

# HOPE for OPELOUSAS

[WWW.HOPEFOROPELOUSAS.ORG](http://WWW.HOPEFOROPELOUSAS.ORG)



**REPORT**  
**2022**  
**2023** **CARD**



## OUR mission

HFO IS ACTIVELY EMPOWERING A  
MOVEMENT OF HOPE—FOCUSED  
ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT,  
NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH, &  
INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS—  
GROUNDED IN THE TRUTH THAT

**LOVE CHANGES  
EVERYTHING**

# LOREN CARRIERE

HFO Executive Director



The past year has been a season of reflection, gratitude, and passionate vision for the future of Hope for Opelousas. In a community often marked by violence and adversity, we find solace in the knowledge that amidst the chaos, both beauty and hardship can coexist.

The wisdom of Scripture, tells us, 'A seed does not bear fruit unless it dies.' Similarly, our efforts may sometimes appear counterintuitive, even daunting, but like the seed, these sacrifices hold incredible potential, destined to sprout new life over time. Our dedication to consistent, steadfast action—what some call 'a long obedience in the same direction'—has proven to be a powerful force for change. Many of our earliest students have embarked on their careers, started their own families, or ventured into the world, carrying with them the transformative impact of our work.

This past year, as we sought feedback from former students, families, and generous donors like you, we received two resounding calls to action: to deepen the quality of our programs and to broaden our reach. With your support, we seized the opportunity to acquire an additional house, seamlessly connected to our existing campus, in March 2023. This acquisition marks the first step in our ambitious plan to double the number of students we serve, from 100 to 200, over the next several years. We're excited to share more news of anticipated growth in the upcoming school year, so please stay tuned.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for joining us on this incredible journey. Each day, we're astounded by the unwavering commitment of our dedicated team, students, volunteers, Board members, donors, and, of course, our families. If it's been a while since you've visited our campus, we invite you to give us a call or drop by anytime for a tour.



*Loren Carriere*



**216  
HRS\***

\* Jan - May 2023

## READING BUDDIES

This year we are excited to introduce our reading buddy program! This initiative pairs students with caring mentors who will embark on literary adventures together. Through this program, we aim to not only improve reading skills but also build meaningful relationships and provide a safe, nurturing space where children can explore the magic of books. Join us in this journey as we open new chapters in the lives of our students!

“

“SITTING BESIDE A CHILD FOR 15 MINUTES OUTDOORS, LAUGHING AND ENCOURAGING A JOY OF READING GIVES US BOTH A CHANCE TO IGNORE DISTRACTIONS AND COMPETING SCHEDULES AND JUST ENJOY A GOOD READ TOGETHER. AT FIRST PERFECT STRANGERS UNITED THROUGH HOPE, BECOMING BUDDIES IN THE END... WE CAN CELEBRATE BEING MINDFUL OF ANOTHER'S COMPANY AND WHY GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS WORD IN WRITING, TO MEDITATE ON HIM WITH OTHERS.

- ALYSHIA BOAGNI

# WATCH OUR GARDEN GROW

**1K+**  
LBS OF  
PRODUCE

Grow Hope.

Started in 2021, our garden sits in the middle of our campus under an arched "Grow Hope" sign. This magical place provides an opportunity for our students to learn the joy of working hard and having something to show for it. We behold God's beauty as we watch seeds grow into giant flowers, towering okra plants, and expansive tomato vines. The spiritual lessons are readily available as we realize that we must work, tend, and water our garden if we want to reap a harvest!



SPRING: TOMATOES, CHERRY TOMATOES, CUCUMBER, EGG PLANT, OKRA, SUNFLOWERS, ZINNIAS, ZUCCHINI, SQUASH, JALAPENO PEPPERS, BELL PEPPERS

FALL: COLLARD GREENS, MUSTARD GREENS, BELL PEPPERS, JALAPENO PEPPERS, KALE, RADISH, TURNIPS

# HOPE ON THE HILL

99  
STUDENTS

## After school tutoring program

Hope on the Hill, our after-school program, goes beyond academics. Each day, our students are greeted with warm smiles, comforting hugs, and a nutritious snack. We diligently assist our kids with homework and offer scheduled activities like Bible study, art, gardening, and free time. Additionally, for our elementary students, we place a special emphasis on reading interventions to enhance their reading fluency.



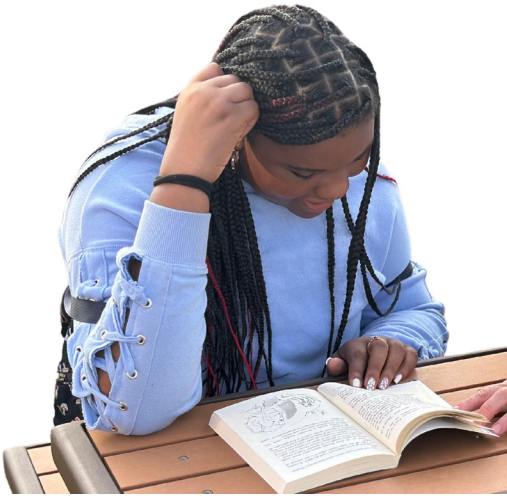
TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. / PROVERBS 22:6

---

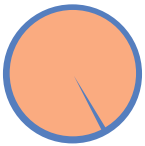
“AS A PARENT OF FIVE CHILDREN, HOPE FOR OPELOUSAS HAS BEEN A PLACE WHERE MY KIDS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING SPIRITUALLY, MENTALLY, AND PHYSICALLY. IT’S HAS GIVEN THEM HOPE AND MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW. I AM FOREVER THANKFUL.”

- TASHA SAM

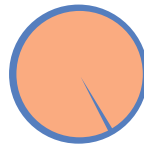




# REPORT CARD SCORES 2022/2023



**97%**  
Oral Reading Improvement



**97%**  
Promoted to next grade\*\*



**40%**  
Oral Reading Benchmark



**2.85**  
Average\*\*

In the 2022/2023 school year, our after-school program engaged with a total of 99 students ranging from 1st to 12th grade\*. To gauge the impact of our support, we closely monitor the reading fluency and benchmark progress of our 1st to 5th graders at multiple intervals throughout the year. \*\* Scores for all 1st-12th Grades

## SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE:

	'13-'14	'14-'15	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	'21-'22	'22-'23
Report Card Average	2.53	2.35	2.71	2.66	2.71	2.79	2.78	2.64	2.85	2.85
% Passing All Classes	88%	94%	98%	97%	97%	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%
Sig. Reading Fluency Imp.	56%	71%	79%	82%	100%	84%	96%	91%	97%	97%

# AGENTS OF HOPE

Paid high school intern program tutoring support.

A key factor in our success is our hardworking and dedicated staff. The support provided by our 15 high school Agents of Hope is key to the success of our program. These students play a crucial role in establishing strong mentoring connections with our 1st to 8th-grade students and consistently provide educational support.

What's particularly exciting for us is when our former HFO students return as Agents, completing a full circle of learning and teaching that helps maintain the enduring culture of HFO over the years. We deeply appreciate these young individuals who infuse our campus with vitality and compassion daily, and we extend our gratitude to both past and current Agents of Hope



15  
#AGENTS OF HOPE



“AS SOMEONE WHO GREW UP IN THE PROGRAM I AM HONORED TO SAY I HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS HEARTFELT ENVIRONMENT THAT INSTANTLY BECAME MY HOME. BEING PART OF HFO TO ME IS BEING THERE FOR THE KIDS OF MY COMMUNITY AND BEING THE PERSON THAT THEY NEED IN ANY SITUATION, WHETHER IT’S HAVING HOPE FOR THEM IN ALL THEIR POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED IN LIFE, SHOWING THEM THEY ARE LOVED, OR DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO BE THE PERSON THAT TURNS THE WORST DAY OF THEIR LIFE TO THE BEST DAY OF THEIR LIFE WITH MEMORIES THAT WOULD LAST A LIFETIME.”  
- TYRA GREEN AGENT OF HOPE



# ON A MISSION

Mission Teams make an impact on Opelousas. And Opelousas impacts them.

50

**MISSION  
TEAM  
MEMBERS**

2

**COLLEGES**

2

**LOCAL  
SCHOOLS**

We love having friends come from near and far to join us in our mission. This year we hosted teams from Opelousas Catholic, Academy of Sacred Heart, Northwestern College, and Bryan College. This year's spring teams helped us prepare the campus for our Art Show, and left their mark with a beautiful mural on our garden shed. Shout out Kaylee Maasdam for using your creativity to inspire us daily!

“

“I LOVED WORKING WITH HFO WITH MY MISSIONS TEAM. IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL TO EXPERIENCE THE STAFF AND STUDENTS LOVING THEIR COMMUNITY AND GROWING TOGETHER!”

-KAYLEE MAASDAM





High School  
Leadership Program

# ADVENTURE CREW

APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
WASHINGTON DC | NYC

Adventure Crew's 2023 journey was a whirlwind of adventure, learning, and growth. We kicked off in the heart of Washington, DC, with inspiring worship at Passion City Church and days filled with awe as we explored national monuments, rode subways, and cycled through the National Mall.

Then came the real test: the Appalachian Trail. Our well-prepared students hiked 45 miles, from Linden, VA, to Harpers Ferry, WV. They conquered the challenging "Roller Coaster" section and even faced off against angry yellow jackets. But they emerged triumphant, filled with awe for God's Creation and a sense of camaraderie.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

10  
CREW





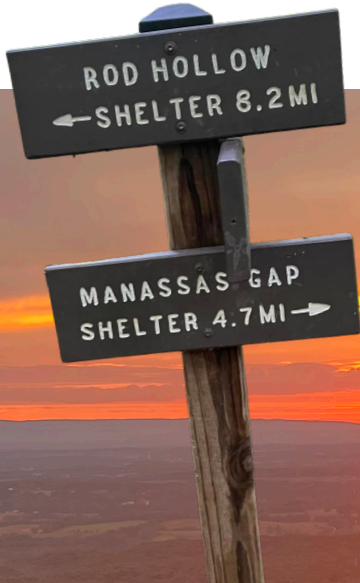
NY DC  
NC VA



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The Appalachian Trail's unique culture left its mark on our students, who earned trail names like Mountain Goat and Grizzly Bear. Along the way, the Bears Den hostel in Northern Virginia provided a chance to connect with other hikers and share a Cajun feast, celebrating one of our student's birthday.

After their wilderness adventure, our students had a taste of the city life in New York City, exploring vibrant neighborhoods, enjoying delicious food, and even catching a Broadway show. Thanks to our generous donors and hosts like Mike and Stephanie Burger, this journey was not just a trip; it was a life-changing experience that will shape our students' futures in remarkable ways.



# SUMMER WITH HFO

Education, enrichment & adventure!

Summer Program 23' was a whirlwind of learning and fun! Mornings were dedicated to academics, focusing on reading and math skills. Pool adventures, field trips, and recreation time added to the excitement of our afternoons.

Our thriving garden produced fresh veggies, and weeks two and three brought thrilling excursions and enriching Bible study with praise and

worship. The High School Retreat at 3 Mile Lake was inspiring, thanks to guest speakers like LSU Football Chaplain Pastor Floyd Prescott and LSU athletes.

Local field trips were a hit, and we ended Summer Camp 23' with a block party with delicious food and a dunk tank. Special thanks to our donors and supporters, together we created lasting memories!



## THIS SUMMER WE...

COMPLETED SUMMER READING | PRACTICED MATH SKILLS | SWAM IN OUR FRIENDS' POOL | CREATED VARIOUS ART PROJECTS | RECREATION | MOVIE THEATER | TONS OF BASKETBALL | NATURE TRAILS | BIBLE STUDIES | TRAINED FOR ADVENTURE CREW | EXERCISE & NUTRITION | BOWLING | GARDEN TIME! CHILDRENS' MUSEUM | KAYAKING & PADDLE-BOARDING



5  
INTERNS



## SUMMER INTERNS

Our Summer Interns are not just helping hands; they're inspiring role models who make a significant impact on our students. This summer, HFO enthusiastically welcomed five college students to intern with us, enriching our program with their love and resources, aiding in our students' growth. Over their five-week stay, these interns made a lasting impression on our students' hearts.

These dedicated college students arrived with a mission to give selflessly. While they assisted in improving reading and math skills, their most crucial role was forging profound connections with our students, demonstrating unwavering love and support.

“

“MY TIME IN OPELOUSAS  
HAS BEEN A MAJOR  
FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE  
IN ALL THE BEST WAYS. THE  
WAY HFO REFLECTS GOD'S  
LOVE MOTIVATES ME TO  
KEEP GOING. I AM FOREVER  
GRATEFUL FOR THIS  
MINISTRY, THE STUDENTS,  
AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE  
THAT HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME  
AND LOVE TO SUPPORT HFO”  
- COLLIN VERSCHOOR, 2023  
SUMMER INTERN

# KIDS ACROSS AMERICA

Summer camp!



Our journey to KAA this year was all about embracing a “God first, others second, I’m third” lifestyle. KAA aims to plant this motto deep in the hearts of attending students, creating a transformative experience. Beyond the thrill of meeting kids from different states, indulging in ski tubing, archery, and showing off their dance skills at high-energy parties, our students had the unique opportunity to connect with caring college counselors. These relationships help expand their personal vision for the future, inspiring them to aspire to greatness.

But our journey to KAA was not just about our students; this year it was a collaborative effort. We had the audacious idea of taking two buses to KAA, and with the generous support of our friends at The Bayou Church, this vision became a reality. Partnering with six other ministries, we extended the reach of KAA’s inspiring ministry not only to our kids but also their youth and leaders. Sowing seeds for the Kingdom across Acadiana.

**108**  
PEOPLE



# GRADUATES

HFO Class of 2023!



Cameron Brooks- Attending Grambling State University for Accounting.



Cobe Brooks- Attending Grambling State for Cyber Security.



Jasmine Barnaba- Majoring in nursing at Northwestern State. She also is on TOPS and many other scholarships.



Timirror Stelly-Currently working. Would like to travel, so is considering the army once her knee heals from a partial tear.



Ny'Caiah Ford-Currently working, but has plans to pursue college in the future.



Ashley Barrera-Attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette studying Criminal Justice.



Na'Mija Kimble- Attending Unitech Training Academy for Pharmacy Technician with only 8 mos remaining in the program.



Kayleb Stuple - Attending Northwestern State University majoring in Information Technology. Member of the e-sports team with a full scholarship.



Jasmine Jones- Attending LSUE seeking her general studies degree right now and planning to switch to another major when she finds it. Also, is working in town at Lowes.



At Left: Tyra Green- Attending LSUA while serving as an Agent of Hope. Tyra graduated early through an online program.

**OH THE  
PLACES  
YOU'LL  
GO!**



"OUR CITY AND COMMUNITY ARE PROFOUNDLY BLESSED TO HAVE THIS REMARKABLE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SERVING OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. HOPE FOR OPELOUSAS EXEMPLIFIES THE POWER OF UNITY, SHOWING US THAT WHEN WE COME TOGETHER, WE ENHANCE AND ELEVATE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY APPLAUD THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS AND WISH THEM UNWAVERING SUCCESS IN THEIR MISSION. THANK YOU, HOPE FOR OPELOUSAS, FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY."

- MAYOR JULIUS ALSANDOR

## 2022/2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reggie Dupré Jr.,  
CHAIR  
Cecette Bassett  
Loren Carriere  
Richard Gaiennie  
Lou Bertha Gloston  
Cherie Hebert  
Elliot Myers  
Ravin Savoy

**330 EAST MADISON ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LA 70570  
337-942-7270**

**INFO@HOPEFOROPELOUSAS.ORG  
WWW.HOPEFOROPELOUSAS.ORG**