



2025 - 2026

ANNUAL REPORT





Twenty Years of Hope

Twenty years.

Reaching this milestone feels both extraordinary and expected. Extraordinary because of the challenges we've faced along the way. Expected because I have always been surrounded by people who believed deeply in this mission and in the staying power of Hope Academy.

From the beginning, the community rallied around the idea of a recovery high school. The need was clear, and the vision was even clearer.

We knew the single most influential place for a young person was their school. It is where teens spend the majority of their waking hours, learning, growing, and building relationships. We knew that education and recovery could and should be integrated, and that young people impacted by substance use disorder should never have to choose between the two.

Twenty years later, much has changed, but that belief remains the foundation of everything we do.

Young people still need a safe place. They still need caring adults and peers who believe in their potential and walk alongside them on their journey toward recovery and academic success.

Our twentieth year was one for the history books. We launched a \$20 million Sustainability Campaign to help secure Hope Academy's future for generations to come. We were honored to be recognized at the Indiana Statehouse and by Governor Mike Braun. We expanded services through a new partnership with The Willow Center, bringing intensive outpatient treatment directly to our students. And thanks to the generosity of our

supporters and partners, graduates from the class of 2026 received more than \$30,000 in scholarships.

Today, there are about 50 recovery high schools in the United States, and only 15 are accredited by the Association of Recovery Schools (ARS)—including Hope Academy. According to ARS, the average recovery high school remains open for just 10.2 years. Reaching our twentieth anniversary means Hope Academy has doubled that national average.

That milestone is not the result of good fortune. It is the result of students who choose recovery, families who choose hope, staff members who pour their hearts into this work, donors who invest in our mission, and community partners who stand beside us year after year.

Because of you, hundreds of students have rewritten their stories and discovered futures they once thought were out of reach.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for pouring into this school. Your support has changed the trajectory of hundreds of young lives, and for that, I am forever grateful.

I cannot wait for the next 20 years of Hope, where we will continue to meet the evolving needs of our young people and our community.

With gratitude and hope,

Rachelle Gardner

Rachelle Gardner
Executive Director



Behind every statistic is a student with a story. The students of Hope Academy come from diverse backgrounds and communities across Indiana, but they share a common goal: building a brighter future through recovery and education.

"BEFORE I CAME
HERE, I WAS LOSING
HOPE AND READY
TO DROP OUT. I
STARTED CARING
ABOUT MY WORK
AND GRADUATION."

Briana



"BEING AROUND PEOPLE WHO
WERE TRYING TO GET SOBER
GAVE ME A NEW PERSPECTIVE
I MAY NOT HAVE HAD
OTHERWISE."

Reggie

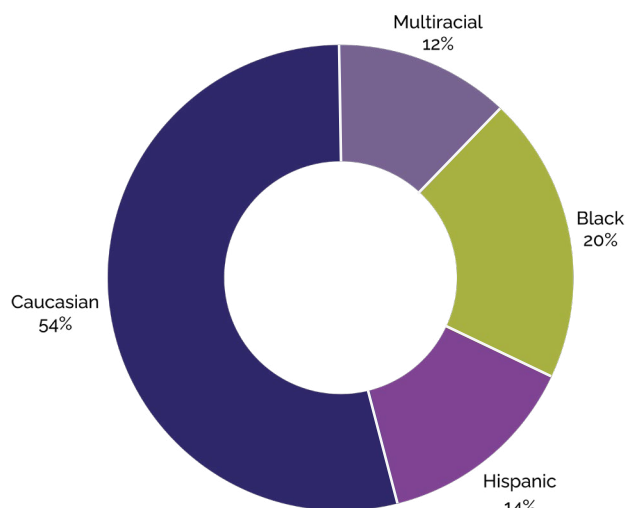


"HOPE IS NOT AN
OBSTACLE, IT'S AN
OPPORTUNITY."

Gunnar



Race & Ethnicity



89%
ATTENDANCE RATE



63
UNIQUE STUDENTS ENROLLED
OVER COURSE OF '25-'26

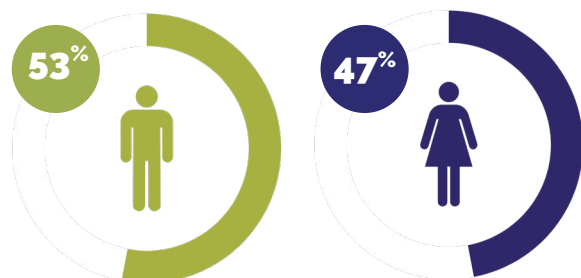


48%
FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH



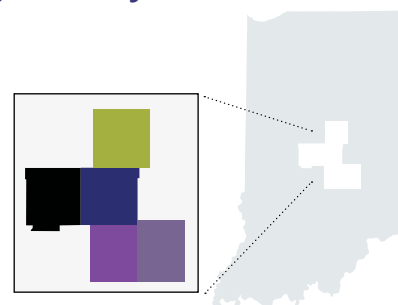
31%
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Gender

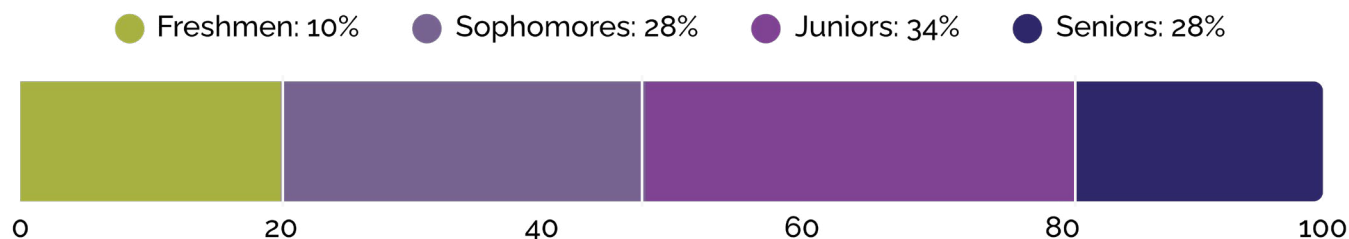


Enrollment by County

- Marion: 80%
- Hamilton: 8%
- Johnson: 3%
- Hendricks: 6%
- Shelby: 3%



Grades Represented



"EVERYTHING THEY DO HERE
AT HOPE ACADEMY IS FOR
YOUR GOOD HEALTH. IT'S NOT A
SCHOOL FOR BAD KIDS — IT'S A
SCHOOL FOR KIDS WHO NEED AN
EXTRA HELPING HAND."

GIOVANNI



Hope Academy's twentieth anniversary marked a commitment to the future.

In November 2025, during the Rise & Shine for Hope breakfast, Hope Academy publicly launched a \$20 million Sustainability Campaign to ensure future generations of students have access to recovery-focused education, academic support, and the resources they need to thrive.

The campaign will strengthen Hope Academy's long-term financial stability while supporting innovative programming, family engagement, and recovery services for years to come.

Help Shape the Next 20 Years of Hope

Every gift moves Hope Academy closer to its goal and helps ensure that young people in recovery continue to have a safe place to learn, heal, and grow.

Donate today: hopeacademyrhs.org/20years



**"HOPE ACADEMY'S
OUTCOMES
DEMONSTRATE
A MODEL THAT
WORKS. WHEN
WE EQUIP YOUNG
PEOPLE WITH THE
TOOLS TO SUCCEED,
WE STRENGTHEN
FAMILIES, SCHOOLS,
AND OUR ENTIRE
COMMUNITY."**

*Dr. John Lechleiter,
Honorary Campaign Co-Chair*



45% to our goal!

Donate today!



Largest Gift in Hope Academy History

The Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation made the largest philanthropic investment in Hope Academy's 20-year history, contributing \$3 million to the school's Sustainability Campaign.

**"THIS GIFT REFLECTS OUR BELIEF IN HOPE ACADEMY'S
MODEL AND OUR DESIRE TO HELP ENSURE LONG-
TERM STABILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND IMPACT FOR THE
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IT SERVES."**

Julie Wood





What began as a bold idea has grown into a nationally recognized model for recovery-centered education. During its twentieth anniversary year, Hope Academy was honored by local and state leaders for two decades of impact.

In Indianapolis, the City-County Council adopted a special resolution honoring Hope Academy's 20 years of service. Sponsored by Councilor Derek Cahill, the resolution recognized the school's commitment to helping young people achieve both recovery and academic success.

At the state level, Senator Cyndi Carrasco authored a resolution honoring Hope Academy's role as Indiana's only recovery high school and its lasting impact on students, families, and communities across the state. The resolution was subsequently adopted by both the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives.

The celebration continued when Governor Mike Braun officially proclaimed April 30, 2026, as Hope Academy Day in the State of Indiana. During his visit, the Governor met with students and learned more about the school's unique approach to integrating education and recovery.

A Year of Recognition



2025 Recovery Advocate of the Year

Awarded by Mental Health America of Indiana and the Indiana Recovery Network in recognition of Hope Academy's leadership in recovery-centered education.



2025 Woman of Influence

Executive Director and Co-Founder Rachelle Gardner was recognized by the Indianapolis Business Journal for her leadership and service to students and families.



"THE WILLOW CENTER IS PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH HOPE ACADEMY TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE FOR TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES. BY COMBINING OUR EXPERTISE, WE CAN CREATE A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES THAT STRENGTHENS RECOVERY AND HELPS FAMILIES HEAL TOGETHER."

*Ashley English, Founder & CEO,
The Willow Center*

This year, Hope Academy expanded support for students through a new partnership with The Willow Center, bringing Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) directly to campus.

Designed for adolescents who need more support than traditional outpatient therapy, IOT provides structured clinical care while allowing students to remain engaged in school, recovery, and family life. Students can now transition seamlessly from the school day into treatment, removing barriers that often make it difficult for young people to access consistent care.

Supported by a \$200,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the partnership strengthens Hope Academy's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of students and families through a comprehensive continuum of support.



Group Therapy

Students meet three afternoons a week for 8+ weeks to build connections, process emotions, change behaviors, and develop coping skills.



Individual Counseling

Weekly one-on-one sessions tailored to each individual's concerns and goals, helping them navigate their life and receive support for healthy steps forward.



Family Involvement

Recovery involves the family. Weekly group sessions and monthly individual counseling are offered to ensure the entire family is set up for success.



On May 15, 2026, Hope Academy celebrated a milestone twenty years in the making: the graduation of its 20th class.

The Class of 2026 included five graduates whose journeys reflect the resilience, determination, and growth that define the Hope Academy experience. As they crossed the stage, graduates looked ahead to futures that include college, military service, and career opportunities. For many, graduation marked not only an academic achievement, but also a significant milestone in their recovery journey.

In his speech, 2026 Valedictorian Giovanni Ochoa reflected on the impact Hope Academy had on his life.

"I will be the first person in my family to go to college, which means a lot for a student who, just three years ago, couldn't envision himself finishing school."

As Hope Academy marked its twentieth commencement ceremony, the celebration served as a powerful reminder of what is possible when young people are surrounded by education, recovery support, accountability, and hope.

Two Simon Youth Foundation Scholarships Awarded



\$30,000+ in scholarship support awarded to the Class of 2026

Members of the Class of 2026 received more than \$30,000 in scholarship support, including two Simon Youth Foundation Scholarships. Additional scholarship recognition included the Dr. Sig Zielke Scholarship and the Jim Barnes Scholarship.

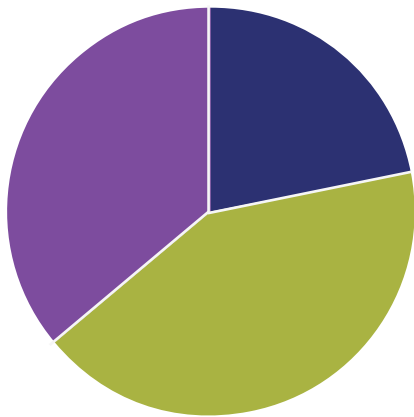


2025-2026 Hope Academy Board of Directors

- Amy Levander, Krieg DeVault LLP, Chair
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- Jennifer McVey, Greenwalt CPA, Treasurer
- Sarah Fowler, Blackwell, Burke & Ramsey, P.C., Secretary
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- Teddy Forman, Precision Garage Door Service
- Dr. Tamika Zapolski, IU School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry
- Dr. Sheri Anderson, SPEDACTS & SPED:RAL
- Dr. Angela M. Tomlin, Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health

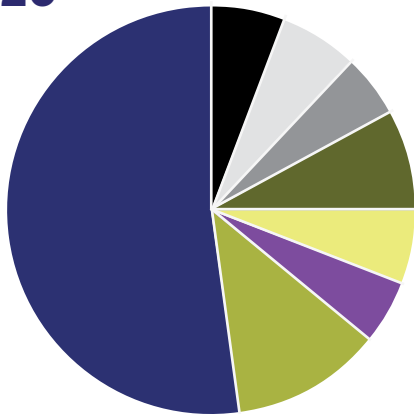
Hope Academy Revenue 2025-26

- Charter School Grants: 22%
- State & Federal Funding: 42%
- Contributions & Other Grants: 36%



Hope Academy Expenses 2025-26

- 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%



\$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000

The Kenney Family
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Sarah and John Lechleiter
Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation

\$500,000 - \$999,999

Jeffrey Hillis

\$100,000 - \$499,999

Hubbard Family Foundation
Mental Health America of Indianapolis
Chris Stack, M.D.

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Healthcare Initiatives
Patricia & Rusty McKay

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous
William L Elder Jr.
Jeffrey H. Hillis
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr.,
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Phyllis Land Usher

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Marilyn & Dan Evans
Anne Nobles & David Johnson
Strada Education Foundation
Angela Tomlin & John Jester

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ayres Foundation
Betsy & Jim Backe
The Brave Heart Foundation
June & Gerry Conner
Stacey & Darren Craig

Helene & Bob Cross
Pat Galyan
Joelynn Gifford & Michael Hertel
Indiana Humanities
Lumina Foundation
Amy MacDonnell & Randall Shepard
Leah S. Mannweiler
One America Foundation
Margaret & Christopher Platt
Janine & Brent Shopp
Simon Youth Foundation

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Indianapolis Airport Authority
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Kelly & Larry Canterbury
Erin and Greg Gaich
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University of Indianapolis
Dr. Rebecca Kelly & Dr. Tim Kelly
Amy Levander & Michael Leppert
Deb L. Leser
Kimberly & L. Paul Nasir
E & B Paving

\$1,000 - \$1,999

The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate
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Regions Bank
Robert Bonjour
Blackwell, Burke, Fowler & Rossow, P.C.
The Willow Center
Kathy & Ward Daniels
Impact Financial

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\$500 - \$999

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 Kappa, Kappa, Kappa
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 Karina Rosenthal
 Leesa Smith
 Merry & Gary Thoe
 Mariann & Mark Williams
 Tamika Zapolski

\$250 - \$499

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**As of 7/7/26*



HOPE

ACADEMY

HIGH SCHOOL

20 YEARS



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Indianapolis, IN 46227

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hopeacademyrhs.org

