Shine for Hope Breakfast? Visit hopeacademyrhs.org/riseandshine to learn more and view highlights from this year's event.



Our Staff

Supporting Students In and Beyond the Classroom

At Hope Academy, students aren't just supported academically—they're surrounded by a team that understands the challenges of recovery and shows up with respect, compassion, and lived or learned experience.

In 2024–2025, we celebrated a full year of having an onsite therapist, expanded our occupational therapy program to help students build emotional regulation and life skills, and continued to grow our recovery support services. Our recovery coaches play a vital role in teaching students the principles of recovery—and how to have fun in it—through everything from one-on-one support to sober social activities.

We also welcomed our first-ever graduate to the teaching team. After graduating in 2014, James Hendricks returned to the school that helped change his life—this time, as a teacher.

“When I went to high school here, I remember feeling at home. Now, I’m back, and I know I’m home.”

James brings both academic expertise and lived experience, helping students see that recovery is possible—and worth it.



Pictured: Teacher James Hendricks works with a student; Director of Student Recovery Services Aleesha Bullock provides support to a student; Onsite Therapist Erin Flick works with a student using a therapeutic technique called brainspotting.

Extending Our Reach

Middle School Prevention Program Launches

In 2025, Hope Academy launched a new Substance Use Education and Prevention Program to reach middle school students before experimentation turns into addiction. Aimed at 6th–8th graders who are at risk for developing SUD, the program offers Saturday sessions focused on the effects of substances, stress, and healthy decision-making—paired with family education and support.

Early intervention is key. Research shows that addressing substance use in adolescence significantly improves outcomes and reduces the risk of school dropout, legal issues, and long-term health challenges. Yet services for this age group remain extremely limited.

This new program fills a critical gap, creating a safe, supportive environment where students and families can learn, connect, and grow together. Funding from **Mental Health America of Indiana** made the program possible, allowing Hope Academy to extend its impact beyond high school and into the early stages of youth development.



Graduation



Honoring the Class of 2025

On May 17, 2025, Hope Academy held its 19th Commencement Ceremony at the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center on the University of Indianapolis campus, celebrating the academic and recovery achievements of eight graduating seniors.

This year's graduates—Marek Brosch, Fiona Garvey, Sheila Gilreath, Richard Hernandez, Hanna King, Chloe MacMillan, Sky Sewell, and LaReasha Vance—are pursuing a range of next steps including college, trade school, military service, and employment. Each path reflects the progress they have made in both their education and recovery.

Valedictorian Fiona Garvey captured the spirit of the day in her remarks:

"I've learned that 'one day at a time' isn't about giving up on the future. It's about giving yourself the chance to build one."

Keynote speaker Elise Shrock and 2011 alumna Katharine Stuart addressed the graduates, reinforcing the importance of persistence, community, and continued growth. Several students were also recognized with scholarships:

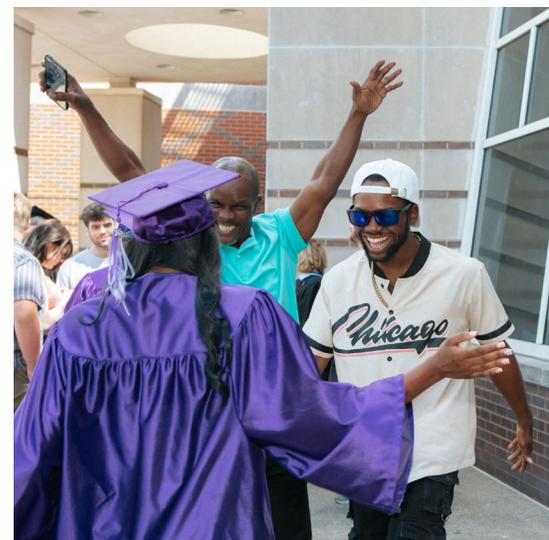
- Fiona Garvey – Sig Zielke Scholarship
- LaReasha Vance and Chloe MacMillan – Simon Youth Foundation Scholarships
- Hanna King – Jim Barnes Scholarship

Graduation is an important milestone for our school community—and a reminder of the critical role Hope Academy plays in helping students reclaim their futures.

Watch the ceremony on [YouTube](#).



Watch the video



Our Community

Hope Academy Board Members 2024-25

Janine Shopp, Urology of Indiana, Chair

Amy Levander, Krieg DeVault LLP, Vice Chair

Jennifer McVey, Greenwalt CPA, Treasurer

Darren Craig, Frost, Brown Todd LLC, Secretary

Colleen M. Kenney, community volunteer

Teddy Forman, Precision Garage Door Service

Sarah Fowler, Blackwell, Burke, Fowler & Rossow, P.C

Janice Gabe, New Perspectives of Indiana

Marissa Manlove, retired

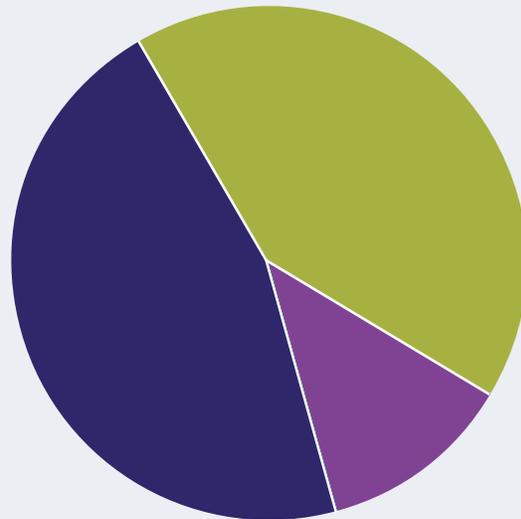
Chris Platt, CRP Technical Solutions

Angela M. Tomlin, Ph.D., HSPP, Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health

Dr. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, Indiana University Indianapolis

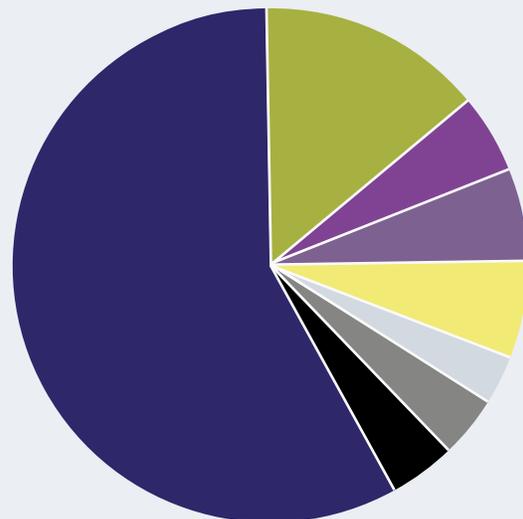
Hope Academy Revenue 2024-25

- Charter School Grants: 10%
- State & Federal Funding: 42%
- Contributions & Other Grants: 48%



Hope Academy Expenses 2024-25

- Transportation: 4%
- GPS Program: 4%
- Supplies: 3%
- Insurance, School Meals, Technology: 6%
- Fundraising, Communications & Marketing: 6%
- Professional Services (accounting, legal, IT): 5%
- Rent & Building Maintenance: 14%
- Salaries & Benefits: 58%



Our Supporters

(as of 7/14/25)

\$100,000 & above

Mr. Jim Irsay & The Indianapolis Colts
Sarah & John Lechleiter
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Mental Health America, Indianapolis
Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Healthcare Initiatives
The Kenney Family
Herbert Simon Family Foundation

\$20,000-\$49,999

Marion County Coroner's Office
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Phyllis Land Usher

\$10,000-\$19,999

Jeffrey H. Hillis
Strada Education Foundation
Thurston Foundation

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Molly Burns
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Dianne & Gregory Felts
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Meghan Barich
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Hope Academy High School
3919 Madison Avenue, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46227

317-572-9440

hopeacademyrhs.org

